

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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April 27, 2021

Gary Carr
Regional Chair
Region of Halton
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville ON L6M 3L1
gary.carr@halton.ca

Dear Regional Chair Carr:

As part of Ontario's COVID-19 economic recovery efforts, this past summer changes were made to **A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe** to help increase housing supply, create more jobs, attract business investments, and better align infrastructure, while protecting the environment and the Greenbelt.

The date by which upper and single-tier municipalities must have their official plans in conformity with the updated policies in **A Place to Grow** is July 1, 2022. This can be achieved through phasing a series of official plan amendments, adopting a new official plan, or through a single official plan amendment.

As you know, **A Place to Grow's** policies require municipalities to designate all land necessary to accommodate the population and employment growth forecasts contained in Schedule 3, which are unique to each upper- and single-tier municipality, or to a higher forecast established by the relevant municipality. **The Region of Halton must plan to accommodate a population of 1,100,000 and 500,000 jobs by 2051.** Municipalities will use the land needs assessment methodology to determine the quantity of land required to satisfy their forecasted growth targets to the 2051 horizon. I encourage you to work with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff as you work towards meeting conformity.

Updated official plans will play a critical role in helping more Ontarians find a home that meets their needs, as well as supporting our economic recovery from COVID-19. For these reasons, there will be *no deadline extensions for any municipalities*. Municipalities and their staff have had significant time and assistance from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to ensure there would be no delays in conformity.

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The *Places to Grow Act, 2005*, provides significant powers for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to intervene in municipal official plans in the event of non-conformity with **A Place to Grow** policies. This includes failing to plan for all forecasted growth to the required horizon, by the conformity deadline of July 1, 2022. The Ministry continues to be available to assist you and your staff so that official plans or official plan amendments will be submitted within the required timeframe.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your community, and for your collaboration and engagement in support of effective growth management in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Once again, I encourage you to work with my Ministry staff at the various stages as you work towards meeting conformity. Please contact Assistant Deputy Minister for the Ontario Growth Secretariat, Sandra Bickford, at Sandra.Bickford@ontario.ca, if you have any further questions or concerns regarding **A Place to Grow** or the policies within it.

Sincerely,

Steve Clark
Minister

c. Jane MacCaskill, Chief Administrative Officer
Curt Benson, Director, Planning Services and Chief Planning Official