

November 16, 2018

His Worship and City Council

Dear His Worship and City Council:

**Re: Façade Improvement Grant**

It was brought to the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee's attention at its meeting on November 7, 2018, that there will no longer be funds available for façade improvement outside of the three City Centre Business Improvement Districts (BID) as there has been for the past number of years.

The façade improvement grant is a great program, complimentary in many ways to the Heritage conservation grants program. This funding generates a phenomenal return on investment and should continue.

There has been some ad-hoc funding available for improvements outside of the City Centre BID areas and the value of this potential investment is now understood. The City should consider future opportunities to formalize a program for these areas and identify a funding source for it.

Some of the work in the past has been in Sutherland out of unused capital funds from Phase 2 of the Urban Design work in that BID. This was a bit of an anomaly, and will not continue for a couple of reasons:

- These capital funds need to be retained to support Phase 3
- These capital funds shouldn't be used for a grant like this which is an operating expense

Preservation of heritage façades and overall façade improvements is critical to balancing the pressures of infill development and supports reinvestment in developed areas.

The Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee respectfully requests City Council consider future opportunities to formalize a program for these areas and identify a funding source for it.

Yours truly,

**Paula Lichtenwald, Chair**  
Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee

cc: A/General Manager, Community Services Department  
Heritage & Design Coordinator, Community Services Department