



HELP US TO FIGHT SPRAWL DEVELOPMENT!

Ontario's Ford Government is proposing to weaken and/or eliminate important provincial planning rules designed to prevent urban sprawl in the Greater Golden Horseshoe area.

The government is [proposing changes to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe](#) – the provincial plan that 'provides a framework for growth management in the region'.

Ontarians have **until February 28th** to comment on the proposed changes. Read more to find out what you need to know and what you need to do to make your voice heard!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHANGES*:

Sprawl driven planning - The proposed Growth Plan changes will weaken the provincial Development Land Needs Assessment rules that municipalities must follow and allow municipal urban boundary expansions without strong evidence of need. In other words, it will be easier for municipalities to create more urban sprawl.

Weakened density targets – Municipal requirements for using land efficiently within urban areas will be weakened to allow more low-density sprawl in these areas.

Urban boundaries - will be allowed to expand onto farmland at the behest of developers instead of only during periodic Municipal Planning Reviews

Employment lands - will be allowed to be converted to residential and other uses. This change underscores the fact that there are currently, in place, employment lands in excess of demand. In Hamilton, this means that the employment lands around the Airport could become residential sprawl.

Massive farmland grab - The province will allow precious farmland to be converted to employment lands, despite the absence of demonstrated need for more employment land in the Greater Golden Horseshoe area.

No new affordable housing - There are no changes to the Growth Plan that specifically mandate the creation of affordable housing – a curious thing when you consider the government's claim that these changes are about making housing more affordable.

Climate Change – The government is proposing to remove any mention of climate change as an issue to be addressed in municipal plans.

Transit station density. Increased density will be allowed within 800 metres of existing and future transit stations. The current zone is 500 metres so this will increase the area where greater density can be developed. This may be beneficial in some areas.

Overall, the proposed changes fail to address the Greater Golden Horseshoe's affordable housing problem and favour costly low-density sprawl. What the region needs are more housing options for renters and owners, within our cities, close to where people want to live, work and play. We do not need more sprawling subdivisions on farmland, forests and the source of our drinking water.

**This list of key proposed changes to the Growth Plan has been prepared by Environmental Defence.*

See: environmentaldefence.ca/2019/01/15/statement-ontarios-proposed-changes-growth-plan/

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP FIGHT THE PROPOSED CHANGES

Environment Hamilton urges you to voice your opposition to the Ford government's proposed changes to the Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Plan. You will find details below about what you need to do to prepare and submit your comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario. **Note that the comment deadline is February 28th.**

Workshops

Plan to attend one of our workshops about the Ford government's Proposed Changes to the Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Plan. We will provide you with an overview of the proposed changes and what they mean and we will help you to prepare and submit your comments on the proposed changes via the provincial Environmental Registry before the February 28th comment period deadline.

IN DOWNTOWN HAMILTON:

Tuesday, February 12 at the Environment Hamilton Office, 22 Wilson Street.

Two workshop sessions: 5 pm and 7 pm.

IN DUNDAS:

Wednesday, February 13 at St. Paul's United Church, 29 Park St W, Dundas 7pm

Contact Juby at jlee@environmenthamilton.org for more information or call (905) 549-0900.

Step-by-Step Instructions For Preparing Environmental Registry Comments:

- To access the Environmental Registry of Ontario visit <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4504/>
- Register an account in your name (top right-hand corner).
- You will be commenting on the Proposed Amendment to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017. This proposal is linked to three other associated proposals which you can also comment on.
- Make your comments on the overarching Proposed Amendment by clicking on the comment button located on the left-hand side of the page (see ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4504)
- Scroll down the page to get to Proposed Modifications to O. Reg. 311/06 (Transitional Matters - Growth Plans) made under the Places to Grow Act, 2005 to implement the Proposed Amendment to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017 Click on it and comment on ERO #013-4505 (see ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4505)
- Now scroll down to Proposed Modifications to O. Reg. 525/97 (Exemption from Approval – Official Plan Amendments) made under the Planning Act to implement the Proposed Amendment to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017. Click on it (ERO #013-4507) and comment (see ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4507)
- Now scroll down to Proposed Framework for Provincially Significant Employment Zones. Click on it (ERO #013-4506) and comment. (see ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4506)

Other Actions You Can Take

- Connect with your MPP and voice your concern. Visit www.ola.org/en/members/current for MPP contact info.
- Connect with your City Councillor and voice your concern. Visit www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/mayor-council for Mayor and Councillor contact information.
- Visit our website for updates and news: www.environmenthamilton.org/take_action
- Sign up to receive our e-blast updates and to help with other actions/efforts yet to come by visiting our website: www.environmenthamilton.org/join