



Ontario Society of Nutrition
Professionals in Public Health

La société ontarienne des professionnel(le)s
de la nutrition en santé publique

www.osnpnh.on.ca

October 31, 2016

Cindy Tan
Manager, Land Use Planning Review
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ontario Growth Secretariat
Suite 425, 4th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Dear Ms. Tan:

The Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH) commends the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for undertaking a co-ordinated review of four plans relating to the Greater Golden Horseshoe and inviting input from key stakeholders. We appreciate this second opportunity to offer our particular expertise in food and nutrition and its impact on land use planning.

OSNPPH is the independent and official voice of registered dietitians working in Ontario's public health system. OSNPPH supports evidence-based nutrition information to enable healthy eating at every stage of life; advocates for and provides support for creating healthier eating environments; as well as implements nutrition education and skill building programs.

We are pleased to see recommendations put forth in the 2015 consultations were incorporated into the proposed changes to the plans. The following amendments demonstrate important steps toward building healthy, livable, vibrant and complete communities that foster community and individual health and well-being:

- Acknowledging the link between health and built environments.
- Incorporating healthy food access as an achievement of complete communities that support quality of life and human health.
- Development of stronger policies that enhance the protection of agricultural land; and official plan policies that help ensure the long-term economic prosperity and viability of the agri-food sector.
- Encouraging the designation of land for urban agriculture as part of complete communities and as an opportunity for land use within public open spaces.

OSNPPH has identified opportunities for further additions, that if incorporated into the plans, would build on the preliminary amendments to strengthen the policies and ensure that healthy food access and food systems are integrated into land use planning consistently throughout the province.



Recommendations:

- Include access to local and healthy food consistently into the complete communities definition as one of people's daily needs.
- Recognize and strengthen the role of food and food systems planning as an integral part of building healthy communities.
- Incorporate policies and action items into land use plans to:
 - ensure convenient access to local and healthy food options,
 - avoid food swamps, and
 - ensure a ratio of healthy food retail outlets to less healthy food retail outlets consistent with health.
- Provide a definition for urban agriculture within the Growth Plan.
- Require a health assessment as part of:
 - 1) Building up Areas
 - 2) Intensification
 - 3) Infill Development
 - 4) Settlement area boundary expansions
- Incorporate health indicators into the performance measurement plan to highlight the co-benefits of complete communities for population health.

Please see the separate document attached for rationale to support each of these recommendations as well as specific policy language to support your review.

In conclusion, OSNPPH would like to thank the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for this opportunity to comment on the proposed plans. To discuss our submission or other related matters, please feel free to contact Jacqueline Orlando, MPH, RD at Jacqueline.orlando@peelregion.ca.

Regards,

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