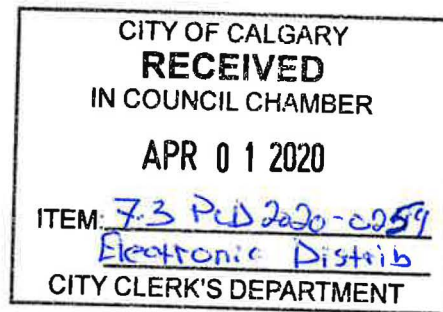




March 30, 2020



Re: **Heritage Conservation Policy tools and financial Incentives Report, April 1, 2020**
City of Calgary SPC on Policy and Urban Development (PUD)

Dear Members of PUD,

We are writing to express our strong support for the recommendations outlined in the above report submitted by Heritage Planning, and especially applaud the inclusion of policy for heritage areas. This is a very positive step towards acknowledging and protecting historic communities, areas and streetscapes in our municipal planning policy, something our group has been advocating for since 2013. We also applaud the innovative heritage tools it proposes such as financial incentives for the owners of heritage assets including municipal tax incentives. Although there are some current limitations to the proposed heritage area policy - it excludes historic commercial streets, post-war residential architecture, institutional sites, cultural landscapes, heritage buildings not within 'high concentration areas,' landscaping and street trees - we do not believe these limitations should delay accepting the recommendations. In addition, Administration is confident that many of these exclusions can be addressed through the Local Area Planning process, or proposed incentives for inventoried sites.

Following our letter to council dated Dec 23, 2019 we seek your support for the following:

- The heritage area policy recommended in the above report (based on a minimum integrity threshold for layer 3 Direct Control Heritage Areas of no more than 50 percent heritage assets) as well as incentives and regulations to support the retention of heritage assets within these areas, including the proposed new financial incentive programs;
- That the Guidebook for Great Communities be amended to include the requirement for Local Area Plans in established communities to identify character areas and potential heritage districts during their preparation. (This must be done before the Guidebook becomes a statutory document, and before any Local Area Plans are approved.)

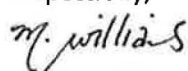
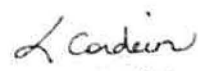
We close with just a few of the reasons why we need to introduce tools and policies that help us strike the right balance between development and conservation:

Economic: the improvement of existing dwellings creates 40% more GDP in Canada than new construction, and is proportionally a bigger job generator.

Environmental/Sustainability: the building sector generating up to 35% of Canada's greenhouse gases and 35% of landfill waste, and the Canadian Green Building Council recommends 'to avoid the worst effects of climate change...focus on sustainable rehabilitation and retrofitting'.

Social/Cultural: Historic communities are physical links to our past. They provide a sense of identity, continuity and belonging. They are places for all Calgarians to visit and enjoy.

Respectfully,

 
Marilyn Williams Lorna Cordeiro

Co-Chairs Calgarians for Heritage Districts

Calgarians for Heritage Districts (CFHD) is city-wide grassroots collaboration that advocates for policy and creative new tools to identify, manage and preserve the heritage value and character of Calgary's historic communities. CFHD supports sensitive, respectful redevelopment and growth that protect a community's heritage assets.