

Niagara Escarpment Commission

232 Guelph St.
Georgetown, ON L7G 4B1
Tel: 905-877-5191
Fax: 905-873-7452
www.escarpment.org

Commission de l'escarpement du Niagara

232, rue Guelph
Georgetown ON L7G 4B1
No de tel. 905-877-5191
Télécopieur 905-873-7452
www.escarpment.org



Niagara Escarpment Commission
An agency of the Government of Ontario

July 6, 2017

To: Niagara Escarpment Plan Area Municipalities and Conservation Authorities

Re: Updated Niagara Escarpment Plan

As part of the provincial Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review, the Ontario government recently finalized the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP), along with three other provincial land use plans: the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Greenbelt Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Together, these four plans guide growth, encourage complete communities, curb urban sprawl, and protect the natural environment across a large part of central and southern Ontario.

After extensive public consultation, the Ontario government released the final four plans on May 18th, 2017. The new NEP came into effect on June 1, 2017. All NEC development permit applications and plan amendments are now assessed according to the new plan's policies and maps.

Coinciding with the implementation of the new NEP, the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) is also implementing a new operational strategy, which includes a renewed focus on customer service. Under the strategy, integrated teams have been assigned to provide full service delivery and support to clients and partners within designated geographic areas across the NEP area.

The new NEP and the NEC's new operational strategy were presented to the Commission at its June 2017 meeting. At that time, the Commission acknowledged the critical role municipalities and conservation authorities play in the stewardship and protection of the Niagara Escarpment, and in the NEC providing timely customer service to its clients. As such, the Commission passed a resolution directing NEC staff to review its development permit application process and return to the Commission at a later date with options to streamline the process, including ways to facilitate more timely comments from municipalities and conservation authorities on NEC applications.

With the government's release of the new NEP, the Commission's commitment to foster greater collaboration with its regulatory partners and the implementation of the NEC's new Operational Strategy, there is much positive change afoot. In order to better

.../2

communicate this change—and to foster increased collaboration and continuous improvement with municipalities and conservation authorities—NEC staff is planning a series of interactive outreach sessions in fall 2017.

At each session, participants will be introduced to the NEC's new integrated teams and provided an outline of changes to the new NEP. Staff from the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry will also be present and there will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions and to explore opportunities for further dialogue and collaboration. These sessions will be of most benefit to staff involved in land-use planning and landscape conservation. Further communications will be provided at a later date.

We look forward to connecting with you in the fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Ayotte', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

David Ayotte
Director
Niagara Escarpment Commission