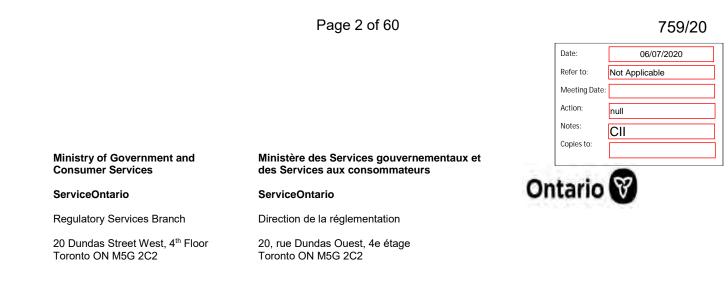
Page 1 of 60



### Township of Brock Council Information Index

### July 6 – July 10, 2020

Comm. No.	Received from – Description
759/20	Ministry of Government and Consumer Services – Moving towards a more digital-focused service model for Land Registration Services
760/20	Accessibility Services Canada – Enabling Accessibility Fund, Apply to be a Youth Accessibility Leader, Virtual Team Training, and more
762/20	Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. – Watson's White Paper re: Proposed Amendment 1 to a Place to Grow
770/20	AMO Communications – AMO Conference Update: Sneak Peek at Keynote Speak Lital Moram
771/20	AMO Communications – AMO Policy Update: United Call for Emergency Municipal Financial Relief and New provincial growth, renewal and economic recovery plan
772/20	AMO Communications – AMO COVID-19 Update: Ontario announces faster approvals for restaurant and bar patio expansions
773/20	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act
774/20	AMO Communications – AMO Policy Update – Provincial Legislation re: Emergency Orders
776/20	AMO Communications – AMO Policy Update: Federal Economic Statement and Initial Analysis of Ontario Omnibus COVID-19 Recovery Legislation
777/20	AMO Communications – AMO WatchFile: July 9, 2020: COVID-19 Resources, Consultation open on elevator safety and availability initiatives, AMO's Virtual Conference: a Canadian first!, and more
779/20	AMO Communications – AMO Policy Update: Emergency Orders Extended, ICON Program, and Mandatory Masks By-law
780/20	WindReach Farm Foundation – GoFundMe Campaign



#### Email to all Municipalities of Ontario

Date:	July 6, 2020
То:	All Municipalities of Ontario
From:	Jeffrey W. Lem, Director of Titles for the Province of Ontario
Subject:	Moving Towards a More digital-focused Service Model for Land Registration Services

I am pleased to share information about how ServiceOntario's land registration services will be delivered effective October 13, 2020, in keeping with our government's approach to move towards digital online services for Ontarians. Effective October 13, 2020, the Ontario government will be discontinuing land registration counter services currently delivered at all 54 Land Registry Offices (LROs).

Land registration is a segment of government services where many of our customers have already adopted the digital channel as its preference. Our data shows that 99% of land registration documents are registered online, 87% of searches are conducted online and 98% of surveyors submit plans for pre-approval via email. Ontario's land registration system was established in 1795 and has undergone several transformations in its 225 years of existence.

Moving toward a more digital-focused service model is part of the evolution of this sector, which is timely and will benefit all customers. For most services, it will no longer be necessary to visit a local LRO. In some cases, where customers need hard copies, ServiceOntario will have processes in place until longer term solutions are developed. Our goal is to ensure that we maintain a modern and efficient organization, focused on the needs and expectations of our staff and customers, while ensuring the integrity of the land registration system.

For many Municipalities this will be a seamless change, as Teraview is already being used to both file documents and search title. For those Municipalities that file

documents in paper, both Teraview and OnLand will be improved to accept digital versions of paper documents.

Please feel free to contact me at <u>director of titles@ontario.ca</u> should you have any questions regarding this communication.

Sincerely,

Selfrey W. Lem

Jeffrey W. Lem Director of Titles for the Province of Ontario

#### Lesley Donnelly

From: Sent: To: Subject:

Accessibility Services Canada <training@accessibilitycanada.ca> July 6, 2020 1:30 PM Brock General Accessibility Funding Available

Date:	07/07/2020
Refer to:	Not Applicable
Meeting Date:	
Action:	null
Notes:	CII
Copies to:	BAAC

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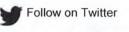
ACCESSIBILITY Accessibility SERVICES CANADA SERVICES CANADA

# **Enabling Accessibility** Fund

The Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) provides funding for projects that make communities and workplaces more accessible for persons with disabilities.

Nonprofits, businesses, small municipalities, and Indigenous organization can apply for up to \$100,000 for:

- Small construction such as ramps; renovation such as accessible washrooms; or retrofit of existing spaces to improve accessibility such as accessible doors.
- Accessible information and communication technologies



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### **Policy Templates**

- **Customer Service** Standard Policy
- **IASR Policy**
- Multi-Year Plan

#### ORDER

Application Deadline: July 13, 2020

EAF Fund Eligibility and Application

# Apply to be a Youth Accessibility Leader

The Federal Government's Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) is also accepting applications from dynamic youth between 15 and 30 years of age who want to demonstrate leadership and a commitment to their communities. Youth volunteer their time to build a more accessible Canada.

Through this work, youth will:

- Create greater awareness about accessibility needs
- Encourage organizations to apply for EAF funding to address existing accessibility barriers
- Build a more inclusive and accessible Canada

Application Deadline: October 30, 2020 at 2:00 pm (EDT)

Youth Accessibility Leader Program Details and Application.

# **Virtual Team Training**

We've had a busy few weeks leading accessible document training courses for our clients. Here are some comments from last week's "Accessible Word



# Website Audit

Get a free quote

Document Remediation

Get a free quote

# **About Us**

<u>Accessibility Services</u> <u>Canada</u> is the leading provider of training and consulting services on accessibility legislation and organizational best practices.

# **Our Services**

AODA
 OnlineTraining

#### Documents" participants:

"Love the immediate application!"

"Having participants to work on the exercise parallel to instructor was an effective way of learning."

"The facilitator managed to keep us engaged throughout the day, which is difficult to do when training are 100% virtual."

"The opening presentation was very informative and provided a good knowledge base of why we need to do this and things to think about when writing the content."

We'd be happy to speak with you about training your team this summer. <u>Get in touch!</u>

# **On-Demand Webinars**

Accessibility training is available on an on-going and individual basis. At your convenience:

- 1. Pick your course
- 2. Purchase a seat in the training
- 3. View it within 7 days

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  Conversion
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- Project
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#### Page 7 of 60

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Debbie V.

Copies to

#### **Lesley Donnelly**

From:	Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. <info@watsonecon.ca></info@watsonecon.ca>	Date:	06/07/2020
Sent:	July 3, 2020 5:01 PM	Refer to:	Not Applicable
Subject:	Watson's White Paper re Proposed Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow	/ Meeting Da	te:
Attachments:	Proposed Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow White Paper.pdf	Action:	null
		Notes:	CII

Good afternoon:

Proposed Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (G.G.H.) was released on June 16, 2020. Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. has prepared the attached White Paper which addresses the impacts of Proposed Amendment 1 on future population and employment growth and long-term urban land needs assessments across the G.G.H.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours very truly,

Jamie Cook, MCIP, RPP, PLE Managing Partner and Director, Land Economics

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. cook@watsonecon.ca

Office: 905-272-3600 ext. 237 Mobile: 905-301-7199 Fax: 905-272-3602

watsonecon.ca



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. has implemented strategies to ensure we stay connected and continue to support our clients and colleagues while working from home. To help in the battle against this disease, we have made a financial donation to <u>Conquer COVID-19</u> to assist in the purchasing and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) to Canada's front-line workers.

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#### Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

Plaza Three 101-2000 Argentia Rd. Mississauga, Ontario L5N 1V9 Office: 905-272-3600 Fax: 905-272-3602 www.watsonecon.ca Page 9 of 60

Page 10 of 60



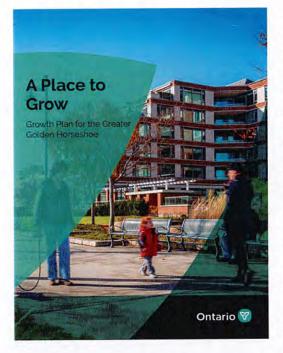
June 2020 A White Paper on:

# Proposed Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow & Proposed New Land Needs Assessment Methodology



Proposed Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow & New Land Needs Assessment Methodology

# Introduction



On June 16, 2020, the Province of Ontario released Proposed Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow (A.P.T.G.): Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (G.G.H.), 2019, hereafter referred to as the Growth Plan. This proposed Amendment has been provided in conjunction with a proposed "new" Land Needs Assessment (L.N.A.) methodology for the G.G.H. These proposed policy changes will be finalized after the prescribed public consultation and comment period which ends July 31, 2020. Proposed Amendment 1 will update the Growth Plan, while the proposed new L.N.A. methodology will replace the current L.N.A. methodology, 2018. The effective date for Proposed Amendment 1 will be determined by the Province when it is finalized.

Provided below is an overview of the key changes to the Growth Plan and the L.N.A. methodology. This White Paper, prepared by Watson & Associates

Economists Ltd. (Watson), addresses the impacts of Proposed Amendment 1 on future population and employment growth and long-term urban land needs assessments across the G.G.H.

# Technical Report: Greater Golden Horseshoe: Growth Forecast to 2051

As background to Proposed Amendment 1, a Technical Report was prepared in June 2020 by Hemson Consulting Ltd. for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (M.M.A.H.).<sup>1</sup> The 2020 Technical Report draws on feedback provided during the winter of 2020 from two provincially sponsored stakeholder groups, including an Advisory Group and a Technical Group. The 2020 Technical Report serves as background to the review of the growth forecasts provided in Schedule 3 of the Growth Plan initiated in 2019 and includes updated population and employment forecasts for all upper-tier and single-tier municipalities to the year 2051, including Low, Reference and High Growth Scenarios.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Technical Report prepared by Hemson Consulting Ltd. for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Greater Golden Horseshoe: Growth Forecast to 2051. June 16, 2020. Hemson Consulting Ltd. This report represents an update to the 2012 Technical Report prepared by Hemson Consulting Ltd. in November 2012, as background to Proposed Amendment 2 to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006. Both Technical Reports are referred to throughout this White Paper.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Appendix B of the Technical Report includes details regarding the forecast results by upper-tier and single-tier municipality with respect to population, housing by type and employment by type.

# Overview of Proposed Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow

The following key policies remain unchanged:

- Housing Intensification and Greenfield Density Targets – No changes have been made to the minimum housing targets identified for the Built-up Area (B.U.A.) or Designated Greenfield Area (D.G.A.) minimum density targets.
- Growth Plan, 2019 Schedule 3
   Population and Employment

  Forecasts The Minister is proposing
   to maintain the Schedule 3 forecasts

  for 2031 and 2041 with Schedule 3 of

the Growth Plan. This is to ensure continuity of the work that municipalities have undertaken to bring their Official Plans (O.P.s) into conformity with these forecasts.

**Growth Plan Conformity Deadline** – The date by which municipalities must conform with the proposed policies in Proposed Amendment 1 to A.P.T.G. will remain as July 1, 2022. Transition policies have not been included in Proposed Amendment 1.

