

CITY OF BURNABY
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

SUBJECT: BRITISH COLUMBIA HERITAGE PROPERTIES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council support the efforts of the Heritage Society of B.C. in the preservation of B.C. Heritage properties.
2. THAT copies of this report be forwarded to the President, Heritage Society of B.C. 914 Garthland Place, West, Victoria, B.C. V9A 4J5, Mr. David Richardson, Chair, B.C. Heritage Trust and Premier Gordon Campbell.

REPORT

The Community Heritage Commission at its meeting held on 2002 November 07 received correspondence from the President of the Heritage Society of B.C. (attached) expressing concerns regarding the future of the British Columbia Heritage Trust. Initiatives are underway to devolve complete responsibility for the management and stewardship of all the heritage properties to non-provincial agents giving uncertainty to both their economic viability as operating historic sites and integrity as heritage resources.

The Community Heritage Commission in reviewing the information on the British Columbia Heritage Trust, fully supports all the efforts put forward by the Heritage Society of B.C. in preserving B.C. Heritage properties.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Celeste Redman
Chair

Councillor Dan Johnston
Vice Chair

| |
|---|
| COPY: - CITY MANAGER - DIR. PLNG. & BLDG. - DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULT SERV. |
|---|



August 2, 2002

Hon. George Abbott
Minister, Community, Aboriginal, and Women's Services
Box 9042 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Dear Mr. Abbott:

Re: British Columbia Heritage Trust

Over the past 10 years, the British Columbia Heritage Trust has suffered a sharp and possibly irreversible decline. A decade ago, the Trust was supporting hundreds of community projects through its many popular programs, and was a leader in some of the province's most important heritage initiatives. Now, its budget cut by 90 per cent, the Trust has canceled most of its programs. After two senior civil servants replaced the appointed board last year, the Trust became no more than an appendage of the Heritage Branch, with few resources and no voice of its own.

From its inception in 1978, the Heritage Trust was a great boon to community heritage aspirations. For several years following the downturn there was still hope it would be revived. However, a recent attempt by the last board to do just that found no support within government, and events since then have all but extinguished any optimism about the future.

If the present administration, determined to reduce the size of government and favouring public service delivery by non-government agencies, is reluctant to reinstate the Heritage Trust, the Heritage Society of B.C. would like to suggest an alternative course of action. Our proposal is that heritage programs formerly offered by the Trust - research, interpretation, publishing, capital works - be devolved to a heritage foundation, either one in place now or created for the purpose. These new programs would once again provide guidance, technical advice, and much needed financial assistance to community heritage projects, while at the same time exacting minimum standards and realizing important strategic goals.

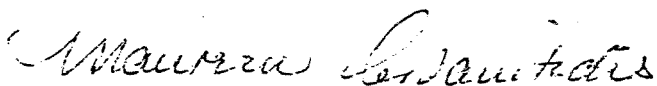
...2

British Columbia Heritage Trust/2

A foundation could provide these services more cheaply than a crown agency. Provincial investment would be essential at the outset, but this could take the form of a one-time endowment, not a commitment to annual support. One potential source is lottery earnings, possibly a special lottery game run until a predetermined amount had been realized. It would then be the responsibility of the foundation to enhance the endowment through its own fundraising activities. Earlier efforts by the Heritage Trust to attract donations failed because of its intimate connection with government; a foundation would not suffer from this handicap.

I would be glad to discuss this proposal further with you at any time. After a decade of declining support for community heritage conservation, I believe we must act now, and make some firm, even bold, decisions about the future.

Sincerely,



Maureen Arvanitidis
President

c.c. ✓ David Richardson, Chair, B.C. Heritage Trust
✓ Premier Gordon Campbell

