

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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19-3056

May 16, 2019

City Clerk
Rose Caterini
City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Rose Caterini,

I am pleased to provide you with A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2019. This Plan is an important part of our government's Housing Supply Action Plan that addresses the needs of the region's growing population, its diversity, its people and its local priorities. A Place to Grow is the result of our recent consultation on policy changes to make it faster and easier for municipalities in the region to plan for growth, increase housing supply, attract investment, and create and protect jobs.

As you know, the Greater Golden Horseshoe region is essential to not only a thriving Ontario economy but also to Canada's wealth and prosperity. As such, it is essential to manage growth in ways that put Ontarians first as we balance the need for more housing and greater stable and reliable employment, while maintaining protections for our environment and our vibrant agricultural sector.

A Place to Grow will do this by:

- Providing more flexibility for municipalities to respond to local needs;
- Increasing housing supply at a faster rate;
- Attracting new investments and jobs;
- Making the most of transit investments; and
- Protecting important environmental and agricultural assets.

A Place to Grow reflects our trust in the ability of local governments to make decisions about how their communities grow, while the province maintains protections for the Greenbelt, agriculture, and natural heritage systems. One size doesn't fit all. We are supporting municipalities so they can respond to local needs and regional priorities.

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The new Plan will come into effect on May 16, 2019. 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 and Housing can establish an alternative timeframe for conformity.

To provide continuity in implementation, I am directing July 1, 2022 as the date for upper and single-tier official plans to be brought into conformity with this Plan.

For lower-tier municipalities, I am directing that conformity with this Plan and the applicable upper-tier official plan will be within one year of the latter taking effect.

We look forward to continuing to work together to implement A Place to Grow. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Cordelia Clarke Julien, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Growth Secretariat, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing at Cordelia.ClarkeJulien@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

Enclosure: A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2019

- c: Mayor Fred Eisenberger
General Manager of Planning and Economic Development Jason Thorne
City Manager (Interim) Mike Zegarac

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
MAY 21 2019	
REF'D TO	<u>Council</u>
REF'D TO	<u>June 10/19</u>
REF'D TO	
ACTION _____	
