

## Stakeholder Letters



February 12, 2019

To: Mayor Nenshi and Members of Council

From: Calgary Heritage Initiative Board

The Enoch Sales house in Victoria Park burned to the ground on Saturday, February 2, 2019. This is a prime case of demolition by neglect, after years of inaction despite calls for preservation and adaptive reuse, and several viable plans that fell through. The City of Calgary needs to properly protect our heritage resources and value what these buildings and sites contribute to our city.

The Enoch Sales home, despite its documented historical significance and increasing status as one of the last remaining homes in Victoria Park, was never designated as a protected historic resource. The Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) had a 3 million dollar budget to restore the house. However, Michael Brown, president and CEO of CMLC said the most recent proposed revitalization plan never moved forward as it “would not be supported by some members of council”.

At issue is City Council’s lack of will to preserve Calgary’s heritage buildings and sites. Unless Council supports comprehensive policies along with increasing resources and funding for Calgary’s heritage buildings and sites, they will continue to disappear.

City Council must be held accountable and do better by designating all qualifying sites on the Inventory of Historic Resources as well as providing resources to evaluate sites not yet on the inventory. Changes to strengthen heritage policy include: planning and heritage policy in the Developed Area Guidebook, support for Heritage District Overlays as a planning tool, and support for heritage tools (like density bonusing) and incentives (like restoration grants and tax breaks) that provide monetary resources to preserve heritage. The City of Calgary’s support for legislative changes at the Provincial and Federal levels may also be necessary. In addition, resources to advocate and communicate about the value of designation, preservation, and the economic, social and environmental benefits of heritage buildings and sites are critical.

It is time for City Council to act and ensure future generations have the opportunity to enjoy our heritage building and sites. Many Calgarians already feel there is no history here. If Council does not act, we can expect more of the following. The same weekend that the Enoch Sales house burned, the 1912 Cope House in Mount Royal was demolished to make way for a new infill. In 2017, thirteen century homes came down to make way for a 93-unit residential development along Memorial Drive west of 10 Street NW, forever changing that sense-of-place streetscape to a ubiquitous, anyplace character of a modern build. The Calgary Brewing and Malting Co. site in Inglewood continues to sit empty, plans for the Nimmons house continue to change, and Council has allowed for de-designation of one protected site, the Eau Claire Smokestack. Other sites are lost every year.

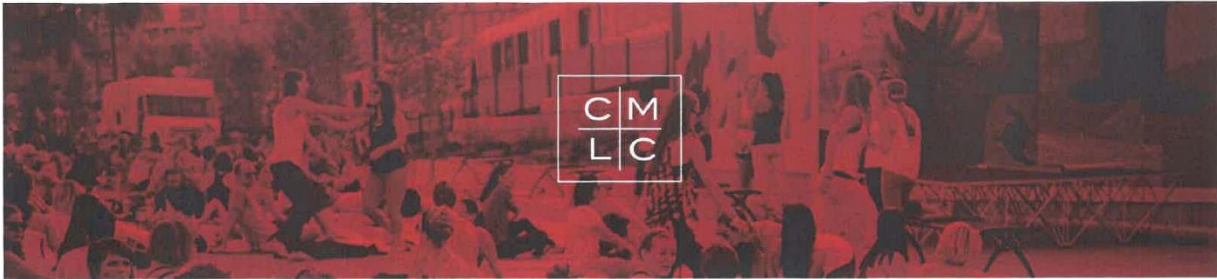
We will continue to mourn the loss of the Enoch Sales house, but we must use this as a point to change City Council's stance and attitude towards heritage and go forward with a comprehensive strategy with concrete support for the preservation and adaptation of our few remaining heritage buildings.

Please, step up now! Support heritage policies along with increasing resources and funding for Calgary's heritage buildings and sites. As our elected officials, you are responsible for protecting Calgary's heritage resources and ensuring that future generations have the opportunity to enjoy what these buildings and sites contribute to our city.

Sincerely,



Lindae Stokes  
Board Member -- Director, Advocacy  
On behalf of the Calgary Heritage Initiative Society Board



February 15, 2019

The City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Station M, #8117  
Calgary, AB Canada T2P 2M5

**Attention: Clint Robertson, Senior Heritage Planner, City Wide Policy Planning and Development**

Clint,

CMLC is supportive of The City of Calgary advocating and lobbying the Federal and Provincial governments for more financial incentives including property tax relief, Federal and Provincial tax credits and conservation incentives.

These types of incentives would be beneficial to CMLC as the steward of several heritage properties in the city of Calgary. In our experience without these types of incentives, non-governmental organizations will have difficulty saving and preserving these historic assets.

Sincerely,

Michael Brown, President and CEO  
Calgary Municipal Land Corporation

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Calgary Municipal Land Corporation  
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February 25, 2019

**Mayor Nenshi & Council**  
City of Calgary  
P.O. Box 2100, Stn. M, MC 8001  
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Dear Mayor & Council:

**Subject: PFC2019-0223 – City of Calgary Heritage Assets**

The Calgary Heritage Authority (CHA) is very supportive of the tools and incentives outlined in this report. They are needed to encourage property owners to preserve their heritage assets.

Amendments to the City Charter or Historic Resources Act needs to give the City of Calgary the same authority as the Province to designate individual properties and areas/districts without owner consent or paying compensation.

Historic District Overlays are also needed to ensure heritage retention is more feasible and equitable, when compared to redevelopment, and to protect the character of an area.

Incentives from all levels of government are also key to heritage preservation.

Overall, we are very pleased to see the City starting to look at heritage incentives and tools and will support the development and implementation of them.

Sincerely,

**Josh Traptow**  
**Executive Director**  
**Calgary Heritage Authority**

Cc: Heritage Planning