

To Your Worship and Members of City Council,

I'm speaking tonight on behalf of Nicor Group, a local business with extensive experience over the past 38 years in developing heritage properties in Regina (including the Balfour Apartments, the Leader Building, the Strathdee Centre, the Donahue Block, and the Frontenac Apartments).

It's of interest to note, Nicor founder Ross Keith was already active in the heritage development field in November of 1980, when a Provincial Statute called the *Heritage Property Act* was put in place, granting municipalities the authority to designate heritage properties.

When Bylaw 8912, commonly known as the *Heritage Holding Bylaw*, was adopted by Regina City Council in 1989, Nicor accepted the bylaw as an administrative tool, helpful but not without its faults. In our eyes, *The Heritage Inventory Policy* being considered by Council here tonight does not implement some radical change to the existing bylaw. However, it is a more sophisticated tool. Under the new policy, the existing list of potential heritage properties would be more closely monitored and curated, allowing for a better representation of Regina's diverse history as laid out in administration's *Thematic Framework and Historic Context* statement. We have reviewed this policy from our standpoint as an owner and developer of heritage properties and support the recommendation which is being recommended to Council.

Over the past five years, the City of Regina has made major upgrades to its Heritage Programs. Owners of designated properties are now eligible for 10 years of tax exemption with no maximum. (It used to be 5 years and a maximum of \$250,000). If the new *Heritage Inventory Policy* were in place, Regina would have one of the best heritage programs in Canada. The City Administration and City Council are to be congratulated for a job very well done. This work will link perfectly with the City's Cultural Plan and give us a strong foundation for community revitalization.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Morgan Campbell

Nicor Group