



Ontario
Home Builders' Association

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Larry Clay
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
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Jason Travers
Director
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
2nd Flr S, 300 Water St
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Messrs. Clay and Travers,

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 require municipalities to incorporate the Provincially identified *Natural Heritage System* outside of *settlement areas* as an overlay into official plans, and to apply appropriate policies to maintain, restore or improve its diversity and connectivity. OHBA appreciates Mr. Travers presentation to a group of our members as a preliminary discussion prior to the province launching an official consultation.

OHBA understands that at the time of implementation, municipalities will be able to refine (with greater precision) provincial mapping of the *Natural Heritage System* through a *municipal comprehensive review*. Where this process has already occurred in the Greenbelt Plan, no further refinements to the *Natural Heritage System* boundaries can be made. 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, however MNRF should engage in a “ground-truthing” exercise prior to finalizing the NHS mapping;
- OHBA is seeking clarification if existing Designated Greenfield Areas (DGA) will be included in the mapping;
- OHBA is concerned that 500m linkage features are a blunt policy instrument, therefore some flexibility should be provided to fine-tune the mapping in the appropriate locations.

OHBA looks forward to ongoing engagement with both the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry throughout the process.

Sincerely,

Joe Vaccaro
CEO

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c. Hon. Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
c. Hon. Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs