

April 26, 2021

REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK**Subject:** FW: Support for delegations re: pausing Official Plan Review**From:** Karen Alison [REDACTED]**Sent:** April 26, 2021 3:48 PM**To:** ZYG-COUNCIL <zzg-council@peelregion.ca>; ZYG-RegionalClerk <zzg-regionalclerk@peelregion.ca>**Subject:** Support for delegations re: pausing Official Plan Review**CAUTION: EXTERNAL MAIL. DO NOT CLICK ON LINKS OR OPEN ATTACHMENTS YOU DO NOT TRUST.**REFERRAL TO _____
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Dear Chair and Council of the Region of Peel:

I am writing to support the delegations requesting that Peel Region pause their Official Plan Review (OPR) until the pandemic is resolved, at this week's meeting. The Agenda items related to this request are 5.1 (Peel 2041+ Work Plan and Timeline Update) and 5.2 (Land Needs Assessment and Intensification Analysis).

We need to await the outcomes of Covid over the next two years before we proceed with planning for the future.

The region of Halton voted unanimously to pause their planning on Feb 17th, 2021 and we believe we must do likewise. Halton (April 21st) and Hamilton (March 29th) have also passed motions to put an OPTION on the table for a fixed urban boundary.

Apparently, the Mayor of Caledon thinks the Town should forge ahead with the Official Plan without waiting for the public to catch up or have further opportunity for input. Apparently, Councillor Innis fears the process may become "developer-driven". It's a little difficult to understand their intentions, since this entire process is about residents of Caledon and Peel, not external special interest groups and corporations. Perhaps they know of people on council who are connected with developers, in which case, this should be made public knowledge and those individuals should recuse themselves.

In Caledon, we are losing the countryside to sprawl and quarries. This is not only shameful but disastrous, as more and more farmland is irretrievably lost, which means, if Ontario's population increases as predicted pre-Covid, we are undercutting our multi-billion dollar agricultural industry - one of the four largest in North America, and endangering our food security. Covid has made it clear that, if we cannot grow food locally, we can expect disaster.

We must not lock in sprawl until 2051. "Land use planning is the key lever in locking in or locking out greenhouse emissions" according to Yuill Herbert, a leading energy consultant for over 60 Canadian municipalities.

Constituents cannot be properly consulted given COVID restrictions. Many residents are stressed, lacking the time or good-quality (or any) internet access or the expertise to use Zoom software in order to delegate. Critical decisions which will impact Peel Region for the next 30 years should not be made now while in-person consultation is impossible and so many of us are overwhelmed.

For this action to be effective, Councils around the Golden Horseshoe will need to pass similar motions and, as it started in Halton, we hope it can continue in Peel and beyond. We need to preserve our existing farmland. Already, 175 acres are lost per day in Ontario. Farmland is a diminishing non-renewable resource. The new 'market lens' prioritizes low density or no growth on farmland.

The best option for our region is to freeze the urban boundary and direct new development within existing built-up areas. Low density residential development is everywhere, while affordable medium density development is all but absent. Going from one extreme (single detached homes) to another (tall "luxury condos") is neither a sustainable nor a desirable form for a healthy community. The costs to service this type of development also spell economic disaster. For example, the cost of building and servicing a highway are far higher than for rail, which is much more efficient and cost-


effective for movement of people and goods. Developers frequently hold onto lands that have received planning permission, awaiting the top of the market to cash in.

Our current infrastructure deficit will only grow as we continue to build out into greenfields. The already overburdened taxpayer cannot support such unsustainable expenses.

Climate change is a direct outcome of sprawl-style development, excess paving, and a car-based growth plan. Storm-water run-off from impermeable surfaces will only increase as the effects of climate change continue to grow. Transportation emissions from these developments will prevent us from reaching our climate targets and should not be considered. We have enough land within the current urban boundary to develop complete, self-sustaining communities for future growth until 2031 and should have the flexibility to plan for 2041 using the guiding principles of the Places to Grow Act.

I repeat: We need to await the outcomes of Covid over the next two years before we proceed with planning for the future.

Please include my letter as part of the agenda for the Thursday, April 29, 2021 Peel meeting.

Thank you,
Karen Alison


"World peace begins with inner peace." HH the Dalai Lama