

Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee  
City of London  
300 Dufferin Ave.  
London, ON N6A 4L9  
November 14, 2022

**Re: agenda item 4.39 Consideration of Appointment to Eldon House  
Meeting agenda for Wednesday, November 16, 2022**

Dear committee members,

As you know, Council is now choosing the members of its Boards and Commissions for the next four years. At Eldon House, where we have a core group of enthusiastic Directors and volunteers working on behalf of this important heritage museum and site, we're all keen to welcome new Directors after some recent, and well-deserved, retirements.

However, we were disappointed to note all positions on the Eldon House Board were not filled during the recent round of gathering applicants. If the committee, and of course Council, accepts the outcome as it stands, this will leave Eldon House with only six members on its Board, and three vacancies.

We feel the important work we do on behalf of Eldon House needs a full Board of nine members. This work includes safeguarding the house against the effects of encroaching high-rise development, which is happening now, creating a sense of urgency and a conclusion that this four-year term will be a significant time in the long history of Eldon House. We are anxious to ensure we have the bench strength, and the key competencies, that we will need to fulfill our function as stewards of this much-loved treasure in the heart of London.

So we ask you to help us to secure our three remaining directors. We are happy to be involved in this, encouraging strong candidates to add new skills and knowledge to our Board. We ask the City to consider reaching out to some of the unsuccessful applicants for other Boards & Commissions, such as the public library board, in the hope they might consider giving their time to Eldon House instead.

Further, in 2014, we wrote to the then-City Clerk, asking the City to consider key areas of expertise for future Board members, and this was incorporated into our bylaws. The areas were:

- human resources,
- public history/educational background,
- community relations and business partnerships,
- marketing and promotion,
- administrative experience with municipal boards,
- CUPE/union relations, and/or
- an interest in gardens
- knowledge of the operation of heritage properties/museums

These recommended areas of experience are in addition to the standing requirement of the Board having one Director with legal experience and one Director with financial management/accounting experience.

Since then, the need to ensure the City promotes diverse and vibrant Boards and Commissions has also become more prominent, so we also ask you to consider Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issues when deciding on the makeup of the Eldon House Board.

Thank you for considering our request. We appreciate and value the support provided to us by City Hall and hope this will become another success, and another example of ongoing, positive engagement between Eldon House and the City.

Sincerely

Mike Donachie  
Board Chair

cc. Theresa Regnier, Board Secretary