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April 26, 2021

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK



**GRAND(M)OTHERS ACT
TO SAVE THE PLANET**

Dear Council Chair Iannicca and Regional Council of Peel,

Re: Land Needs Assessment Report, April 29th-Planning Committee

1. Extending the public consultation period for the Regional Official Plan Review until in-person input can resume.
2. OPTION for a fixed urban boundary.

As Co-Chairs of Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet(GASP), we are committed to leaving our children and grandchildren a healthy planet. We are very concerned about meeting the Paris targets for greenhouse gas emissions. We know that local decisions in the Golden Horseshoe could determine whether Ontario achieves its targets.

We urge you to consider the environmental impact of your decisions in your Region. In February, the Regional Municipality of Halton unanimously voted for a delay in their Official Plan Review. In March, Hamilton did as well. We ask that your Region follow suit. (Hamilton Delay motion attached)

Constituents cannot be properly consulted given COVID restrictions. Many do not have Internet access or lack the expertise to use zoom software in order to delegate to Council. Critical decisions that will impact your Region for the next 30 years should not be rushed under the shroud of the pandemic. Regions strongly believe in civic engagement based on transparency, notification and participation. Once COVID has passed we look forward to again assembling, attending workshops and town halls. Constituents want to be informed and they want to have a voice.

“Land use planning is the key lever in locking in or locking out greenhouse emissions at the municipal level” (Yuill Herbert,-(energy consultant for 60 Canadian municipalities.)

Tackling climate change starts on the ground, at the regional level.

Regions are working hard at reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by holding the line on sprawl, creating complete healthier communities, reducing car dependence and protecting precious farmland. A firm urban boundary option on the table allows for this scenario to be studied. This is a reasonable request. (See attached Halton 5th Growth Scenario Motion.)

We fear that Ontario is moving away from addressing our climate emergency. Premier Ford's "market driven" policy changes would lock in Sprawl until 2051. Please stand up against the

REFERRAL TO _____

RECOMMENDED

DIRECTION REQUIRED _____

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plethora of changes from the Province, which allow low density development and lessen our existing intensification plans, thus increasing our Carbon footprint. The priorities of the present government have resulted in fundamental changes. People deserve an opportunity to understand what is being proposed and have an opportunity to say how their communities will grow. We along with many citizen groups ask that all Regional Councils in the Golden Horseshoe stand in solidarity and pass similar motions.

The climate emergency worsens by the day and it must not be ignored by any level of government. We believe that land use planning is a critical lever for greenhouse gas emissions. We can either lock it in or lock it out.

We need a serious rethink so that we can best plan for the future.

Let's plan better... together!

Your children and grandchildren will thank you!

Sincerely,

Lorraine Green & Carole Holmes

Co- Chairs GASP Grand(m)others Act to Save the Planet

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Instagram [GASP4Change](#)

Facebook [GASP Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet](#)

Twitter [Gasp4Change](#)

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

Special General Issues Committee: March 29, 2021

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR B. CLARK.....

Request to Delay Submission of Growth Plan Conformity Official Plan Amendment, Suspension of the Timetable for Municipal Conformity to the Growth Plan and an Extension the Deadline for Growth Plan Conformity

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario has mandated the City of Hamilton to conduct a Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) of its Official Plan; whereby, decisions must be made as to how all of the population and employment growth is to be accommodated in the local municipalities for the years 2031 to 2051;

WHEREAS, since June 2019, the Province has amended a number of Provincial Statutes and policies that impact how municipalities plan for growth including the following:

- Provincial Policy Statement;
- A Place to Grow: The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe;
- *Development Charges Act*,
- *Planning Act*,
- *Environmental Assessment Act*; and.
- *Conservation Authorities Act*,

WHEREAS, these significant Provincial changes include:

- reduced density targets in new greenfield development from 80 persons and jobs per hectare to 50 persons and jobs per hectare;
- reduced intensification targets from 60% beyond 2031 to 50%;
- setting minimum population and employment growth forecasts that can be exceeded, subject to Provincial approval;
- extended the planning horizon from 2041 to the year 2051;
- introduced market demand as a consideration in determining the housing mix; and,
- revisions to how municipalities fund growth;

WHEREAS, these Provincial changes signal an abrupt shift from the emphasis on creating compact and complete communities to a planning regime that facilitates lower density and car dependent communities;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has declared a climate change emergency and must consider the role of land use planning in their strategies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, these Provincial changes create pressure to convert more class 1, 2 and 3 farmlands in Hamilton to urban uses than would otherwise be necessary, which is contrary to Hamilton's Official Plan;

WHEREAS, ensuring that Ontarians have access to healthy safe food in the future requires thoughtful consideration of the long-term impact of converting thousands of acres of prime agricultural lands in the Hamilton area to urban uses;

WHEREAS, the change of the planning horizon to 2051, by the Province, means that future municipal councils and the public will have little power to change decisions where they will grow after 2031 to the 2051 planning horizon;

WHEREAS, in the rural areas, internet service is often poor or non-existent, making it difficult for rural residents to engage in virtual public consultations;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton's current timelines project an Official Plan Amendment by January 2022, seven months before the current Provincial Deadline of July 2022;

WHEREAS, the desired outcome of the City of Hamilton's Strategic Plan, under the Community Engagement and Participation Priority is..."Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.";

WHEREAS, the current pandemic is making effective, in person public consultation impossible at a time when robust, informed public consultation is needed more than ever; and,

WHEREAS, the nature of work has evolved in response to the pandemic, which may cause long-term changes to the assumptions underlying the province's Land Needs Assessment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Mayor correspond with the Honourable Premier Doug Ford and the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to request the Province allow the City of Hamilton to delay its submission of its Growth Plan conformity Official Plan Amendment until proper, in person, informed consultation with the public has been conducted on the growth concepts and the preferred growth concepts;
- (b) That the Province be requested to suspend the timetable for municipal conformity to the Growth Plan to ensure that the public can fully participate in the process of planning their communities for the growth planning period covering 2031 to 2051;

- (c) That the Province be requested to extend the deadline for Growth Plan conformity in order to allow municipalities time to better understand and reflect the impacts of COVID as it relates to real estate markets, housing demand, commercial and office development impacts, and overall land needs; and,
- (d) That this resolution be copied to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the leaders of the Provincial opposition parties, Hamilton's MPP's, and the neighbouring municipalities.

Fifth Growth Scenario

**Moved by Mayor Burton of Oakville,
Seconded by Councillor Fogal of Halton Hills (April 21st, 2021)**

WHEREAS Phase 2 of Halton's Regional Official Plan Review is underway and involves research, technical analysis and community engagement around key themes; and

WHEREAS the key theme of growth management is focused on directing required population and employment growth to achieve conformity with the province's 2019, Growth Plan, as amended; and

WHEREAS population and employment growth in Halton Region already is planned to 2031 as a result of the last Regional Official Plan Review from 2009; and

WHEREAS the 2019 Growth Plan, as amended, now requires Halton to plan for an additional 20 years from 2031 to 2051 to accommodate a total population of 1.1 million and total jobs of 500,000; and

WHEREAS Halton is exploring issues and opportunities related to growth management through the Integrated Growth Management Strategy; and

WHEREAS as part of the Integrated Growth Management Strategy Halton has released a series of reports, the latest of which is the Growth Concepts Discussion Paper; and

WHEREAS the Growth Concepts Discussion Paper profiles four Growth Concepts based on 'Local Plans and Priorities' as well as an evaluation of the four Growth Concepts and their supporting technical analysis work; and

WHEREAS Halton Regional Council has expressed strong concern about loss of agriculture land and negative impacts that growth beyond the existing settlement area boundary will have on future food security; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has increased awareness of the loss of security our society suffers when we allow ourselves to become dependent on other countries for essentials; and

WHEREAS the technical analysis associated with Concept 3 of the Growth Concepts Discussion Paper has demonstrated that all population growth and a considerable proportion of employment growth to 2051 could be accommodated within the existing settlement area boundary; and

WHEREAS a greater proportion of employment growth can be accommodated in the existing settlement area boundary if Mixed Use is used to model land use for employment; and

WHEREAS a Climate Emergency was declared in 2019 by all local municipalities in Halton (Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton, and Oakville) and the Region of Halton; and

WHEREAS accommodating growth through 2051 within the existing settlement area boundary is a positive way to respond to the Climate Emergency;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Halton Region be requested to develop and add to the public consultation work an analysis that builds on Concept 3 and proposes to accommodate growth to 2051 based on no expansion at all of the existing Halton settlement area boundary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Halton Region be requested to provide an assessment of the relative impact on greenhouse gas emissions that would reasonably be expected to be associated with each of the Growth Concepts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Halton Region communicate this Resolution to the public, City of Burlington, Town of Halton Hills, Town of Milton, Town of Oakville, Conservation Halton, Credit Valley Conservation, Grand River Conservation Authority, Halton MPPs and MPs, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

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