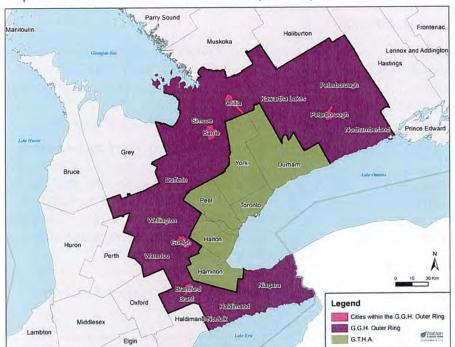
The following key policies regarding the implementation of the revised Schedule 3 growth forecasts are proposed to be changed:

- The Planning Horizon has been Extended to 2051 – The population and employment growth forecast horizon in Schedule 3 of the Growth Plan has now been extended to 2051. Within the G.G.H., the Growth Plan provides that the applicable time horizon for land-use planning is 2051.
- The Forecasts in Schedule 3 of the Growth Plan are to be Treated as Minimums – Lower forecasts for population, dwellings by type or employment are not permitted. It is noted by Watson that further clarification will be required by the Province in cases where long-term growth potential is constrained by municipal water and/or wastewater servicing capacity.
- Higher Growth Forecast Alternatives are Permitted – G.G.H. upper-tier and single-tier municipalities may establish higher

growth forecasts through their respective Municipal Comprehensive Review (M.C.R.) exercise.

 Simcoe Area Growth Forecasts – Schedule 7 of the Growth Plan, which provides population and employment growth allocations by lower-tier municipality in Simcoe County for the year 2031, has been removed.





Map 1: Greater Golden Horseshoe (G.G.H.)

According to the Statistics Canada 2016 Census, the population and employment base of the G.G.H. was 9.5 million and 4.6 million, respectively.<sup>1</sup>

By 2051, the G.G.H. population and employment base is forecast to reach 14.9 million persons and 7.0 million jobs in accordance with the Proposed Amendment 1 Reference Forecast, Schedule 3 to the Growth Plan.

# Other Key Policy Changes

- Alignment of policies with the Provincial Policy Statement (P.P.S.), 2020 Notable changes which will impact long-term land needs assessments across the G.G.H. include:
  - Municipalities must, at all times, have enough land with servicing capacity to provide at least a three-year supply of residential units available through lands suitably zoned in lower-tier municipalities.
- Municipalities shall also plan to maintain the ability to accommodate residential growth for a minimum of 15 years.
- Major Transit Station Areas (M.T.S.A.s) in Provincially Significant Employment Zones (P.S.E.Z.) – This policy amendment would allow conversions of Employment Areas identified as a P.S.E.Z. and located within an M.T.S.A., as delineated in an O.P., to occur before the next M.C.R.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All population figures reported herein are upwardly adjusted by approximately 3% to account for the net Census under-coverage. The net Census under-coverage represents the net number of people who are estimated to be missed during Census enumeration.

# What is a Provincially Significant Employment Zone?

Provincially Significant Employment Zones (P.S.E.Z.) Areas have been "defined by the Minister in consultation with affected municipalities for the purpose of long-term planning for job creation and economic development. P.S.E.Z. can consist of Employment Areas as well as mixed-use areas that contain a significant number of jobs."<sup>1</sup> Provincially Significant Employment Zones (P.S.E.Z.) – Additional work by the Province will begin shortly to examine how P.S.E.Z. can support post-COVID-19 economic recovery, support the retention and expansion of existing industrial and manufacturing operations, and how the zones can attract investment.

### Proposed New Land Needs Assessment (L.N.A.) Methodology

A new outcome-based L.N.A. methodology, if approved, would replace the existing L.N.A.

methodology (2018). The new methodology retains the outline of the 2018 methodology and removes all detailed technical steps. It provides an outline of what should be considered in the L.N.A. and the ultimate outcome requirements (e.g. establishing urban land needs, addressing an intensification target, and addressing a D.G.A. density target). Key components of the proposed new L.N.A. methodology include:

- Schedule 3 Continues to be the Baseline – Schedule 3 is to be used by all upper-tier and single-tier G.G.H. municipalities.
- Alternative Growth Assumptions Municipalities may develop alternative growth assumptions to the horizon of the Growth Plan if they demonstrate they can provide a range of housing to achieve market-based demand.
- Dwelling Type Categorization Housing demand can include agespecific household formation rates, in order to forecast growth in the number of households to the Growth Plan horizon, categorized by dwelling type (i.e. groundrelated versus apartments).
- Housing Adjustments Household demand can be adjusted for factors such as changes in vacancy rates, market contingencies, additional housing needs for post-secondary students, temporary workers or units that will be lost over time for various reasons.

- Housing Allocation Municipalities, in consultation with the public, are to allocate forecast housing demand for the housing market area using factors such as past and future market shares, planned urban structure, housing affordability and a mix of housing forms and intensification. This includes preparing an inventory of housing in the B.U.A., D.G.A. and other areas including rural settlements and rural areas outside settlement areas.
- Employment Area Land Needs Assessment – Municipalities are to address the following Growth Plan requirements:
  - Within settlement areas, make more efficient use of existing Employment Areas, vacant and underutilized employment lands, and increase employment densities;
  - Direct major office and appropriate institutional development to urban

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Growth Plan, 2019, definitions, p. 80.

growth centres, M.T.S.A.s and other strategic growth areas with existing or planned frequent transit service; and  Prohibit or establish a size and scale threshold to prohibit any major retail exceeding this threshold in Employment Areas.

# Will the Proposed New Land Needs Assessment (L.N.A.) Methodology Change the Way Long-Term Urban Land Needs Assessments are Conducted in the G.G.H.?

The proposed new L.N.A. methodology will allow for greater flexibility regarding the way in which upper-tier and single-tier municipalities conduct long-term urban land needs assessments in the G.G.H. through their respective M.C.R. processes. The proposed new L.N.A. methodology, however, still requires that all G.G.H. municipalities continue to provide outcomes related to the following:

- Population and Employment Forecasts;
- Housing Needs Analysis;
- Housing Allocations and Residential Land Supply Analysis;
- Community Area Jobs Analysis and Land Needs Assessment; and
- Employment Area Land Needs Assessment.

It is recommended by Watson that the level of detail provided through the L.N.A. process should correspond with the magnitude of growth and level of complexity regarding the growth management issues faced by each of the respective upper- and single-tier municipalities across the G.G.H.

# Review of Proposed Schedule 3 Population and Employment Growth Forecasts for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (G.G.H.)

# What is the Forecast Population and Employment for the G.G.H. by the Year 2051?

Figure 1 and Figure 2 summarize the 2051 population and employment growth forecast for the G.G.H. between the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (G.T.H.A.) and the G.G.H. Outer Ring. By 2051, the G.G.H. population and the employment base are forecast to reach 14.9 million and 7 million, respectively. This represents an annual population and employment increase of 155,000 and 70,000. As identified in Figure 1, the G.T.H.A. experienced a relatively higher rate of population and employment compared to the G.G.H. Outer Ring over the 2001 to 2016 period. Between 2016 and 2051, the forecast annual population and employment growth rate for the G.G.H. Outer Ring is anticipated to increase significantly, largely driven by continued outward growth pressure from the G.T.H.A. In fact, the forecast annual rate of employment growth in the G.G.H. Outer Ring is expected to exceed that of the G.T.H.A. over the 2016 to 2051 planning horizon.

Proposed Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow & New Land Needs Assessment Methodology

#### Figure 1 G.G.H. Population Growth Forecast to 2051

	Population			2001 to 2016		2016 to 2051	
Area	2001	2016	2051	Total Population Growth	Annual Population Growth	Total Population Growth	Annual Population Growth
G.T.H.A.	5,807,000	7,180,000	11,172,000	1,373,000	91,500	3,992,000	114,100
G.G.H. Outer Ring	1,971,000	2,289,000	3,703,000	318,000	21,200	1,414,000	40,400
Total	7,778,000	9,469,000	14,875,000	1,691,000	112,700	5,406,000	154,500

Source: Derived from Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd. Figure by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

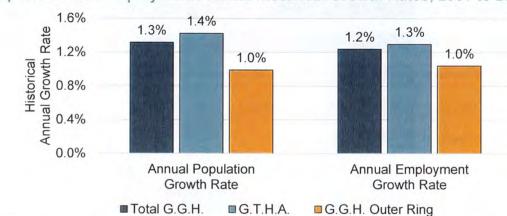
Note: Population includes the net Census undercount. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

### Figure 2 G.G.H. Employment Growth Forecast to 2051

		Employment	and the second	2001 t	o 2016	2016 t	o 2051
Area	2001	2016	2051	Total Employment Growth	Annual Employment Growth	Total Employment Growth	Annual Employment Growth
G.T.H.A.	2,938,000	3,564,000	5,360,000	626,000	41,700	1,796,000	51,300
G.G.H. Outer Ring	863,000	1,008,000	1,648,000	145,000	9,700	640,000	18,300
Total	3,801,000	4,571,000	7,008,000	770,000	51,300	2,437,000	69,600

Source: Derived from Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd. Figure by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

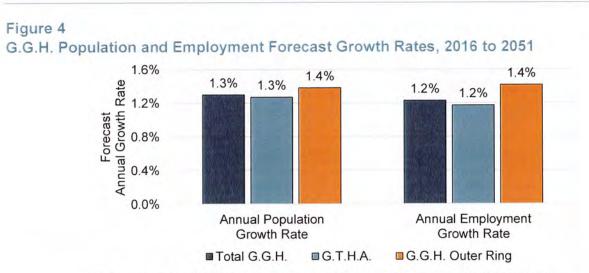
Note: Population includes the net Census undercount. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.



### Figure 3 G.G.H. Population and Employment Annual Historical Growth Rates, 2001 to 2016

Note: Population includes the net Census undercount.

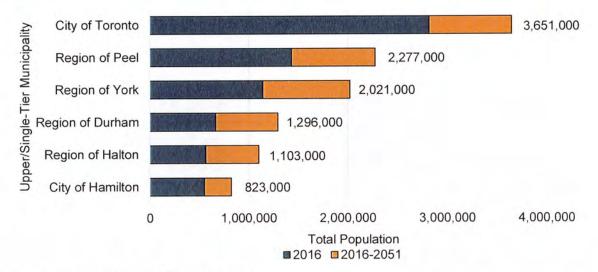
Source: Derived from Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd. Figure by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.



Source: Derived from Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd. Figure by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

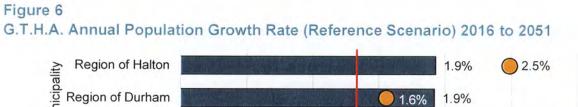
Figures 5 through 12 summarize the 2051 population and employment forecasts as well as annual growth rates by upper-tier/single-tier municipality between 2016 and 2051 in accordance with the 2020 Technical Report, Reference Scenario.

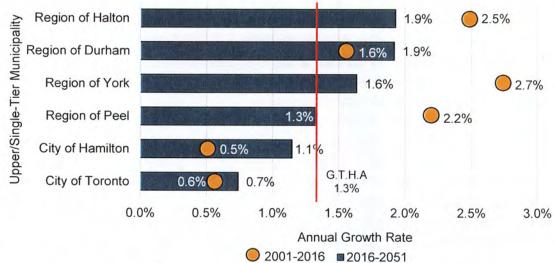
#### Figure 5 G.T.H.A. 2051 Population Forecast (Reference Scenario)



Note: Population includes the net Census undercount.

Source: Derived from Greater Golden Horseshoe: Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd., by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.





Note: Population includes the net Census undercount.

Source: Derived from Greater Golden Horseshoe: Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd., by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

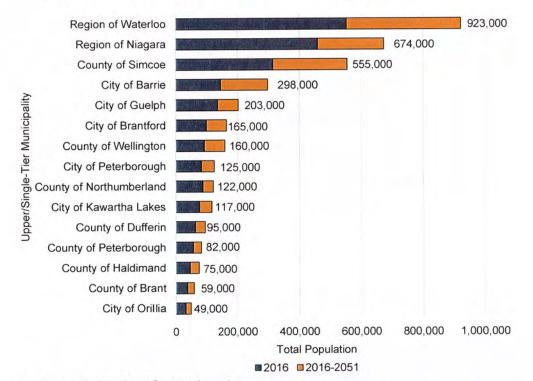


#### Page 19 of 60

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. Proposed Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow & New Land Needs Assessment Methodology

# Figure 7





Note: Population includes the net Census undercount. Source: Derived from Greater Golden Horseshoe: Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd., by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

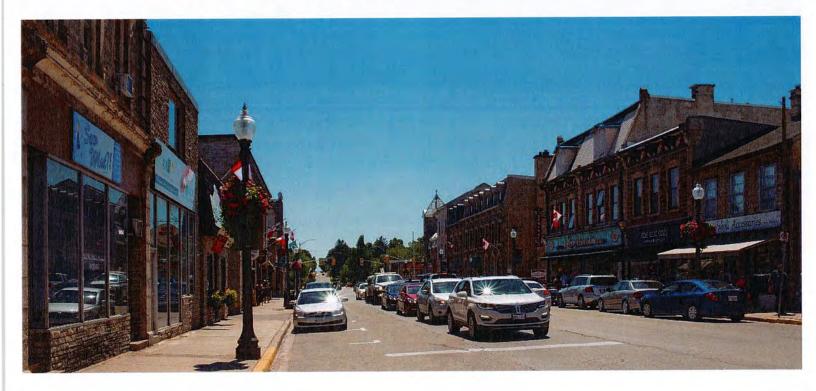
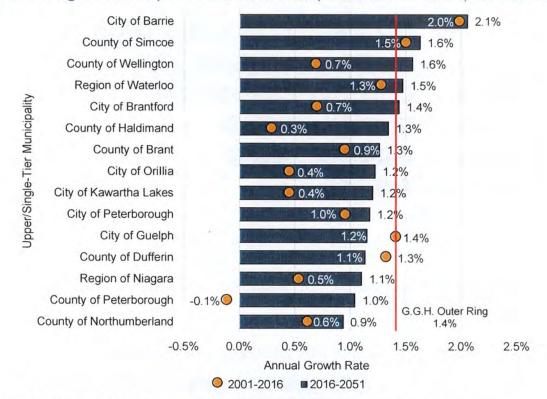


Figure 8

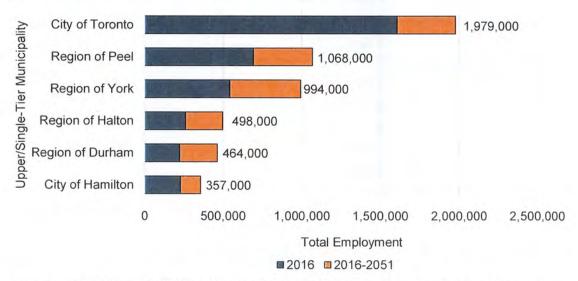
G.G.H. Outer Ring Annual Population Growth Rate (Reference Scenario) 2016 to 2051



Note: Population includes the net Census undercount.

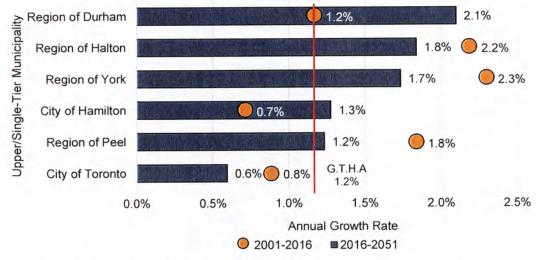
Source: Derived from Greater Golden Horseshoe: Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd., by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

#### Figure 9 G.T.H.A. 2051 Employment Forecast (Reference Scenario)



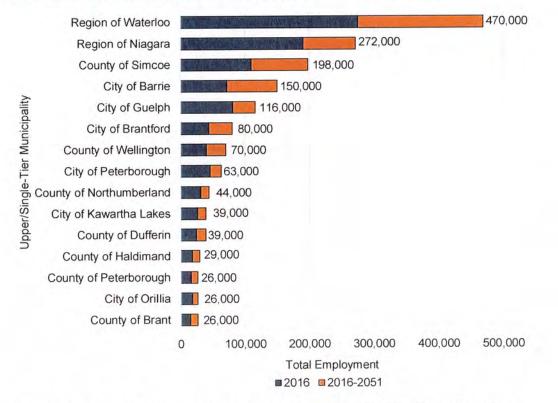
Source: Derived from Greater Golden Horseshoe: Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd., by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.





Source: Derived from Greater Golden Horseshoe: Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd., by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

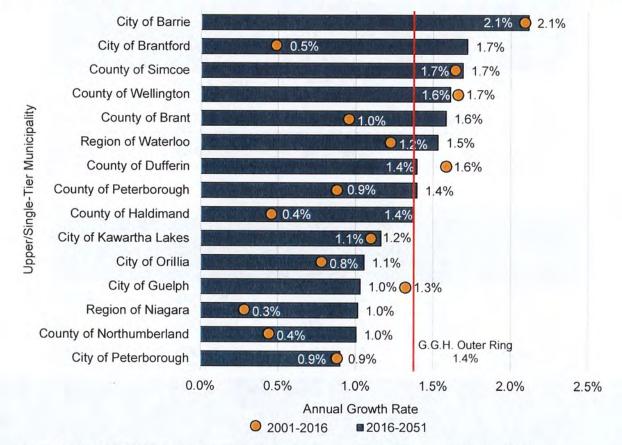
#### Figure 11 G.G.H. Outer Ring 2051 Employment Forecast (Reference Scenario)



Source: Derived from Greater Golden Horseshoe: Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd., by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

#### Figure 12

G.G.H. Outer Ring Annual Employment Growth Rate (Reference Scenario) 2016 to 2051



Source: Derived from Greater Golden Horseshoe: Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd., by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

### Are the G.G.H. Reference Growth Forecasts Trending Higher or Lower than the Schedule 3 Forecasts Currently in the Growth Plan?

As previously stated, the 2020 Technical Report provides a range of revised G.G.H. population and employment forecast scenarios for each of the upper-tier and single-tier municipalities in 10-year increments to the year 2051. Based on the Reference population and employment Growth Scenarios prepared under the 2020 Technical Report, it is anticipated that by 2041 the G.G.H. population and employment base will be lower by 170,000 persons and 17,000 jobs in comparison to the current forecasts provided in Schedule 3 of the Growth Plan. As previously noted, it is important to recognize that Proposed Amendment 1 population and employment forecasts are to remain consistent with the Schedule 3 growth forecasts in the Growth Plan. The proposed Schedule 3 Growth Plan growth forecasts represent minimums for the purpose of Growth Plan conformity.

#### Figure 13

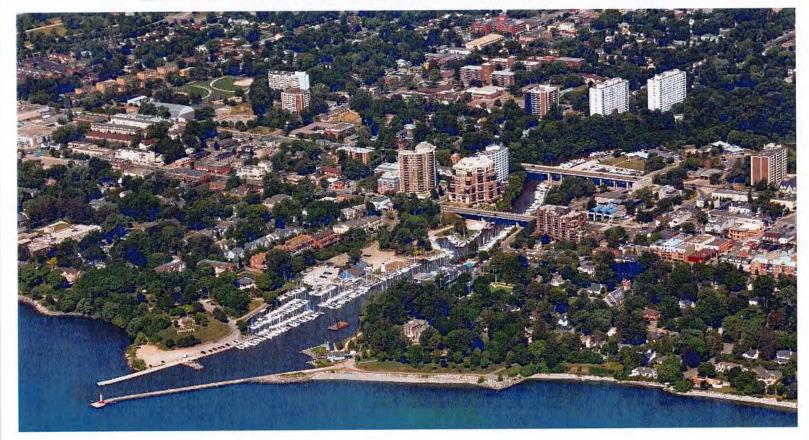
G.G.H. Population Forecast to 2041, 2020 Technical Report

	Total Population by 2041				
Population	A Place to Grow (2019)	2020 Technical Report	Difference		
G.T.H.A.	10,130,000	10,003,000	-127,000		
G.G.H. Outer Ring	3,350,000	3,307,000	-43,000		
Total G.G.H	13,480,000	13,310,000	-170,000		

#### Figure 14

### G.G.H. Employment Forecast to 2041, 2020 Technical Report

	Total Employment by 2041				
Employment	A Place to Grow (2019)	2020 Technical Report	Difference		
G.T.H.A.	4,820,000	4,805,000	-15,000		
G.G.H. Outer Ring	1,450,000	1,448,000	-2,000		
Total G.G.H	6,270,000	6,253,000	-17,000		



# Which G.G.H. Municipalities are Anticipated to Experience Higher and Lower Population and Employment by 2041?

Figure 15 through Figure 18 compare the differences in the 2041 population and employment forecasts for each of the upper-tier and single-tier municipalities across the G.T.H.A. and G.G.H. Outer Ring, between Schedule 3 of the Growth Plan and the results of the 2020 Technical Report, Reference Scenario.

### G.T.H.A. Population and Employment Comparison, 2041

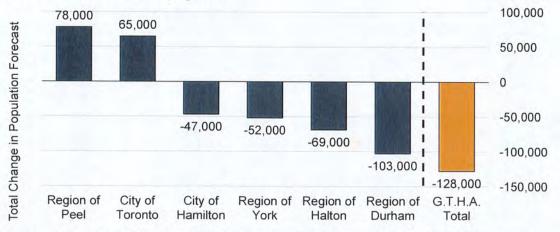
 By 2041, a higher population is forecast for the City of Toronto and the Region of Peel, while a lower population is anticipated for the City of Hamilton, Region of York, Region of Halton, and Region of Durham.



