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Feb. 24, 2026

via email

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin

Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature
ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca

Re: Decommissioning of the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP)

Dear Minister Dabrusin,

The Frontenac Heritage Foundation is a volunteer-based, non-profit charitable organization which protects built heritage across a large jurisdiction – the City of Kingston, County of Frontenac and neighbouring municipalities. The Foundation was created in the early 1970s to fight the demolition of valuable heritage buildings in our downtown. The work has continued over the decades with many hours of work by volunteers. We write to you because we have grave concerns about the deletion of the CRHP website.

We write on behalf of the many volunteers who have spent hours to write the statements of historic significance that this database represents, and the many students and planning professionals who 'cut their teeth' on drafting statements of historic significance for inclusion in the CRHP. This information is invaluable!

We also write in support of the many municipalities across the nation which are not subject to the legislative requirement to establish on-line heritage registers as is the case in the Province of Ontario. In many such municipalities, the CRHP is the ONLY searchable online database for use in assessing the impacts of development. We need a searchable, secure database for all Canadians.

There is also a concern as many heritage professionals and planning staff have an obligation to evaluate the cultural impacts of development proposals on neighbourhoods. Provincial directions to expedite development put a tremendous strain on all affected to get the analysis right – and done quickly. We need a current and descriptive source of heritage buildings and an analysis of their attributes to make informed decisions and to assist municipalities in making informed decisions.

Many significant historic spaces are under threat. We have a very important UNESCO World Heritage Site in Kingston and many other significant historic places which are deserving of protection. Decommissioning the Canadian Register of Historic Places is the wrong way to try to save money. We hope the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Nature will preserve and enhance this database of national, provincial and municipal heritage treasures. In the long run everyone wins in saving a website which provides a public education opportunity that can lead to more people being interested in, valuing and supporting heritage efforts.

Sincerely, on behalf of our Board and Members,

Kristine Hebert

Kristine Hebert, President
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cc. Mark Gerretsen, MP Kingston and the Islands
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