MEDIA RELEASE

CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO RETAIN BUILT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Ottawa, ON, November 26, 2026 -- Heritage Ottawa was pleased and relieved to witness the unanimous vote at City Council on Wednesday in support of Councillor Rawlson King's robust motion, seconded by Mayor Sutcliffe, to retain the Built Heritage Committee in its current form as the sole standing committee responsible for making recommendations to City Council pertaining to heritage permit applications.

The Built Heritage Committee (BHC) is mandated to advise and assist City Council on matters related to Parts IV and V of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA). Ottawa was one of the first cities in the province to establish a heritage advisory committee in 1976. Today, only Toronto has a higher number of heritage designated properties in the province than Ottawa. The BHC has evolved to function effectively as a councillor/citizen blended committee, with the public members providing professional knowledge and experience in architecture, heritage conservation and related disciplines.

"Heritage Ottawa is grateful to Councillor King and Mayor Sutcliffe for tabling their motion which dismissed the misguided Governance Review recommendation to dismantle the Built Heritage Committee," said Heritage Ottawa president Katherine Spencer-Ross.

Among other important points, the motion dismisses the Governance Review's statement that "duplication" of work justified its recommendation: Of 175 heritage reports considered by BHC during the 2022-2026 Term of Council, only 14 required consideration by another committee.

As Canada's capital, Ottawa is home to a large concentration of designated properties, historic neighbourhoods and cultural resources that contribute to our city's history, character and identity. The outpouring of support for the retention of the BHC is an indication of how highly the public values the contribution that the BHC brings to Ottawa.

Heritage Ottawa thanks its members, and all the community associations and concerned supporters who responded to our Call to Action by writing to the Mayor and Councillors in support of the important work undertaken by this councillor/citizen blended committee.

"Many, many people stepped up and took the time to write to City Hall, and their voices were heard," said Katherine Spencer-Ross.

Heritage Ottawa was pleased that BHC is to retain its existing mandate, responsibilities, membership composition, meeting frequency and reporting relationships.

Media Contact: info@heritageottawa.org