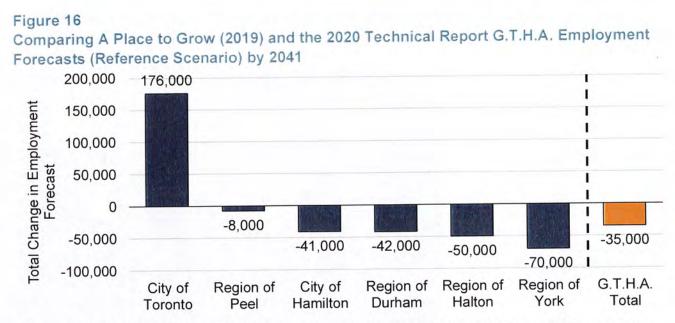
 Significantly higher employment is forecast for the City of Toronto, while lower 2041 employment levels are anticipated for the Region of Peel, City of Hamilton, Region of York, Region of Halton, and Region of Durham.

#### Figure 15

Comparing A Place to Grow (2019) and the 2020 Technical Report G.T.H.A. Population Forecasts (Reference Scenario) by 2041



Source: A Place to Grow (2019) and Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd. Figure by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020. Note: Population includes the net Census undercount estimated at approximately 3% for the forecast period.



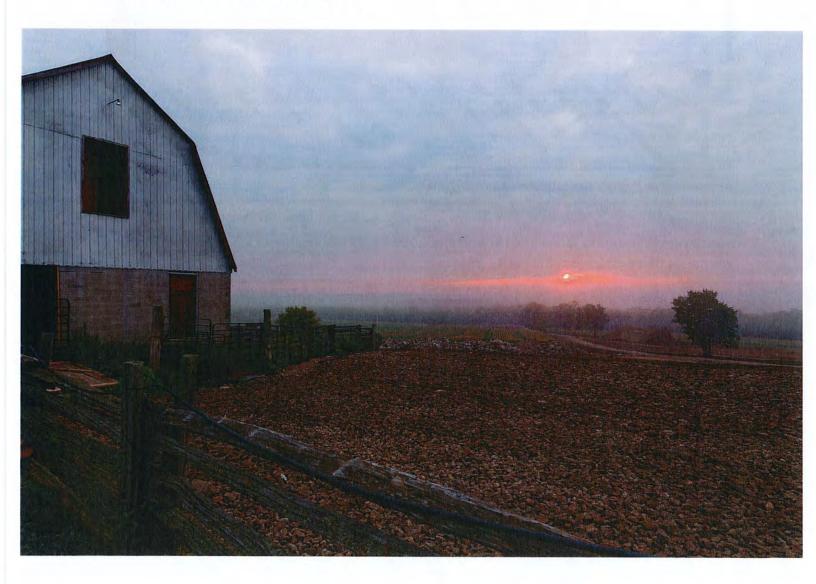
Source: A Place to Grow (2019) and Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd. Figure by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.



### G.G.H. Outer Ring Population and Employment Comparison, 2041

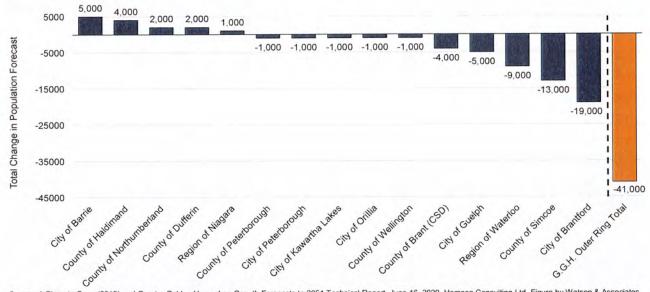
- The total 2041 G.G.H. Outer Ring population forecast has been moderately reduced, largely as a result of a lower population forecast for Simcoe County, the City of Guelph, the Region of Waterloo, Brant County, and the City of Brantford.
- The total 2041 G.G.H. Outer Ring employment forecast has also been

modestly reduced, largely as a result of lower employment growth forecast for Peterborough County, Brant County, the City of Brantford, and the Region of Niagara. Conversely, considerably higher 2041 employment levels are anticipated in Simcoe County and the Region of Waterloo.



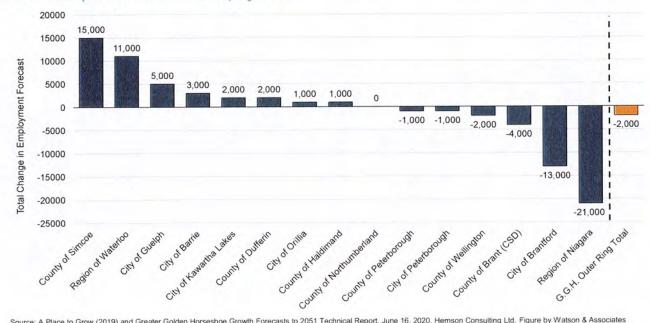
#### Figure 17

Comparing A Place to Grow (2019) and the 2020 Technical Report G.G.H. Population Forecasts (Reference Scenario) by 2041



Source: A Place to Grow (2019) and Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd. Figure by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020. Note: Population includes the net Census undercount estimated at approximately 3% for the forecast period.

#### Figure 18 Comparing A Place to Grow (2019) and the 2020 Technical Report G.G.H. Employment Forecasts (Reference Scenario) by 2041



Source: A Place to Grow (2019) and Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd. Figure by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

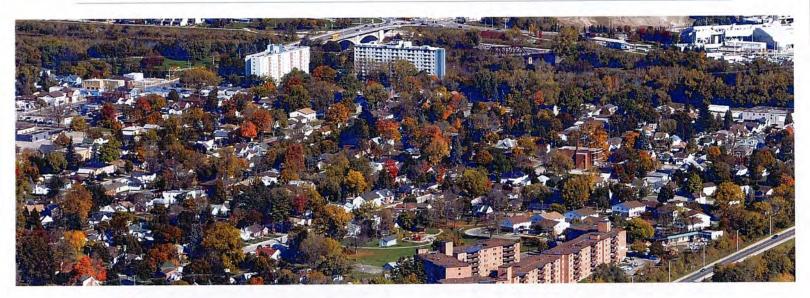
### How Many Households will be Required to Accommodate the Reference Population Forecast by 2051 Across the G.G.H.?

The 2020 Technical Report provides background data regarding forecast housing growth by type (ground-related and apartments) corresponding with the Reference Forecast to 2051. While the 2020 Technical Report forecasts a lower population by approximately 170,000 persons across the G.G.H. by 2041, this relatively lower population forecast is anticipated to require approximately 172,000 additional households when compared to the previous housing forecast prepared under the 2012 Technical Report to the 2006 Growth Plan.

In accordance with the 2020 Technical Report, the higher household forecast is anticipated to be driven by relatively stronger demand for ground-related housing across many G.G.H. upper-tier and single-tier municipalities. In contrast, relatively stronger demand for apartments is anticipated in the City of Toronto and the Region of Waterloo.

Despite stronger anticipated demand for ground-related housing in many G.G.H. municipalities, the revised Reference forecast anticipates that average housing occupancy levels or persons per unit (P.P.U.) will fall more sharply from 2016 to 2041 (refer to Figure 20). This downward P.P.U. trend is anticipated to be driven by relatively stronger housing demand from population in older age groups relative to the results of the previous 2012 Technical Report. It is important to note that in the 2020 Technical Report apartments are defined as apartment buildings less than or equal to/greater than 5 storeys. All other housing types are categorized as ground-oriented. The 2020 Technical Report notes that it does not replicate or predict the housing mix that would be determined by each of the upper-tier/single-tier municipalities through their respective M.C.R. exercise and Growth Plan conformity exercise.

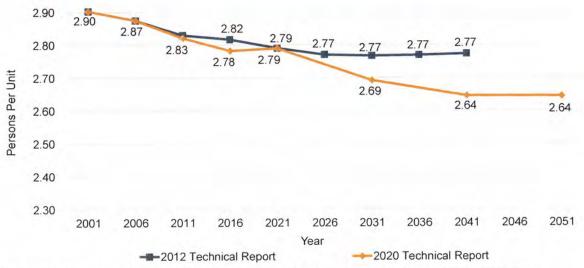
It is important for municipalities to recognize that the accommodation of skilled labour and the attraction of new businesses are inextricably linked and positively reinforce one another. To ensure that economic growth is not constrained by future labour shortages, effort will be required by municipalities to continue to explore ways to attract and accommodate new skilled working residents to the G.G.H. across a diverse range of employment opportunities and a broader choice of affordable housing options. Attraction efforts must also be linked to housing accommodation (both ownership and rental), municipal services and infrastructure as well as quality of life attributes which appeal to the younger mobile population, while not detracting from the region's attractiveness to older population segments.



#### Figure 19 G.G.H. Housing Forecast to 2041, 2020 Technical Report

	Total Housing by 2041				
Housing	2012 Technical Report	2020 Technical Report	Difference		
G.T.H.A.	3,571,000	3,688,000	117,000		
G.G.H. Outer Ring	1,290,000	1,345,000	55,000		
Total G.G.H	4,861,000	5,033,000	172,000		

#### Figure 20 Forecast Trends in Average Person Per Unit (P.P.U.), 2016 to 2051



Source: Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Technical Report Reference Forecasts (2012 and 2020), by Hemson Consulting Ltd. Figure by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020. Note: Population includes the net Census undercount.

# What Types of Employment is the G.G.H. Anticipated to Attract?

The 2020 Technical Report provides additional details regarding the amount of employment by type, including Population-Related Employment (P.R.E.), Employment Land Employment (E.L.E.), Major Office Employment (M.O.E.) and Rural Employment (R.E.). In comparison to the previous forecasts prepared through the 2012 Technical Report, the revised employment growth forecast prepared under the 2020 Technical Report assumes the following:

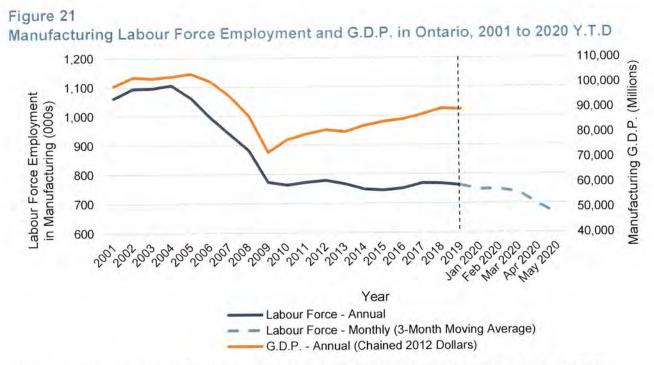
- Stronger employment growth related to M.O.E. within the City of Toronto;
- Less employment growth related to E.L.E. across most G.G.H. upper-tier and single-tier municipalities, except for the Region of Waterloo;
- Less P.R.E. allocated to the G.T.H.A., but relatively more employment in this category allocated to the G.G.H. Outer Ring; and
- Relatively more rural-based employment across the G.G.H., largely within the Outer Ring.

It is recognized that E.L.E growth across the G.G.H. was not as robust between 2001 and 2016 as previously anticipated in the 2012 Technical Report. This has largely been due to increased outsourcing of domestically manufactured goods to emerging global markets combined with



increased automation of manufacturing processes. Between 2003 and 2010, these challenges were further exacerbated in the manufacturing sector across the G.G.H. and more broadly across Ontario and Canada due to a high Canadian dollar relative to other world currencies, particularly the U.S. dollar. Since 2010, the manufacturing sector across Ontario including the G.G.H. has shown

signs of a steady recovery in terms of economic output, measured through gross domestic product (G.D.P.). While manufacturing job losses have generally stabilized since 2010, the manufacturing sector has not represented a large component of job growth across Ontario in recent years (refer to Figure 21). Looking forward, the manufacturing sector is not anticipated to be a key driver of job growth across the G.G.H.



