

May 28, 2026

Hon. Graham McGregor
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
14th Floor, 56 Wellesley St W
Toronto, ON M7A 2E7

Sent via email to: graham.mcgregor@ontario.ca

Subject: Town of Orangeville resolution re: Request to the Province to Extend the Deadline for Notices of Intention to Designate Listed Heritage Properties

Dear Minister McGregor,

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Orangeville requests your consideration and support for the following resolution that was passed at the May 25, 2026 meeting of the Council of the Town of Orangeville.

Resolution Number: 2026-193

Moved by Councillor Sherwood

Seconded by Councillor Macintosh

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 *Home-owner 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 the Heritage Orangeville Committee comprises of a handful of dedicated volunteers who are not able to review the current non-designated register containing 454 properties on or before the deadline of January 1, 2027; and

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

Whereas Heritage Orangeville Committee, heritage consultants or staff members would need to review the municipal heritage register, research the heritage value and interest of listed non-designated properties, contact owners of such properties, determine which properties should potentially be designated in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, and take all required steps to designate such properties; and

Whereas the above noted work involving 454 listed properties in the Town of Orangeville is extremely time-consuming and cannot be completed by January 1, 2027 with the current resources available given other competing interests including reviewing and supporting new housing development proposals; and

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

Whereas the Heritage Orangeville Committee, at its meeting of March 19, 2026, discussed and supported advocating to the Province of Ontario for a further extension to the current deadline;

Now therefore be it resolved that The Council of the Town of Orangeville respectfully request that the Province of Ontario further amend the Ontario Heritage Act to extend the January 1, 2027 deadline to January 1, 2030, or another reasonable timeframe for issuing Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on the municipal heritage non-designated register; and

That the Town Clerk be directed to send a copy of this motion 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, Municipal Councils across the province, and the Ontario Municipal Heritage Committee Association.

Carried

If you have any questions, please contact clerk@orangeville.ca.

Sincerely,
Ishita Soneji
Council Co-ordinator/Assistant Clerk
Corporate Services
Town of Orangeville

cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, via email
Hon. Syliva Jones, Members of Provincial Parliament, via email
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), via email
Community Heritage Ontario, via email
All Ontario Municipalities, via email