

COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: BRITISH COLUMBIA'S HERITAGE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council send a letter to the Minister responsible for heritage, the Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, with copies to Premier Gordon Campbell, four Burnaby MLAs and the opposition critic, Hon. S.C. Herbert, MLA Vancouver – West End, expressing support for heritage and concerns regarding the present state of the province's support for heritage programs and services, as outlined in this report.
2. THAT Council request staff to prepare a resolution regarding the funding of British Columbia's community heritage programs to the UBCM 2011 convention in support of Heritage B.C.
3. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Heritage BC.

REPORT

The Community Heritage Commission, at its meeting held on 2011 February 03, received correspondence from the President of Heritage B.C. regarding the precarious state of the Provincial support and funding of community heritage programs and seeking the support of municipalities to present their support in letters to the Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Tourism, Trade and Investment.

British Columbia's community heritage and funding programs have been supported for more than 20 years with consistent financial support to Heritage BC. This non-profit society has been the driving force behind an on-going program of funding and education programs to all municipalities and communities in the Province of BC. The Heritage Legacy Fund was created by the Provincial Government to financially assist communities with the intention of being offered in perpetuity through Heritage BC. The provincial support of these programs ensured a consistent effort, and access to these programs was provided to protect the unique heritage resources and support community projects.

Copy: City Manager Director Planning & Building
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To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors
From: Community Heritage Commission
Re: British Columbia's Heritage Program
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Heritage B.C.'s funding request to the Provincial Government was denied in 2009. Their gaming application was also turned down, and Heritage B.C. was forced to cease operations as a result. However, after a tough three months, Heritage B.C. was able to get back to work through assistance from the Heritage Legacy Fund which decided that Heritage B.C. activities must be a priority. However, this decision has reduced the funds available for the support of community heritage projects. The Board of Directors at its meeting on 2009 October 17 agreed that they must engage the provincial government vigorously and with determination to get support for heritage conservation to return to a sustainable level.

Arising from discussion of the issues presented by Heritage B.C., the Commission requested that Council send a letter to the Minister responsible for heritage, the Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, with copies to Premier Gordon Campbell, four Burnaby MLAs and the opposition critic Hon. Spencer Chandra Herbert, MLA Vancouver – West End, expressing support for heritage and concerns regarding the present state of the province's heritage program, as outlined in this report. In addition, the Commission requested that Council support the preparation of a resolution to the UBCM in support of Heritage B.C.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Jordan
Chair

Councillor A. Kang
Vice Chair

Councillor R. Chang
Member