Source: Annual labour force data from Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, Table 282-0125, and monthly data from Table 14-10-0091-01. Annual G.D.P. data from Statistics Canada Table 36-10-0402-01, by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

In light of the structural changes in the macro economy discussed above, combined with an increased emphasis on knowledgebased industries and service-providing businesses, it is anticipated that a larger share of E.L.E growth in Employment Areas will be comprised of non-industrial uses. Accordingly, this has important implications on the manner in which existing and future Employment Areas are planned across the G.G.H.

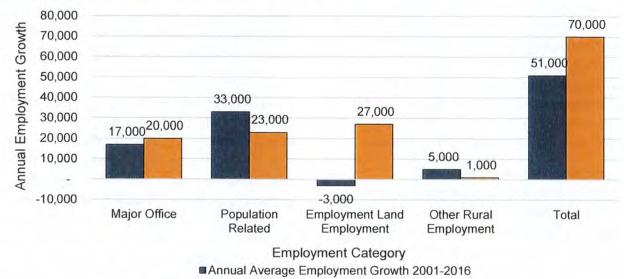
Figure 22 summarizes the amount of annual employment growth by type for the G.G.H. as a whole over the next several decades in accordance with the 2020 Technical Report relative to historical trends between 2001 and 2016. The most notable change in the annual employment forecast by type relative to historical trends relates to E.L.E. Between 2001 and 2016, E.L.E. declined across the G.G.H. by approximately 3,000 jobs annually. In contrast, over the 2016 to 2051 forecast period, E.L.E. is projected to increase by approximately 27,000 jobs annually. It is noted by Watson that this represents an ambitious forecast relative to historical trends. To ensure that market opportunities are maximized in Employment Areas, it will be important for municipalities to:

- Regularly track and monitor employment growth trends by sector as well as long-term Employment Area land needs;
- Ensure that an adequate supply of serviced Employment Areas is available and on the market at all times; and
- Update employment strategies and economic development initiatives regularly to ensure that the evolving needs of Employment Areas and mixed-use areas are properly

addressed, and municipal services are adequately phased.

Relative to historical trends, annual employment growth related to M.O.E. is also anticipated to be stronger between 2016 and 2051. As previously mentioned, this relative increase in annual M.O.E. has largely been allocated to the City of Toronto in the 2020 Technical Report, reflective of the recent strength of the office real estate sector within downtown Toronto over the past decade. The 2020 Technical Report anticipates that the office market will continue to strengthen in the sub-urban markets across the "905" region. Forecast M.O.E. growth within the G.G.H. Outer Ring is anticipated to be relatively minimal according to the 2020 Technical Report. Based on analysis recently undertaken by Watson, it is our opinion that the potential long-term opportunities related to the office market have been understated in the Region of Waterloo.

#### Figure 22 G.G.H. Annual Employment Forecast by Type, 2016 to 2051



Annual Average Employment Growth 2016-2051

Note: Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: Derived from Greater Golden Horseshoe: Growth Forecasts to 2051 Technical Report, June 16, 2020, Hemson Consulting Ltd., by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

# What are the Potential Impacts of COVID-19 on the Long-Term Growth Forecast for the G.G.H.?

The 2020 Technical Report acknowledges that while the immediate economic impacts from coronavirus disease (COVID-19) are anticipated to be severe, the long-term effects of the pandemic on the Ontario, national and global economies are uncertain at this time. The 2020 Technical Report goes on to identify that despite the longerterm consequences of COVID-19 to some industries, firms, and individuals, the longterm economic outlook for the G.G.H. remains positive and the region will continue to be attractive to newcomers, mainly international migrants who represent a key driver of population growth to the G.T.H.A. In contrast to the G.T.H.A., population and employment growth across the G.G.H. Outer Ring is largely driven by net migration from other areas of the Province, most notably the G.T.H.A., as opposed to immigration.

A recent report released by R.B.C. Economics identifies that on-going border restrictions, travel-related health fears, and the global economic downturn are expected to reduce immigration levels sharply in 2020.1 The R.B.C. report also points out that while temporary foreign workers are exempt from entry restrictions, fewer are coming due to logistical and financial burdens related to COVID-19 work restrictions and isolation requirements. After the COVID-19 crisis, many economists warn that immigration may remain relatively low compared to recent years, because relatively higher unemployment rates during the post-COVID-19 economic recovery

period in Canada will reduce the incentive for immigrants to come.<sup>2</sup>

This near-term scenario has the potential to reduce population growth



levels and soften the housing market in areas of Ontario where population growth is most heavily dependent on immigration. For the G.G.H., the City of Toronto and the Region of Peel would potentially be the most heavily impacted by such a trend, while the remaining "905" Area of the G.T.H.A. would also be impacted to a lesser extent.

In contrast to the G.T.H.A., near-term population growth and housing development are not anticipated to be as severely impacted by COVID-19 for most of the G.G.H. Outer Ring municipalities since, as previously identified, population growth within these municipalities is more heavily influenced by net migration from other areas of Ontario, rather than immigration. In fact, recent municipal surveys conducted by Watson indicate that a number of Outer Ring municipalities identify COVID-19 as a key driver of future housing growth within their respective municipalities.

In addition to its broader impacts on the economy, COVID-19 is also anticipated to accelerate changes in work and commerce as a result of technological disruptions which were already in play prior to the pandemic. As such, enterprises will increasingly be

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> R.B.C. Economics. Current Analysis. COVID-19 Derails Canadian Immigration. May 29, 2020.

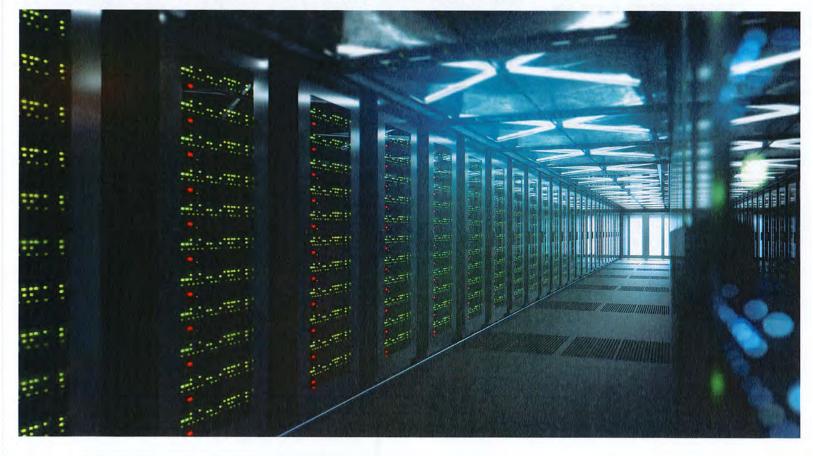
 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Stalling immigration may add to Canada's COVID-19 economic woes. Fergal Smith, Steve Scherer. Reuters. May 27, 2020.

#### Page 34 of 60

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. Proposed Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow & New Land Needs Assessment Methodology

required to rethink the way they conduct business with an increased emphasis on remote work enabled by technologies such as virtual private networks (V.P.N.s), virtual meetings, cloud technology and other remote work collaboration tools. These trends are anticipated to have a direct influence on commercial and industrial real estate needs over both the near and longer terms. In light of these anticipated trends, it is important that the long-term employment forecasts for the G.G.H., summarized in Proposed Amendment 1, adequately consider the manner in which these impacts are likely to influence the nature of employment by type as well as by place of

work. Today, approximately 7.3% of the G.G.H. workforce is identified as working from home on a full-time basis, up from 6.7% in 2001. During this same time period, the percentage of workers who reported having no fixed place of work increased from approximately 8% to 12%.<sup>1</sup> It is anticipated that the percentage of people who work from home on a full-time and part-time basis, as well as those who do not have a fixed place of work, will steadily increase over the long term. As this percentage continues to steadily rise, it may reduce the relative need for future industrial and commercial building space associated with the Schedule 3 employment forecast.



<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada defines no fixed place of work employees as "persons who do not go from home to the same workplace location at the beginning of each shift. Such persons include building and landscape contractors, travelling salespersons, independent truck drivers, etc."

# Conclusions

The G.G.H. represents home to approximately one in every four Canadians.<sup>1</sup> With a robust economy, vibrant and diverse communities, and a world class reputation for quality of life, the G.G.H. will continue to be an attractive region to new residents and business investment. For these reasons, the G.G.H. is anticipated to be one of the fastest growing regions in North America with respect to population and employment. It is important to recognize that the long-term growth forecasts provided in Proposed Amendment 1 do not reflect a status quo scenario. The successful implementation of the Growth Plan lies within a well coordinated, integrated, and phased approach to land-use planning, infrastructure needs, municipal service delivery, and public sector financial planning. This will clearly involve significant financial commitment and partnership from all levels of government.

As G.G.H. municipalities now begin to plan for the 2051 horizon, it will be critical that development pressures are well-managed to provide sustainable options in accommodating more people and jobs while protecting what is valuable to G.G.H. residents and businesses. A key opportunity and challenge in planning for future growth across the G.G.H. over the next several decades will be to manage change in a



manner that enhances the region's livability while embracing development patterns which are sustainable from a triple-bottom line perspective (i.e. economic, environmental, and social impacts).

To discuss this further, please contact:

Jamie Cook, MCIP, RPP, PLE Managing Partner and Director, Land Economics

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. cook@watsonecon.ca Office: 905-272-3600 ext. 237 Mobile: 905-301-7199

watsonecon.ca

<sup>1</sup> G.G.H. population share of Canada based on 2016 Statistics Canada Census data.

Page 36 of 60

#### **Lesley Donnelly**

From: Sent: To: Subject: AMO Events <events@amo.on.ca> July 7, 2020 11:01 AM Becky Jamieson AMO Conference Update: Sneak Peek at Keynote Speaker Lital Moram

Date:	07/07/2020
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Meeting Date:	
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July 7, 2020

# AMO Conference Update: Sneak Peek at Keynote Speaker Lital Moram

COVID-19 is a big wake up call for most organizations and certainly for municipalities.

It's time to innovate and reconstruct your future or risk being left behind. Municipalities need to make significant changes to their traditional business model in order to build breakthrough, future-ready communities.

In this virtual presentation, Lital Marom shares a new method of proactive leadership that is relevant to all leaders operating in today's high-velocity, digital era of constant disruptive change.

Lital Marom's inspirational and practical talk will provide you with the know-how to embark on your journey in a world of dramatic change that will likely follow COVID-19. You will learn about a future-facing framework that creates new insights and a wide set of options for innovation and business model transformation.

Here is a sneak peek.

#### You Must be Registered to Participate

One way the virtual conference is identical to our past, in-person conferences is that you must be a registered delegate to participate in all conference activities. Access to the conference's virtual environment is by unique username and password. If you are already registered, you don't need to do a thing. If not, <u>Register today</u>.

