



Ontario
Home Builders' Association

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Larry Clay
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
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Sharon Bailey
Director, Policy Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
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Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

Mr. Clay and Ms. Bailey,

Following two years of consultation, including recommendations from an Advisory Panel chaired by David Crombie, on May 18th the provincial government released four updated land use plans guiding growth across Greater Golden Horseshoe for the next 25 years. New policies in the Growth Plan, 2017 will have the Province identify an *Agricultural System* across the GGH to be used by municipalities. The *Agricultural System* includes an agricultural land base comprised of *prime agricultural areas*, including *specialty crop areas* and *rural lands* as well as an *agri-food network*. OHBA understands that *explicit direction* will be provided in all Plans to maintain the agricultural land base and connections to the *agri-food network*.

OHBA understands that at the time of implementation, municipalities will be able to refine (with greater precision) provincial mapping of the *Agricultural System* and required to implement the system in their official plans through a *municipal comprehensive review*. The agricultural land base component of the *Agricultural System* will be a designation in municipal official plans, but the agri-food network will not. OHBA has a number of key recommendations for the province to consider at this early stage of the process:

- The first round of consultation should focus on criteria prior to the release of any mapping;
- OHBA is supportive of allowing local/municipal refinement;
- OHBA is seeking clarification if existing Designated Greenfield Areas (DGA) will be included in the mapping;

OHBA looks forward to ongoing engagement with both the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs throughout the process.

Sincerely,



Joe Vaccaro
CEO

Ontario Home Builders' Association

c. Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
c. Hon. Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs