

May 27, 2015

Re: Comments on Coordinated Land Use Planning Review

I am pleased to submit, on behalf of Oakvillegreen Conservation Association (OCA), the following comments regarding the four Plans currently under review.

OCA is a non-profit advocacy environmental organization with a 15-year history of protecting and enhancing nature and promoting a healthy and green Oakville. OCA has achieved success in advocating for natural heritage system planning, urban forest protection and strategic planning, a natural trails plan and against an incinerator, cosmetic pesticide use and new developments in sensitive natural areas. Since 2004, through our public tree planting and naturalization work we have engaged thousands of volunteers in enhancing local parks and nature where they live. Our nature area hikes, workshops, school presentations and schoolyard naturalization projects reach thousands of residents each year.

OCA has been a strong supporter of Ontario's Greenbelt since its inception and advocated in 2004 that the Greenbelt should include regionally significant features and Oakville's natural heritage system, its urban river valleys and the Trafalgar Moraine. We continue to be supportive of expanding and protecting the Greenbelt and encouraging efficient growth in urban centers and investments in transit, rail and active transportation. As members of the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance, we are supportive of their previously submitted 2015 Policy Review Submission. Below we highlight several specific suggestions.

OCA urges the Government to update relevant legislation to:

- Expand the Greenbelt to include prime agricultural areas, urban river valleys and natural heritage systems in adjacent municipalities.
- Enhance the health of and fund the stewardship of ecological lands in the Greenbelt.
- Improve the implementation of the Greenbelt and Growth Plan by municipalities, the OMB and Conservation Authorities and develop a system of criteria and indicators for reporting, data collection and evaluation, especially related to natural heritage and connectivity.
- Do not allow rural and/or natural lands to be designated 'urban' until the next plan review and focus growth around urban growth centers by setting higher intensification targets (50%) and supporting better regional and local transit services.

OCA looks forward to seeing the proposed changes from this Coordinated Review in the Fall.

Sincerely,

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