Thank You!

#### Page 37 of 60

Thank you for your continued interest in the 2020 AMO Conference. Responding to COVID-19 and supporting our members through challenging times has been AMO's number one priority. A virtual conference in 2020 is an important part of AMO's commitment to serve our members. <u>Registering for the conference</u> is another way you can support AMO's important work.

#### Questions

If you have questions about the Virtual AMO 2020 Conference, you may find the answers at our <u>Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)</u> section on the AMO conference webpage. If you have questions that are not answered there, please send them to <u>events@amo.on.ca</u>

\*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.



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Association of Municipalities of Ontario 200 University Ave. Suite 801,Toronto ON Canada M5H 3C6



#### **Lesley Donnelly**

From: Sent: To: Subject: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca> July 6, 2020 2:31 PM Becky Jamieson AMO Policy Update: United Call for Emergency Municipal Financial Relief and New provincial growth, renewal and economic recovery plan

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July 6, 2020

### AMO Policy Update: United Call for Emergency Municipal Financial Relief and New provincial growth, renewal and economic recovery plan

#### Municipal call for emergency financial support

Standing together municipal leaders today have <u>called</u> for immediate provincial and federal support to cover lost revenue and additional costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to protect municipal services that people depend on for their daily lives.

AMO, LUMCO, MARCO and the City of Toronto, representing all municipal governments in the province, are calling for at least \$10 billion dollars in emergency relief for Canadian municipalities to be funded 100% by the federal and provincial governments. This call supports the national funding call led by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

The FCM proposal would provide approximately \$4 billion to Ontario municipalities to offset lost transit revenues and added service costs, but there has been no clear signal on the timing and level of a joint federal-provincial financial assistance program yet. Municipal leaders have been patient so far for this expected funding relief but the time for a commitment from the senior orders of government is running out.

Without these federal-provincial emergency funds now, municipal governments may have to significantly increase property taxes and/or make harmful cuts to frontline municipal services. Such cuts or property tax increases will unfairly hurt the very same

#### Page 39 of 60

people that the federal and provincial governments have spent billions helping during the pandemic.

Municipal services are key to safely re-opening the economy. Investing in municipalities now is necessary so they can continue to provide services needed to help restart their local economies.

#### New provincial growth, renewal and economic recovery plan

The province has <u>announced</u> the development of a made-in-Ontario plan for growth, renewal and economic recovery. This plan includes measures to make it easier and faster to build provincial highways, major transit infrastructure projects and quality, affordable housing, while making sure that there are meaningful public consultation opportunities.

As part of this plan, the government would also enter into new commercial agreements with partners to build transit-oriented communities. This would allow for the development of more housing around transit in an integrated manner with more job opportunities. We look forward to learning more details shortly.

AMO's <u>COVID-19 Resources</u> page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic guestions to <u>covid19@amo.on.ca</u>.

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#### **Lesley Donnelly**

From: Sent: To: Subject:

Follow Up Flag: Flag Status: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca> July 3, 2020 2:56 PM Becky Jamieson AMO COVID-19 Update

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July 3, 2020

#### AMO COVID-19 Update

#### **Ontario Announces Faster Approvals for Restaurant and Bar Patio Expansions**

On July 3<sup>rd</sup> the Ontario Government <u>issued</u> new Emergency Orders to make it faster for municipalities to approve temporary by-laws for expanded restaurant and bar patios. This is in addition to the <u>changes</u> made to regulations under the *Liquor Licensing Act* in June to allow temporary patio expansions beyond 14 days with municipal approval. The <u>new orders</u> should allow municipalities to approve by-laws within days so that these businesses can take advantage of the summer season. Current requirements can take several weeks to complete.

The move comes as most of Ontario has moved to Stage 2 of the <u>reopening</u> <u>framework</u>. Under this stage, <u>hospitality industry establishments</u> are able to host guests for dining outside only, ensuring customers from different households stay at least two meters apart. Temporarily establishing or expanding patios will allow these businesses to serve customers while ensuring physical distancing and should help bars and restaurants to re-hire seasonal staff as business increases. The new orders also clarify rules regarding awnings or other coverings for patios, specifying that two full sides must be open and not substantially blocked.

Municipal governments continue to be responsible for enforcing compliance with patio and physical distancing rules. The order is in force immediately.

AMO's <u>COVID-19 Resources</u> page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to <u>covid19@amo.on.ca</u>.

Page 41 of 60

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing	Ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement		Kæj	
Office of the Minister	Bureau du ministre			
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor Toronto ON M7A 2J3 Tel.: 416 585-7000	777, rue Bay, 17e éta Toronto ON M7A 2J Tél.: 416 585-7000			Ontario
Tel.: 410 303-7000	Tel.: 410 565-7000	Date:	08/07/2020	
		Refer to:	Not Applicable	234-2020-2680
July 8, 2020		Meeting Dat	e:	234-2020-2000
		Action:	null	]
Dear Head of Council:		Notes: Copies to:		]

The COVID-19 outbreak has touched everyone in the province, creating personal and financial hardship, and resulting in losses far greater than anyone could have imagined. We are making steady progress in the safe reopening of the province, and we acknowledge and celebrate those who went above and beyond through this crisis.

I am writing to inform you that on July 8, 2020, our government introduced the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020, to help get Ontario back on track. Our proposed bill will address three critical needs Ontario faces: restarting jobs and development; strengthening communities; and creating opportunity for people.

Our government recognizes the key role that municipalities play in restarting the economy, and that their efficient functioning and economic sustainability is critical to Ontario's future success. We are also continuing to negotiate with our federal partners to ensure communities across Ontario receive the urgent financial support they need. We know that municipalities require fair and flexible investment to protect front line services and help restart the economy.

This bill includes proposals that will enable municipal councils and local boards to meet electronically on a permanent basis and allow municipal councils to decide if they wish to have proxy voting for their members. Our government also proposes to finalize the community benefits charges framework; enhance the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing's existing zoning order authority to provide more certainty when fast tracking the development of transit oriented communities; make it faster to update and harmonize the Building Code so that we can break down interprovincial trade barriers, and permanently establish the office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator to help solve complex land use issues. We are also working on optimizing provincial lands and other key provincial strategic development projects that will help facilitate economic recovery efforts.

My ministry will be hosting a technical information briefing on the proposed community benefits charges framework, including proposed changes to development charges and parkland dedication, so that municipal staff can gain a better understanding of the proposal. The technical briefing will take place in the near future and invitations from the Assistant Deputy Minister of Local Government and Planning Policy Division to municipal Chief Administrative Officers, Treasurers and Chief Planners will be forthcoming. ..../2

Head of Council Page 2

In addition to initiatives that I have outlined above from my ministry, there are several other proposals included in our proposed legislation that will support your communities. Changes proposed will modernize our outdated environmental assessment framework, provide more local say on future landfill sites, and ensure strong environmental oversight, while supporting faster build-out of vital transport and transit infrastructure projects to support our economy. Municipally-run courts will be able to use technology to deliver services remotely and we are also moving to fill justice of the peace vacancies faster and more transparently.

We will be extending the validity period of unused marriage licences and protecting the province's most vulnerable consumers who rely on payday loans, by proposing limits on related interest rates and fees.

Also proposed is the reduction of regulatory burdens on farming while preserving the environmental rules that will support this vital part of our economy. Businesses will be able to count on clear, focused and effective rules that do not compromise people's health, safety or the environment through our changes that continue to focus on cutting red tape. At the same time, our changes will allow health and safety standards to be updated more quickly to ensure worker safety in a changing economy.

As the province continues to reopen and the economy recovers, it's more critical than ever to position Ontario as a top-tier destination for investment, domestic growth, and job creation. A key measure to support this objective is the creation of a new investment attraction agency, Invest Ontario, that will promote the province as a key investment destination and work closely with regional partners to coordinate business development activities.

Our proposed changes will also help our communities respond in part to the challenges that this outbreak has brought to our education system. Changes proposed would allow school boards to select the best candidates for director of education for their respective communities. We will also reduce red tape that is preventing access to school for some First Nation students and by limiting unproductive suspensions for our very youngest students. Students with severe learning disabilities will have an opportunity to complete their studies in the upcoming school year and by broadening the mandates of TVO and TFO, our broadcasters will be able to support students' learning needs better during these challenging times.

Through this proposed legislation, we will take the first step towards a strong restart and recovery. More information on our proposals can be found on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's <u>website</u>.

Our greatest challenges lie ahead of us, and we know we cannot overcome them alone. It's time for everyone to play a role in rebuilding Ontario together. We will ensure no community or region is left behind. Every community must recover if all of Ontario is to grow and prosper again. Head of Council Page 3

Municipalities are encouraged to continue to review our Government's Emergency Information webpage at: <u>Ontario.ca/alert</u>. I thank you for your continued support and collaboration in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

ten Black

Steve Clark Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Chief Administrative Officers Municipal Clerks Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

#### **Lesley Donnelly**

From: Sent: To: Subject: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca> July 7, 2020 3:21 PM Becky Jamieson AMO Policy Update – Provincial Legislation re: Emergency Orders

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July 7, 2020

#### AMO Policy Update – Provincial Legislation re: Emergency Orders

#### Provincial Legislation re: Emergency Orders

<u>Legislation was introduced today</u> that, if passed, will provide for flexibility to make sure that needed emergency orders are in place even after the provincial declaration of emergency has ended and while the economy is reopening.

The Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 will allow any orders in effect under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) to continue for an initial 30 days after the provincial emergency has ended, and the Province can further extend such orders for up to 30 days at a time. Under this draft legislation, new emergency orders will not be allowed to be created, however, it will provide for emergency orders to be rescinded when it is safe to do so.

This draft legislation would enable the Province to amend some continued orders that relate to:

- labour redeployment
- workplace and management rules
- regulation and/or closure of businesses and spaces (e.g. to continue to facilitate gradual reopening)
- compliance with public health advice; and
- setting rules for gatherings and organized public events.

This is supported by our continuing provincial-municipal partnership for a prudent approach on what orders may be needed for public and community safety as we have

#### Page 45 of 60

an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for the foreseeable future. AMO will review the legislation once publicly available and will provide updates to members when required.

It should be noted that the end of the provincial emergency declaration, or the passage of this proposed Act, does not prevent a Head of Council of a municipality from declaring that an emergency exists in any part of the municipality or from continuing a municipal emergency declaration under the EMCPA. Likewise, the termination of the provincial emergency declaration, or the passage of this proposed Act, does not impede the exercise of the powers under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health or local Medical Officers of Health.

AMO's <u>COVID-19 Resources</u> page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic guestions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

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Page 46 of 60

#### **Lesley Donnelly**

From: Sent: To: Subject: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca> July 8, 2020 5:36 PM Becky Jamieson AMO Policy Update: Federal Economic Statement and Initial Analysis of Ontario Omnibus COVID-19 Recovery Legislation

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July 8, 2020

#### AMO Policy Update: Federal Economic Statement and Initial Analysis of Ontario Omnibus COVID-19 Recovery Legislation

#### Federal Economic and Fiscal Update

Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau presented an <u>Economic and Fiscal Snapshot</u> in the House of Commons today. The Minister noted that today's economic statement was predicated on the backdrop of a public health and economic crisis as it projected a sizeable deficit of \$343 billion dollars with a debt-to-GDP ratio of 49.1%.

