



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair and Members of the Planning, Public Works and
Transportation Committee

From: Gabriel Clarke, Manager of Sustainability and Climate Change

Mem No. MEM-PLS-2019-0001

Subject: Comments Submitted Regarding Ontario's Environmental Plan

Date: January 31, 2019

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Planning Public Works and Transportation Committee with an overview of the comments that staff prepared and submitted to the Province of Ontario on behalf of the Town of Halton Hills regarding Ontario's Environmental Plan that was posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry (ERO number 013-4208) for public input.

BACKGROUND:

On July 25th 2018 the Government of Ontario introduced Bill 4: Cap and Trade Cancellation Act, 2018. The Act was granted Royal Assent on October 31st 2019.

Among the many subjects that the Act touches on, Section 3 of the Act requires that the Minister of Environment and Parks establish greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the Province and Section 4 requires that the Minister of Environment and Parks prepare a provincial climate change plan.

In response to these requirements, the Ministry of Environment and Parks published "Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan" (the Plan) on the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) on November 29th 2018 for a 60 public commenting period which closed on January 28th 2019. The Plan proposes a new greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 30%

below 2005 levels by 2030 and contains actions related to clean air, clean water, climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, waste, and green spaces.

COMMENTS:

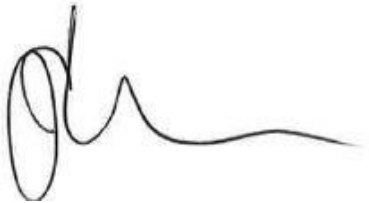
Town staff have provided comments to the Province through the EBR registry. The full comments are attached as Appendix 1. Recommendations included, but were not limited to the following:

- Maintaining or enhancing the overall level of ambition outlined in the plan;
- Increasing the level of specificity in the plan, particularly as it pertains to implementation, monitoring and reporting;
- Revising the new proposed greenhouse gas emissions reduction target upwards;
- Encouraging the establishment of a dedicated funding stream for municipal climate change actions;
- Enhancing investments in public transit and putting a greater focus on low carbon vehicles and active transportation in the Plan;
- Making a connection between the challenge of housing affordability and the impact this has on commuting distances in the Greater Toronto Area; and
- Reducing peak transportation demand through technology such as the provision high speed internet infrastructure.

CONCLUSION:

In passing Bill 4, the Government of Ontario made a commitment to develop a new greenhouse gas emission target and a new climate change plan. The “Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan” document was developed to fulfill that requirement and was posted for public comment on the EBR Registry. Town staff prepared and submitted the comments that are attached as Appendix 1 to this Memo.

Reviewed and Approved by,

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John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brent Marshall', with a stylized, flowing script.

Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer