



THE TOWNSHIP OF
WOOLWICH

BOX 158, 24 CHURCH ST. W.
ELMIRA, ONTARIO N3B 2Z6
TEL. 519-669-1647 / 1-877-969-0094
COUNCIL/CAO/CLERKS FAX 519-669-1820
FINANCE/RECREATION/FACILITIES FAX 519-669-9348

April 28, 2026

Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
Legislative Building
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2E7

RE: Resolution Passed by Woolwich Township Council – Request to the Province of Ontario to Extend the Deadline for Notices of Intention to Designate Listed Heritage Properties

This letter is to inform you that the Council of the Township of Woolwich passed the following resolution at their meeting held on April 28, 2026:

That the Council of the Township of Woolwich, considering a resolution passed by the Town of Lincoln regarding extending the deadlines for notices of intention to designate listed heritage properties, endorse the resolution:

WHEREAS amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act under the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 introduced timelines requiring municipalities to issue Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on municipal heritage registers as of December 31, 2022, originally requiring action by January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS the Province subsequently amended the legislation through the Homeowner Protection Act, 2024 to extend the deadline to January 1, 2027 in response to concerns raised by municipalities and heritage stakeholders; and

WHEREAS municipalities require sufficient time and resources to undertake research, documentation, consultation, and evaluation to determine whether listed properties warrant designation under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

WHEREAS the removal of listed properties from municipal heritage registers if the prescribed timelines are not met may place cultural heritage resources at increased risk of demolition or irreversible alteration before municipalities have the opportunity to properly evaluate their cultural heritage value or interest; and

WHEREAS many municipalities, including the Town of Lincoln, do not have dedicated heritage planning staff and must rely on volunteer Heritage Advisory Committee members or external heritage consultants to undertake property evaluations, which can result in additional financial and administrative pressures; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario are facing significant workloads associated with evaluating listed properties; and

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln Heritage Advisory Committee, at its meeting of March 12, 2026, recommended that Council advocate to the Province of Ontario for a further extension to the current deadline;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Council of the Town of Lincoln endorse the recommendation of its Heritage Advisory Committee and respectfully request that the Province of Ontario further amend the Ontario Heritage Act to extend the January 1, 2027 deadline for issuing Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on municipal heritage registers as of December 31, 2022; and
2. The Province consider extending the deadline to January 1, 2030, or another reasonable timeframe that would provide municipalities with adequate time to complete heritage evaluations and make informed designation decisions; and
3. This resolution be circulated to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Heritage Committee Association, and all Ontario municipalities for their information and consideration.

Should you have any questions, please contact Julia Wushke, by email at jwushke@woolwich.ca or by phone at 519-669-6004.

Yours truly,



Jeff Smith
Municipal Clerk
Corporate Services
Township of Woolwich

C.c. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mike Harris, MPP
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipal Heritage Committee Association
all Ontario municipalities