

June 25, 2020

Ontario Standing Committee on
Finance and Economic Affairs

Dear Committee members;

Re: Cultural Heritage Matters & Recovery from COVID19

Repair and construction work on the numerous heritage properties throughout the province can be a stimulus to strengthen Ontario's economy following the COVID19 downturn. Such heritage work would provide opportunities not only for construction companies and their employees, but also for services firms that design and manage the approval of such work.

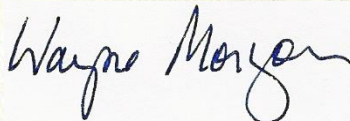
Community Heritage Ontario / Patrimoine Communautaire de l'Ontario (CHO / PCO), the provincial association of municipal heritage committees, suggests that, for two to three years, the province of Ontario offer matching grants, up to \$10,000 on residential properties and \$25,000 on commercial properties, for restoration work on properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. The property owner, whether private or public, would be required to put an equal amount into the work, with the grant being payable only on the satisfactory completion of the work. Undoubtedly such work will stimulate activity in excess of the combined amounts of \$20,000 and \$50,000. In addition, such a grant program would acknowledge the important contribution that cultural heritage resources make to liveable communities throughout the Province and the additional costs that good restoration work often incurs.

Heritage designated properties exist across the province. Concerns about the total cost of such a grant program could be addressed by capping the program total, with eligible projects being funded on a first come first serve basis.

Ontario's municipal heritage committees, and the municipal staff that assist them, are ready, willing and able to administer such a program at the local level. CHO / PCO is prepared to assist provincial staff in the creation of such a heritage grant program.

We look forward to the Standing Committee's support for this bold initiative that will stimulate employment in the heritage and related sectors across this province.

Respectively submitted



Wayne Morgan
President, Community Heritage Ontario

cc. Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries