

AHNB - Proposed Endangered Places Program Framework

Objective

The objective in creating an Endangered Places List is to create a nomination-based program that allows private citizens and organizations to bring attention to at-risk heritage places in their area with the goal of increasing the chances of conserving these sites for future generations.

Number and Frequency

Nominations can be submitted anytime. A successful nomination will remain on the list for 1 year from the time of first publication.

Report Card

The nominator is required to provide a 6-month and one-year report card, to be published publicly in conjunction with a PR push for the program itself.

Nominating

The nomination form can be completed by individuals, organizations or local governments. The submitted form will include the identifying information of the nominator, detailed information on the endangered place, a risk analysis matrix, images and other supporting documentation. This form will also serve as an "agreement" that the nominator will be responsible for providing 6-month and 12-month updates on the place if the site is chosen for inclusion on the endangered list.

Criteria

The following categories will be evaluated by the scoring matrix:

- Heritage Value (40%)
- Risk Assessment (40%)
- Potential for Rehabilitation/Adaptive Re-Use (20%)

Ownership Consideration

The information gathered should be public domain, therefore the owner's consent should not be necessary. The nomination form includes a clause that the information provided must be public domain. The owner will be informed of the inclusion of their site prior to the list being published. As there may be extenuating circumstances not known to the nominator, a site may be pulled from the list at the discretion of the Board.

Benefits

When promoting the program, the following benefits can be highlighted:

- Media attention
- Attraction of potential buyers
- Informing the local and provincial communities of the risk the site is facing
- Provincial Funding:

In an effort to have benefits associated with being on the list of endangered places, the Heritage Branch was contacted to see what they could provide. They provided clarification on their existing funding, which seems to offer what we need without having to alter their existing policies. Please see their summary below:

The province's Built Heritage Program and Community Cultural Places Program are specifically designed so that any applicant who meets the criteria can apply. A specific designation status is not required to be eligible for funding. As long as the site in question has documented heritage value, is owned by a registered non-profit or municipality, and the work is in line with The Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, the project may be eligible subject to available of funding. Projects in which a long-term lease (10 years) is in place in which a registered non-profit is the leasee of the site are also eligible assuming they attain our other criteria.

For a site to be eligible for our Tax Abatement Program, it must have documented heritage value and the work must be done in line with The Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada. There is no eligibility criteria regarding organization status for this program.

If the sites listed on the "Endangered Places" list meet the criteria for any of these programs, they are able to apply for funding.

Since the nomination form must include a statement on Heritage Value that is then evaluated by the AHNB, this criterion is inherently fulfilled during the nomination process. The proponent must then engage with the Heritage Branch to apply for any provincial funding.

Lawren Campbell October 24, 2024