

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs**

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June 12, 2017

City Clerk
 Ms. Rose Caterini
 City of Hamilton
 71 Main St W
 Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Ms. Caterini:

Re: Provincial Land Use Plans

Following two years of extensive consultation, including recommendations from an Advisory Panel chaired by former federal cabinet minister and former Mayor of Toronto, David Crombie, we are pleased to provide you with the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017, Greenbelt Plan (2017), Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (2017) and Niagara Escarpment Plan (2017). The Niagara Escarpment Plan (2017) came into effect on June 1, 2017. The other three plans will come into effect on July 1, 2017.

As you are aware, the Greater Golden Horseshoe is Canada's largest economic engine and one of the fastest growing regions in North America. Located in the heart of the Great Lakes region, the Greater Golden Horseshoe contains many of Canada's most significant environmental features and landscapes, including the Niagara Escarpment, as well as some of Canada's most important and productive farmland. First Nations and Métis communities also have a unique relationship with the land and its resources, which continues to shape the character of the area today.

These four land use plans work together to manage growth, curb sprawl, encourage complete communities, protect green spaces for future generations and support economic development in Ontario's Greater Golden Horseshoe and Niagara Escarpment area.

To develop these updated plans, we met with more than 4,600 attendees at town hall meetings, open houses and technical briefings, and received more than 42,000 comments. We heard from First Nations and Métis communities, municipalities, stakeholders, local residents, the Greenbelt Council, and the Niagara Escarpment Commission. This input has been invaluable in helping to shape the final plans as part of the Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review.

The plans now work better together and are more responsive to the needs of Ontarians living and working in the region. The updated plans give communities a stronger planning framework with new and clearer policies on building compact, complete communities with a diverse range of housing options that better connect transit to where people live and work. They strengthen protection of employment lands, support a thriving agricultural sector, and strengthen protections for our natural heritage and water systems, wetlands, woodlands, plants and animals. The updated plans will also support actions to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help communities adapt to and become more resilient to a changing climate.

The Greenbelt has grown to include 21 major urban river valleys between the Greenbelt and Lake Ontario and their associated coastal wetlands, and five new parcels of land in Hamilton, Niagara, and Halton Hills as protected countryside.

The four plans are available for review and download on our website:

<https://ontario.ca/greatergoldenhorseshoeplans>.

You may also wish to contact the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' Municipal Services Offices closest to you for additional information on updated plans, or the Niagara Escarpment Commission for information on the updated Niagara Escarpment Plan:

Central (Toronto): (416) 585-6226 or 1-800-668-0230

Western (London): (519) 873-4020 or 1-800-265-4736

Eastern (Kingston): (613) 545-2100 or 1-800-267-9438

Niagara Escarpment Commission (Georgetown): (519) 877-5191

Niagara Escarpment Commission (Thornbury): (519) 599-3340

The *Places to Grow Act, 2005* provides that official plans must be amended to conform with a growth plan within three years of the effective date. The Act also provides that the Minister of Municipal Affairs can establish an alternative timeframe for conformity.

To synchronize the timeframe for municipal implementation of the Growth Plan, 2017 with legislated timeframes for implementation of the Greenbelt Plan (2017), and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (2017), the Minister of Municipal Affairs is directing July 1st, 2022 as the alternative date for upper and single-tier official plans to be brought into conformity with the Growth Plan, 2017.

Lower-tier official plans rely on the direction provided through upper-tier official plans and therefore the Minister of Municipal Affairs is directing an alternative date for conformity with the Growth Plan, 2017 and the applicable upper-tier official plan. For lower-tier municipalities, the conformity date will be within one year of the applicable upper-tier official plan taking effect.

To support implementation of these plans, the province is developing draft criteria, methods and mapping for the natural heritage system; draft interim mapping and implementation procedures for the agricultural system; as well as a land budget methodology. Municipalities will have an opportunity to provide input in the coming months.

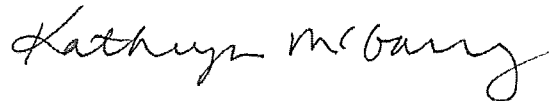
We look forward to working with your municipality as we implement the new policies to support a strong, healthy and sustainable future for our growing region.

Thank you for participating in the Co-ordinated Review and for providing valuable recommendations and feedback. We look forward to continuing to work with you as important partners in shaping the future of this significant region of the Province.

Sincerely,



Bill Mauro
Minister of Municipal Affairs



Kathryn McGarry
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

Enclosure:

- Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017
- Greenbelt Plan (2017)
- Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (2017)
- Niagara Escarpment Plan (2017)

