

# MUNICIPAL LEADERS *for the GREENBELT*

## **Statement from Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt Co-Chairs on the provincial Greenbelt and Growth Plan Amendments**

Toronto, ON – for immediate release

Today the government has taken a step in the right direction, acknowledging the needs of the Greater Golden Horseshoe to grow while protecting the region’s vital natural heritage and agricultural systems. The Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt look forward to these policy changes growing the greenbelt by another one million acres and stopping urban sprawl across the GGH.

“Today’s amendments put the government on the right track to protect sensitive ecosystems, watersheds and farming communities,” said Toronto Deputy Mayor Glenn De Baeremaeker. “The Greenbelt and Growth plan are the province’s best tools for progress on climate change and the strong climate action focus is exactly what’s needed.”

“We are happy to see that the government intends to grow the Greenbelt by adding all Urban River Valleys across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton and Niagara region,” said Ajax Mayor Steve Parish. “I would call on the province to go further and protect the entire watershed, including headwaters. These changes protect the Greater Golden Horseshoe’s natural heritage and agricultural systems, as well as our vulnerable watersheds.”

“This announcement is a good basis to begin addressing the three main concerns of the MLGB members,” said Oakville Mayor Rob Burton. “We hope to expand the Greenbelt to protect an additional one million acres of natural heritage systems, transform the ‘whitebelt’ into a Foodbelt to permanently protect Ontario’s dwindling prime farmlands and reduce red tape to enable municipal Greenbelt expansion.”

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### **About:**

The Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt (MLGB) is a network of elected Mayors and Councillors from across the province that support the Greenbelt as a permanent feature of Ontario’s landscape. They are committed to protecting the Greenbelt, encouraging the protection and connection of natural heritage systems in Greenbelt adjacent communities, promoting thriving agriculture and ensuring that planning decisions adhere to the Greenbelt Plan.

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