

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Update: Provincially Significant Employment Zones

**From:** Minister Steve Clark <[mah@ontario.ca](mailto:mah@ontario.ca)>

**Sent:** May-16-19 8:20 AM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Update: Provincially Significant Employment Zones

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Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

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19-003055

May 15, 2019

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger,

On May 2, I released **More Homes, More Choice**: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan. It lays out our government's comprehensive plan to increase the supply of housing that is affordable and provides families with more meaningful choices on where to live, work and raise their families.

The Greater Golden Horseshoe is a critical economic driver, both provincially and nationally, with 85 per cent of the province's population growth expected in this region by 2041. We know that we need a growth plan to not only address the current housing crisis, but to also prepare the region for the exponential growth that will occur over the next 20 years. That is why **A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe** is a critical part of Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan.

A Place to Grow addresses the needs of the region's growing population, its diversity, its people and its local priorities. It is the result of the recent consultations on growth plan policies in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and I would like to thank you for sharing your input during that process. All input was carefully considered in the development of A Place to Grow and the introduction of the Provincially Significant Employment Zones. A Place to Grow will help increase housing supply, create jobs, attract investments and promote economic development. It comes into effect on May 16, 2019 and aims to provide planning flexibility at the local level.

In my letter of May 2, 2019, I outlined that we have identified 29 Provincially Significant Employment Zones that we consulted on to provide enhanced protections for existing employment

areas. The 29 zones have not changed as a result of consultations; however, we have revised them to address any factual errors in the mapping based on municipal official plans that are in effect. These zones can be viewed on our [web portal](#).

### **Requests for Reconsideration**

During the next phase of work, we will be reviewing more than 750 requests we received during the consultation period to reconsider a particular zone and/or add new zones. As a part of this, we may require additional information from municipalities and others who submitted requests. Each request will be assessed on its own merit, and other considerations, such as local planning context and provincial interest.

To help process these reconsiderations, we will be seeking demonstrable municipal support, such as a council endorsed letter that outlines local support for the request. We will work with the parties involved to connect with the appropriate municipal officials.

Any requests for reconsideration received after May 2, 2019 should be submitted to the impacted municipality to include in its planning process or should be accompanied by a letter of endorsement from the impacted municipality when submitted to the Province. Further details on the Requests for Reconsideration process including how requests are assessed can be found online at [www.ontario.ca/page/provincially-significant-employment-zones](http://www.ontario.ca/page/provincially-significant-employment-zones).

If you have questions about the zones, the Requests for Reconsideration process, or accessing mapping files of the existing zones, please contact ministry staff at [growthplanning@ontario.ca](mailto:growthplanning@ontario.ca).

### **Engagement on longer-term use of Provincially Significant Employment Zones**

The last phase of work will look at the longer-term use of Provincially Significant Employment Zones. The ministry has already begun to consider innovative ways to use the zones to leverage economic development investments, programs and strategies both inside and outside the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Our goal is to maximize the economic opportunities that these zones can provide. This includes but is not limited to the number of jobs and people in these zones as they play a strategic and significant role in keeping Ontario economically viable both provincially and internationally.

Provincially Significant Employment Zones can be areas with high concentrations of employment, areas that are recognized to have high economic output, or areas that are understood to play an economically strategic or significant role to the region. They will help provide stable, reliable employment across the region and opportunities for greater integration of the different facets of longer-term planning.

With our partners from the ministries of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade; Transportation; Infrastructure; Finance; Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; and the province's Open for Business Division, we will be holding stakeholder discussions this summer. These discussions will focus on ways to maximize the use of the zones as tools in investments, infrastructure planning and economic activity.

In the interim, if you have any questions, concerns or ideas, feel free to contact the representative in my office, Jae Truesdell, Senior Policy Advisor – Planning, Zoning & Development at

[jae.truesdell@ontario.ca](mailto:jae.truesdell@ontario.ca). You may also contact Cordelia Clarke Julien, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Growth Secretariat, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing at [cordelia.clarkejulien@ontario.ca](mailto:cordelia.clarkejulien@ontario.ca) or at 416-325-5803 for any process-related matters.

Thank you once again for sharing your input. I value your feedback and look forward to continuing to work together in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Steve Clark  
Minister

c:

Jason Thorne, General Manager of Planning and Economic Development

Janette Smith, City Manager

Janet Pilon, City Clerk (A)