



July 6, 2017

Chair and Members
Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Attention: Michael MacPherson, Clerk of the Committee

Dear Madame and members;

Re: Bill 323, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (rehabilitation of Historic property)

I am writing to you as President of Community Heritage Ontario/ Patrimoine Communautaire de l'Ontario (CHO/PCO) to express our support for Bill 323, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (rehabilitation of Historic property).

Bill 323 will provide much needed financial support for the rehabilitation of historic properties not only in Ontario, but the rest of Canada. Rehabilitating such properties is more sustainable than demolition. Not only will such properties and the materials they contain be reused, their retention will reduce the demands on our landfills that would result from demolition. In addition, rehabilitation will promote economic development through the additional funds that such financial support will leverage in construction activity. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly to us, Bill 323 will aid in the conservation of our shared heritage which is visible to all residents and which each of our communities greatly values.

CHO/PCO is the Ontario organization of municipal heritage committees which are composed primarily of volunteers appointed by municipal councils to advise on the conservation of heritage resources in their communities. We represent more than 110 municipal heritage committees containing over 1,000 members.

We encourage the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development to recommend support for Bill 323 to the House of Commons. As this is Canada's sesquicentennial, passage of Bill 323 would be a fitting legacy program from the federal government for conservation of our cultural heritage.

Sincerely

Wayne Morgan
President

cc. All committee members
Peter Van Loan, MP