

THE CO-ORDINATED LAND USE PLANNING REVIEW: THE NEED FOR BALANCE

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Jeff Leal, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Bill Mauro, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Glenn Murray, Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

RE: Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review – Environmental Registry # 012-3256

The undersigned organizations express our overall support for the Niagara Escarpment Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan, and the Growth Plan, as contained in the Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review.

Unfortunately, we find that both the background document (Our Region, Our Community, Our Home) and the break-out groups in the Town Halls were out of balance, with 4 of 7 sections focused primarily on urban issues; 1 that questionably combined agriculture, water, and natural areas; 1 on implementation; and 1 on Ontario's comprehensive approach to regional planning, for which there were no break-out groups in the Town Halls.

As a result, we believe that the Review has under-stated a real challenge: protecting Ontario's natural heritage in a landscape with both a growing population and expanding development.

We represent this challenge in the graphic to the right. The graphic depicts the need for balance between natural heritage and development, six major pressures that society must address, and the important pinch-point between thriving rural economies and urban boundaries.

Please note that we do not reject the Review's inclusion of the primarily-urban issues of building infrastructure, jobs, and resilient cities, merely the way in which their critical mass appears to trump ecological integrity, farming and the use of natural resources, and the need to foster thriving rural communities that will have their future tax revenue curtailed by growth restrictions.



We urge the Panel and the Province to address the imbalance in the current focus of the Review, and we wish you the best in developing meaningful draft documents for the next stage of public consultation.

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