



Nelson CARES Society
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Nelson CARES Society - City of Nelson Heritage Award 2021 Recipient

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Nelson CARES Society is thrilled to be this year's recipient of the Heritage Award from the City of Nelson and the Heritage Working Group in recognition of their work to restore and preserve Ward Street Place. Since purchasing the building in 2002, Nelson CARES Society has worked diligently with the community and its funders to ensure this iconic building remains safe and affordable for its 45 residential and seven commercial tenants.

'The heritage restoration of Ward Street Place (the Annable Block) represents the last chapter of a ten-year project to preserve affordable housing in downtown Nelson. This work honours the people who live and work in the building and those who had the foresight to build it. The building's purpose has never changed; to provide safe affordable housing in downtown Nelson' said Jenny Robinson, Executive Director.

Since 1912, the Annable Block (known today as Ward Street Place) has been home to offices, storefronts, and furnished one-room apartments that still serve our community today. When Nelson CARES acquired the building, it pledged to do everything possible to safeguard the long-term viability of the last affordable housing site in downtown Nelson.

In 2011 a budget was developed for the long-term restoration and operation of the building including a 30-year maintenance reserve. In 2014 *Room to Live*, a \$700,000 fundraising campaign, partnered with the community to renovate one residential unit at a time. The community could watch as the 'windows' on the building thermometer were lit up one at a time indicating that another single room occupancy residence had been renovated to make them more livable and safe. In 2017 extensive interior renovations were completed including a fire suppression system.

Ron Little, Board Chair, said "This award is recognition of the outwardly visible success of Ward Street Place. The more important success is inside the building; a strong and health community living in modest, safe, stable and affordable housing. Thank you, Nelson,"

Nelson CARES completed a Heritage Conservation Plan in 2018, which detailed significant upgrades to the building including, a rebuild of the roofline cornice, preservation of original Florentine glass transoms, awning

renewal, updated cooling/heating system and new doors and windows. The project was funded by Columbia Basin Trust in partnership with Heritage BC and Nelson CARES Society.

Nelson CARES Society looks forward to maintaining Ward Street Place, a bastion of affordable housing, for many years to come and would like to thank the commercial and residential residents for their patience and understanding during these extensive renovations. Lastly, the Society reserves its most profound thanks for its donors, partners, and supporters throughout our community who helped preserve one of Nelson's historic jewels.

As a 2021 City of Nelson Heritage Award 2021 Recipient, Nelson CARES was generously provided with a \$1000 honorarium which it has elected to use to seed its Ward Basics Fund. This fund will assist tenants in crisis and helps meet basic needs. To show your support for the community at Ward Street Place, visit <https://nelsoncares.ca/donate/>.