The Minister noted the scale of the deficit is the result necessary measures that provided an appropriate response for dealing with the unexpected public health and economic impacts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The fiscal snapshot indicated several fiscal highlights including:

- Federal spending reduced the size of economic contraction by nearly 5 per cent and reduced unemployment figures by 2 per cent.
- A budget deficit of \$343.2 billion is projected for 2020-21 with a debt-to-GDP ratio of 49.1%.
- Direct support to Canadian businesses and individuals amounts to \$229 billion with the total value of the federal emergency response to date is 14 per cent of GDP.
  - o The Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is set to cost \$73.1 billion this year.
  - o The Federal Wage Subsidy program is expected to cost \$82 billion this year.

#### **Funding for Municipalities**

#### Page 47 of 60

AMO is disappointed that federal funding relief for municipalities was not contained in today's federal snapshot but remain hopeful that conversations continue on ensuring the provision of this necessary relief to municipalities. In his daily briefing, Premier Ford noted that Ontario had financial resources ready for municipal support but that he was working towards a deal with the federal government for flexible funding that reflects Ontario's proportion of the national population.

#### Ontario Introduces COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act

The Ontario Government introduced a broad omnibus legislation, <u>Bill 197, *The*</u> <u>COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act</u>, which the government says is aimed at giving municipalities and their communities the tools they need to spur recovery efforts. In introducing the legislation, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing noted that the province had been working with municipal governments since the early days of the pandemic and acknowledged that municipalities would lead the recovery in their communities. The objective of the legislation is to get infrastructure and development projects up and running faster to create jobs and economic activity. The legislation is comprehensive and complex, totaling over 180 pages with 20 schedules amending other Acts. AMO will be evaluating the legislation and its elements more thoroughly and will communicate to members significant concerns or implications assessed.

In the meantime, this current update includes a description of major relevant sections and initial analysis from AMO. Municipal officials should begin a local review of the Bill to assess its impact on your municipal governments which can be identified during the legislative and regulatory processes.

#### Municipal Function: Governance

#### **Electronic Participation in Meetings and Proxy Voting**

This Bill proposes to continue provisions for municipal councils and local boards to meet electronically, as has been enabled temporarily through the pandemic. As well, the government is proposing that elected officials be allowed to vote by proxy in cases determined locally, such as when they are ill or must self-isolate.

#### AMO Comments:

Both changes are positive and reinforce that municipal governments are a mature level of government. AMO has requested that if the legislation passes, the government prepare guidance materials to assist their implementation in practice.

#### **Municipal Function: Finance**

#### **Development Charges and Community Benefit Charges**

After extensive consultation, the government is introducing an "all in one regime" for Development Charges (DC) and Community Benefit Charges (CBC). The *Development Charges Act* is being amended to further expand the list of eligible

#### Page 48 of 60

services funded through development charges and allows for a blended use with CBCs.

The full list of services eligible for development charge recovery now include:

- Libraries,
- Long-Term Care,
- Park Development,
- Public Housing,
- Recreation,
- Childcare,
- Housing Services (e.g. affordable housing & shelters),
- By-Law Enforcement and Court Services,
- Emergency Preparedness, and
- Airports (specific to only Waterloo Region).

The above services will see the elimination of the 10% discounting. Background study costs remain recoverable.

#### **Parkland Dedication**

Existing parkland provisions (including basic parkland dedication and alternative parkland rates) will be maintained. These provisions can now be used in conjunction with community benefit charges in respect to the same development. The legislation introduces a new public consultation requirement and the alternative rate is now subject to Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) appeal.

#### **Community Benefit Charges**

The Community Benefit Charge can be used by single and lower tier municipalities as most upper-tier services are included under the development charge calculation. The CBC can only be applied for higher density residential developments for buildings of 10 units and five storeys or greater.

As a result of the consultations, the CBC is now a flexible tool that can fund any municipal service provided it is not being recovered through another mechanism (e.g. development charges). The CBC is subject to appeal to the LPAT. The CBC percentage of land value cap will be set by regulation at a future date.

#### **Transition Period**

Following sector advice, municipalities can continue under the current regime until 2 years after proclamation date.

AMO Comments:

AMO is pleased to see the addition of eligible services for development charge recovery being restored. Maintaining existing parkland provisions and the flexibility of CBCs as a tool to recover additional costs is welcomed along with moving toward a

two-year transition period. The draft legislation does reflect significant municipal consultation feedback.

Under this new regime, AMO will continue to watch carefully that growth continues to pay for growth. This will include reviewing the potential for increased LPAT appeals, determination of land value caps for CBCs (to be set out in regulation), assessing the use land values and how that corresponds to the cost of municipal services.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will be hosting technical information sessions on the CBC framework soon and invitations to municipal officials should be out shortly.

## Municipal Function: Infrastructure Development + Environmental Assessment (EA)

The Bill creates comprehensive changes to streamline and accelerate Environmental Assessments (EAs) to improve project timelines and build infrastructure in communities faster. Major provisions include a new process for projects going forward including class EAs; limiting requests for "bump up" decisions to the Minister to those affecting aboriginal treaty rights; requiring Minister's orders to be made within 30 days of the comment period; and establishing a 10-year limitation for project commencement after EA completion. These changes are in addition to previous amendments to exempt low risk projects made last year. The legislation also eliminates hearings of necessity under the *Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act* for expropriations allowing the Minister to establish an alternative process to receive comments from property owners.

#### AMO Comments:

AMO supports a faster and less costly EA process in Ontario, especially when projects have already been through multiple studies and consultations through municipal planning processes. AMO and other others have long raised concerns that the EA process took too long to complete and added significant costs to projects in addition to time. In some cases, AMO understands, the cost of completing EAs has been in excess of building the infrastructure studied. AMO will work with the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) and other municipal groups to ensure the new legislation is appropriate to municipal government requirements.

## Environmental Assessment and Landfill Siting: Municipal Say on Landfill Approvals

While the Minister will still have final approval authority on all landfill environmental assessments (EAs), the Bill proposes that proponents of landfills must seek approval of the host municipality in which the landfill is located, as well as certain neighbouring adjacent municipalities within 3.5km that meet certain criteria as part of the approvals process.

AMO Comments:

There will be implications for municipal governments, both those who are preparing landfill proposals/expansions, as well as those in the host and in certain circumstances, adjacent municipalities. AMO will keep members informed of the consultation for those who want to comment on this section.

#### **Municipal Function: Transit Development**

The Bill also includes a schedule to deliver on the Premier's earlier commitment to develop transit-oriented communities and make it easier for developers to contribute to the development of this infrastructure to support land development in these areas. The legislation is limited to priority transit projects in the Toronto and York systems. The legislation proposes to allow regulations to designate transit-oriented communities, allowing the creation of corporations to invest in the development and processes for expropriating land.

#### AMO Comments:

As written, the legislation applies only to priority projects in Toronto and York as identified in the legislation. AMO understands that other municipal governments may be interested in a similar approach to transit development and encourages interested communities to assess the provisions.

#### **Municipal Function: Land Use Planning**

Ministers Zoning Order (MZO):

The Bill amends the Ministers Zoning Order provisions. The amendments to the *Planning Act* have been proposed to reflect the Provincial Government's desire to use this tool to fast track development where there is complexity and provincial interests. The MZO will not be used in the Greenbelt.

An example of how MZO's could be used would be requiring affordable housing, especially inclusionary zoning. The Bill also includes a new power to allow for ministerial approval of site plans.

#### AMO Comments:

While AMO supports the need for this tool in circumstances that are complex and accelerating the process is desirable, prior notice and support from the municipal government is essential. AMO will pursue greater clarification about the intent of this clause about notice.

#### **Provincial Facilitator**

The Bill also amends the provisions concerning a provincial facilitator, making the position permanent. The Provincial Facilitator is an advisory role related to growth, land use planning and provincial interest that has been in place in various capacities for decades. The Facilitator provides advice to the Minister and when assigned, will

work through development proposals that have come to an impasse, prior to appeals to the LPAT.

AMO Comments:

Where the municipal council is supportive of the development, the Facilitator is a welcomed source of assistance. AMO will seek more information regarding the use of this office to advance developments in conflict with the Official Plan.

#### **Municipal Function: Other Amendments**

#### Municipal Courts Administration: *Provincial Offences Act* (POA)

Amendments to the POA will allow court filings and proceedings to proceed by electronic means, including meetings and hearings. The amendments will make it easier to contest charges and schedule appearances, increasing efficiency of administration.

#### AMO Comments:

AMO supports changes to the POA that increase access to justice and efficiency of proceedings and administration. Electronic filing and meetings are welcome modernizations in the justice system.

#### **Building Code Act**

Schedule 1 amends the *Building Code Act* and will permit regulations under the Act to be drafted by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing instead of the Lieutenant Governor General in Council. The proposed changes will enable the Province to pursue necessary recovery-related regulatory changes to the Building Code in a timely fashion. As well, the amendments clarify the scope of certain regulation-making authorities, including the authority to make regulations by adopting certain documents by reference.

#### AMO Comments:

The amendments to the *Building Code Act* will streamline the ability to draft regulations that is necessary to facilitate municipal recovery. AMO continues to highlight the need to consult and engage with municipal governments and key stakeholders on any proposed changes in the future. Small, rural and northern municipal governments have limited capacity and resources and should be taken into consideration when moving forward.

#### Drainage Act

Schedule 4 amends the *Drainage Act*. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) recently posted a consultation paper on altering the *Drainage Act* to address three areas:

- Streamlining Approvals creates a new process for minor improvements.
- Simplifying Administrative Processes: simplify process to update the engineer's report and to account for changes to drain design during construction.
- Supporting Technical Proposals: incorporation of protocols by reference in a regulation.

AMO Comments:

AMO supports simplifying processes and making routine low risk activities easier to undertake. AMO also supports opportunities to introduce green infrastructure that will improve infiltration to reduce the potential for flooding. The proposed change would allow for more accurate information on final drain construction and have much shorter approval timelines. AMO will monitor the regulatory details when they are brought forward.

#### Marriage Licences

AMO and other municipal organizations have long called for updating the paper-based marriage license process to keep up with public expectation and improve administrative efficiencies. The pandemic emergency response has emphasized this and brought forward the need to address expiring licenses without financial penalties for members of the public that could not marry during the pandemic.

#### AMO Comments:

The rules for marriage licenses are the responsibility of the province but administered by municipal governments. These changes are welcome and will help to address an unexpected anxiety for couples planning to marry at an already often stressful time.

#### Payday Loans Act

Schedule 16 amends the *Payday Loans Act* and sets a new maximum interest rate of 2.5 percent that will be applied on any outstanding principal under a loan agreement that meets a set criteria. The provision can be changed by regulation. The amendments will also impose a limitation on the fee that can be charged for a dishonoured cheque, pre-authorized debit or other instrument of payment.

#### AMO Comments:

Although these proposed amendments do not have any municipal impacts, it should be noted that these changes will be helpful for the most vulnerable community members who often need to use these facilities.

