



## 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 28<sup>th</sup>** 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:

**Promotes Sprawl Driven Planning** – by weakening the 'standardized' land needs assessment methodology just put in place by the province in early 2018.

**Makes Urban Boundary Expansions Easier & Less Planned** – by allowing urban boundary expansions in 40ha increments outside of the proper and holistic land needs assessment/ municipal comprehensive review process. Also unclear – who can initiate these expansions.

**Weakens Greenfield Density Targets & Strengthens Urban Intensification Targets** – in Hamilton – greenfield areas can be more sprawly under the rules – requirement reduced from minimum of 80 people & jobs per ha down to minimum of 60 people and jobs per ha of land.

**Facilitates Higher Density At Major Transit Stops** – Municipalities can expand the higher density zone around Major Transit Areas from 500 to 800 m – but it is also easier for municipalities to argue for lower density requirements within these zones.

**Protects Some Employment Lands & Makes Others Vulnerable** – establishment of Provincially Significant Employment Zones confers stronger protections on these lands - a good thing – but makes employment lands that don't have these designation more vulnerable to conversion to mixed use or residential.

**No Tools to Create More New Affordable Housing** – plain and simple – the proposed changes do not speak to affordability – simply imply that 'increasing supply' will address housing issues – problem – supply increase linked to boundary expansions – not necessary to link!

**Removes All Growth Plan References to Climate Change** – Yep – report has been 'sanitized' – need to push for municipality to continue to make reference to climate crisis and the need to address the crisis by building compact, complete communities – communities that are resilient, inclusive and sustainable.

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.

## 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.**

### 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 first posting **(1) 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 first posting (1) Proposed Amendment by clicking on the comment button located on the left-hand side of the page (see [ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4504](https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4504/) )
- Scroll down the page to get to **(2) 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](https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4505/) )
- Now scroll down to **(3) 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](https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4507/) )

***For these three proposed changes above*** (the Proposed Amendment, Proposed Modifications to O. Reg. 311/06 and O. Reg. 525/97) **\*\*\* Include all of your comments about all aspects of the proposed changes in this comment box.**

- Scroll down to the last posting **(4) Proposed Framework for Provincially Significant Employment Zones.** Click on (ERO #013-4506) and comment.(see [ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4506](https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4506/) )

**\*\*\*You can include all of your comments here too, or focus specifically on the proposed changes to employment lands. We believe employment lands need to be protected from conversion to other non-employment uses if we are committed to building complete communities where people can live, work and play.**

**Resources** To see the staff report from the City's Planning division in full: <https://bit.ly/2tlxM8c>

### Other Actions You Can Take

- Connect with your MPP and voice your concern. Visit [www.ola.org/en/members/current](http://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](http://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](http://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 [www.environmenthamilton.org/join](http://www.environmenthamilton.org/join)

