

From: [Russell Bartlett](#)
To: [Bent, Emily](#)
Subject: Objection to Heritage Designation at 84 York BLVD (Philpott Church)
Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024 10:49:05 AM

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Good morning,

I'm writing to object to the proposed heritage designation at 84 York Blvd, Philpott Church.

Firstly, this is an unfair decision that is negatively affecting our church in a significant way. Back in 2021, we entered into a purchase and sale agreement with a developer who shared a vision to build much needed housing at our current site, 84 York Blvd. This purchase and sale agreement has not yet closed, and this late heritage designation creates a serious obstacle which could result in a significant financial challenge for our church and the development of our new building at 160 King St. E. The funds from the sale of our current building are needed to cover the costs of the construction of our new building.

Secondly, multiple third-party engineering studies conducted over the past decade have indicated that the costs of maintaining the building are unreasonably high--more than we could afford, and more than is reasonable to ask of a developer. The heritage designation only serves to preserve a building that is in disrepair and would be far too expensive to maintain in the foreseeable future.

Thirdly, the city has expressed interest in preserving our building because, "The property has historical value for its association with Peter Wiley (P.W.) Philpott and the Christian Workers' movement, because it has the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of the movement." I question the thoughtfulness behind this. The statement fails to acknowledge that our congregation is very much alive and growing. We have been an active presence in the downtown core for over a century and we remain committed to the downtown core. Every day we are serving some of the most vulnerable people in our city. As I write, volunteers are preparing to feed over 100 people at our weekly Church at the Table event. Every Sunday hundreds of people gather for worship. Preserving our current building at 84 York creates an obstacle to the ongoing work of our church. This heritage designation is a threat to the legacy of the Christian workers' movement as lived out through the active ministry of our church.

I object to the proposed heritage designation and respectfully ask that you reconsider.

Sincerely,

Russell

Russell Bartlett

Lead Pastor

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