

LONDON DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

November 21, 2022

Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism 400 University Avenue, 5th Floor Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9

ERO: 019-6196

Dear Ministry Staff,

The London Development Institute (LDI) is a member-based organization representing most land developers in the London area. LDI has been the leading voice on development issues in our City for more than 40 years. Our goal, working with our partners in local government and the community, is to build a better London.

LDI wants to thank the Provincial Government for their commitment in supporting housing supply in Ontario. Your efforts will provide housing availability and affordability for all.

LDI is supportive of the proposed changes to the Ontario Heritage Act that remove barriers and update how heritage properties are identified and conserved by municipalities.

We agree that the excessive use of the municipal heritage registry has allowed for an unmanageable number of properties being listed on the registry. In London, that number is over 2,200 properties! We agree with the changes that will protect development from unanticipated heritage designations and the need for the municipality to proactively review the properties on the list.

An additional suggestion, for future considerations, that designations under the Ontario Heritage Act require the property owners' consent prior to designation. Property owner's rights need to be protected. There may be a need for a mechanism for exceptional heritage properties or allow a municipality to appeal a homeowner's decision not to designate but the primary decision should be left to the property owner.

LDI looks forward to the consultation process regarding the development of regulations to implement the improvements to the Ontario Heritage Act.

Sincerely,

Mike Wallace Executive Director