#### **Next Steps**

Bill 197 is broad, omnibus legislation with many implications for municipal governments. AMO will be reviewing in greater detail each of the sections of this draft legislation and will report significant concerns or impacts to members.

#### Page 53 of 60

Members and municipal staff are encouraged to review the Bill for local municipal or community effects to flag during the legislative and regulation-making processes. It is expected that this draft legislation will move quickly in this summer session.

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From:	AMO Communications		
To:	Becky Jamieson		
Subject:	AMO WatchFile - July 9, 2020		
Date:	July 9, 2020 10:01:48 AM		

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In This Issue - COVID-19 resources.		Copies to:	

- Consultation open on elevator safety and availability initiatives.
- AMO's Virtual Conference: a Canadian first!
- AMO leads the way: Virtual 2020 Exhibit Hall!
- Save the date for Land Use Planning: Beyond the Basics Training.
- LAS Blog: You are invited to AMO's Virtual 2020 Conference.
- Visit the LAS Booth at the AMO Virtual Conference.
- ONE Investment Municipalities go global with Investments.
- Careers with Kingsville and Seguin.

#### **COVID-19 Resources**

AMO's <u>COVID-19 Resources page</u> is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to <u>covid19@amo.on.ca</u>.

#### **Provincial Matters**

The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services is <u>consulting on proposed</u> <u>changes</u> to enhance elevator safety and availability in Ontario under the *Technical Standards and Safety Act*. The deadline for comments is August 4, 2020.

#### Eye on Events

AMO 2020 is Canada's first virtual municipal conference. As always, AMO's annual conference provides <u>up-to-date information</u>, insights from government leaders, lessons learned and the way ahead from COVID-19 and much, much more. <u>Register today!</u>

AMO's <u>virtual exhibit hall</u> provides you the opportunity you have been looking for to connect with municipal leaders and showcase your products. This year's virtual event is providing greater flexibility, extended trade show hours and multiple points of interaction with delegates and ways to highlight your products. <u>Book now</u>!

Back by popular demand, Land Use Planning: Beyond the Basics is coming to you

virtually. This training will provide you with insight and tools to your central role in implementing and managing the land use policy framework. <u>Registration details</u> to follow shortly.

#### LAS

The AMO Conference is only a few short weeks away! Check out the <u>LAS Blog</u> to see what AMO's policy team has planned for our first ever virtual conference.

Are you interested in learning about LAS programs and services? Visit our booth at the AMO Virtual Conference and speak with a representative. For more information on conference exhibit hall hours, please visit the <u>exhibitor information page</u>.

#### **ONE Investment**

<u>BNN Bloomberg speaks to Geri James</u>, vice chair of the ONE Joint Investment Board, on how municipalities need to be innovative with long term financial planning in delivering the most value to their taxpayers.

#### Careers

<u>Chief Administrative Officer - Town of Kingsville</u>. Kingsville is the most southern town in Canada and enjoys the warmest climate of any city in Ontario. To explore this opportunity please apply via email by July 24, 2020 to <u>careers@waterhousesearch.ca</u> quoting project KV-CAO. Should you wish to speak to our Executive Recruiter or to receive a detailed position description please contact Jon Stungevicius at 416.214.9299 x1, jon@waterhousesearch.com or Amy Oliveira at 416.214.9299 x4, <u>amyoliveira@waterhousesearch.com</u>.

<u>Chief Administrative Officer - Township of Seguin</u>. Seguin is a vibrant and growing community located in the picturesque District of Parry Sound. To explore this opportunity please apply via email by July 31, 2020 or sooner to <u>careers@waterhousesearch.ca</u> quoting project ST-CAO. Should you wish to speak to our Executive Recruiter or to receive a detailed position description please contact Jon Stungevicius at 416.214.9299 x1, jon@waterhousesearch.com or Amy Oliveira at 416.214.9299 x4, amyoliveira@waterhousesearch.com.

#### About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow <u>@AMOPolicy</u> on Twitter!

#### AMO Contacts

AMO Watch File Tel: 416.971.9856 Conferences/Events Policy and Funding Programs LAS Local Authority Services MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario ONE Investment Media Inquiries Tel: 416.729.5425

#### Page 56 of 60

Municipal Wire, Career/Employmer	nt and Council Resolution Distributi	ons
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AMO Policy July 9, 2020	Update ?	Date: Refer to: Meeting Date Action: Notes: Copies to:	10/07/2020      Not Applicable      Image: Ima
	Policy Update – Emergency DN Program, and Mandator		•
Emergency	Orders Extended		
under s.7.0. 2020. The e	e has <u>extended all emergency orders</u> curre 2(4) of the <i>Emergency Management and C</i> extension was made to provide flexibility to sinesses reopen and people go back to wor	<i>ivil Protection</i> protect public	Act to July 22,
<u>Ontario (A F</u>	on of the current emergency orders was do <u>Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020,</u> nis <u>draft legislation, Bill 197</u> , can be found h	if passed. AN	
	emergency orders can be found on the <u>e-La</u> ncy Management and Civil Protection Act a		
Application	Intake Opens Today for Broadband & C	ellular Progra	ams
Connectivity help expand	e announced that the <u>application intake</u> for <i>i for Ontario</i> program (ICON) opens today. I access to reliable broadband and cellular s arts of the province.	This funding i	s intended to
	vo intake periods, and each intake has two neet the basic eligibility requirements. Stag	• •	

The preliminary application deadline for the first intake of the ICON program is August 21, 2020. Click <u>here</u> for more information on the Stage 1 program guidelines.

description and supplementary information that will be assessed and scored against

evaluation criteria.

#### Mandatory Mask Bylaws

AMO now has a section on its <u>COVID-19 Resources page</u> on mandatory face masks bylaws/directives for information to municipal governments considering similar bylaws.

AMO's <u>COVID-19 Resources</u> page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to <u>covid19@amo.on.ca</u>.

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Page 59 of 60

780/20

## Wind Reach Farm Foundation

## Committed to supporting the programs and services offered at WindReach Farm, a centre for inclusion and personal achievement for people of all abilities.

Press Release For Immediate Release July 10, 2020

#### WindReach Farm Legacy for Hope July 15, 2020

**Ashburn– July 15, 2020** – WindReach Farm, a registered charity, has been enriching the lives of individuals and their families for over 30 years by providing a fully accessible farming environment with specialized features and programs developed specifically to serve the needs of those with intellectual, mental health and/or physical disabilities.

Due to COVID-19, the doors of WindReach Farm had to close, however *we are all working hard to be the light at the end of the tunnel for the people we serve* as our doors are carefully beginning to open. There are hundreds of participants who benefit from our programs and who are desperately missing the contact and impact of being at the Farm on a daily basis.

One such participant is Stephanie Coveart, a rider and volunteer in our therapeutic riding program. Her story is one that demonstrates the impact WindReach has on her and her family and how much she misses it.

#### What does WindReach mean to Me? Everything.

**Tracey Coveart** - The Alexander J. Mitchell Equestrian Facility at WindReach Farm is a magical place, a place where dreams come true every day. I know this because I have watched my daughter realize her dreams here for more than 15 years and I have witnessed the magic firsthand.

My daughter, Stephanie, has been riding horses therapeutically since she was five years old, but it wasn't until she came to WindReach that she truly blossomed. Here, Stephanie has found a welcoming family – both human and equine. With the instruction of her wonderful coaches, she has become an independent dressage competitor, regularly entering the Sea-to-Sea national competition for riders with disabilities and regularly placing in the top three in her class. She has also realized her dream of owning her own horse – something no one in our family ever imagined possible. It is at WindReach that Stephanie has found both her joy and her vocation. She is welcomed as a volunteer; an integral member of the team that keeps the horses happy and healthy and the barn running like clockwork.

Stephanie is an amazing person. Kind, generous, loving, funny and eager to pitch in where she is needed. She also happens to have multiple disabilities caused by a rare genetic disorder: epilepsy, global developmental delay, sensory integration disorder, autism. At 28, Stephanie cannot read or write or live independently or do many of the things that neuro-typical 28-year-old women can do. It has not been easy for my exceptional daughter to find her place; somewhere she feels embraced and valued and happy. WindReach is that place and we are thankful every day that the barn and the people and horses in it are such an enormous part of her life.

# Wind Reach Farm Foundation

## Committed to supporting the programs and services offered at WindReach Farm, a centre for inclusion and personal achievement for people of all abilities.

**Stephanie Coveart:** I think WindReach is amazing. When I walk into the barn it is such a lovely feeling. It's a feeling that I never take for granted. I truly believe that the barn is my second home, my second life. It's the best feeling you could ever have to see all the horses that love you and all the people who love you. We have a community that is really special. I love it more than anything in the world. At the barn I am able to just be me and that means everything to me. *I've missed the barn so much and all of the beautiful animals that live there. They are my friends and not being there with them has been the most difficult thing I've ever had to deal with.* 

My job is something I take a lot of pride in. It's an unbelievable feeling to have a job that you love so much. I muck stalls, I sweep the barn floors, I clean windows, I clean tack, and feed the horses. My favourite job is taking the horses into the barn and out to their paddocks. It is an honour that I am trusted with that job. I get shivers down my spine thinking about it. To walk beside a horse is a really amazing feeling. You look in their eyes and you know that they trust you completely and they've got your back.

Horses are one of my favourite animals. They don't judge you; they are always there for you. I have always wanted to own my own horse but I never in a million years thought my dream would become a reality. Buddy was always the one. It felt surreal! Sometimes it still hits me all of a sudden that he is mine. I love Buddy so much. He is my best friend. His eyes are beautiful. You look in those eyes and you know that he is such an amazing creature. And when I get on his back, I feel so free. All your worries about trying to be someone go away. When I'm on Buddy I feel like I could take on the world.

Competing with Buddy in Sea-to-Sea is amazing. It's hard work, but it's hard work that I love. When I came in first place, I felt ecstatic! I feel very successful because I know that all this hard work is going to pay off in a big way. Someday, I hope to compete in dressage at the Special Olympics.

I love dressage. I love it because it opened my eyes to things, I didn't think I could do. It's one of the things I don't think I could live without. It makes me feel invincible. *There are many things I can't do. I can't read or write or do any of that stuff, but when I get on a horse it feels different; like I've found somewhere I belong. If I wasn't riding, I don't even know who I would be.* Buddy is my heartbeat. Not being able to ride Buddy for the past three months has been horrible. It was like a void; like a deep, dark void. If I thought I could never get back on my horse, I don't know what I would do. Buddy is my whole life. My best friend. And I don't know how I could live without him.

WindReach Farm we will be launching a *GoFundMe campaign on July 15, 2020* <u>https://bit.ly/2ChiARc</u> to help continue the Legacy of Hope for individuals and families who rely on us to provide programs and services which enrich their lives. Help us open the doors wider as soon as safely possible.

#### For further information contact:

Ross Ste-Croix Executive Director, WindReach Farm 905-655-5827 Ross.ste-croix@windreachfarm.org Carol Dahlquist Executive Director, WindReach Farm Foundation 905-242-3952 Carol.dahlquist@windreachfarm.org