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OHBA

# ACTIVITY Summary

*Keeping Members Informed*

## Date to Note

- **April 15:** SAVE-THE-DATE - OHBA Presidents and Executive Officers Seminar Day
- **May 28:** OHBA Queen's Park Day and Reception

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## Growth Plan Amendment #1 - 2019

On January 15, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) released a proposed amendment to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe which impacts 11 of OHBA's local home builders' associations. During the fall OHBA and several members and impacted local associations participated in five working group sessions as well as a stakeholders forum. OHBA is pleased that the new government has recognized industry and municipal concerns regarding key implementation challenges from the 2017 Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and has proposed amendments that will support more housing supply and choice for Ontario [#homebelievers](#). A press release supporting the announcement from OHBA is available [here](#).

As part of the consultation process, MMAH held roundtables throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe attended by many OHBA members as well as an industry consultation hosted by

Last fall OHBA submitted recommendations to the government including one letter specific to [Agricultural System and Natural Heritage System Mapping](#) and a second letter covering [Employment Area Conversions, Settlement Boundary Expansions and Density and Intensification Targets](#). The government listened to OHBA recommendations and January's announcement represented an important step in updating the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017 and its transition regulation. The proposed amendment was posted to the [Environmental Registry](#) for public and stakeholder feedback until February 28th. The February 2019 OHBA submission generally supporting the approach taken by the government with a number key recommended improvements to the proposed amendments to the Growth Plan is available [here](#).

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Key proposed changes would apply across six broad categories:

### Employment Planning

- A modernized employment area designation system that ensures lands used for employment are appropriately protected while unlocking land for residential development.

### Settlement Area Boundary Expansions

- A system that enables local municipal decisions on reasonable changes to settlement area boundaries in a timely manner so as to unlock land faster for residential and commercial development and support more jobs and housing.

### Small Rural Settlements

- A system that recognizes small rural settlements as areas that are not expected to face significant growth pressures.

### Natural Heritage and Agricultural Systems

- Greater Golden Horseshoe regional mapping systems that are factual and reflect the local mapping realities, while providing for the appropriate level of protections for our natural

## Intensification and Density Targets

- A simplified approach to minimum intensification and density targets that reflects the objective of supporting provincial transit investments, planned growth rates and local realities, including market demand for housing.

## Major Transit Station Areas

- A streamlined approach that enables the determination of major transit station areas to happen faster so that zoning and development can occur sooner.

## Endangered Species Act

The Ontario government is currently undertaking a review of the *Endangered Species Act* to improve protections for species at risk, as well as to look for ways to streamline approvals and provide clarity to support economic development. OHBA continues to support appropriate protections for species at risk. As outlined in the [Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#), the government is ensuring protections for species at risk, while improving the effectiveness of the program. As a first step, the province is undertaking a review of the [Endangered Species Act](#).

A discussion paper was posted on the [Environmental Registry \(013-4143\)](#) for consultation until March 4th on how the province can achieve positive outcomes for species at risk while reducing burden and increasing efficiencies for businesses. The focus of the review and the discussion paper will be on:

- Enhancing the government's ability to enforce regulations under the Endangered Species Act;
- Ensuring that species assessments for the [Species at Risk in Ontario List](#) are based on current science;
- Streamlining related approvals and processes;
- Maintaining effective government oversight; and
- Increasing transparency around the process for listing species on the Species at Risk in Ontario List.

OHBA has prepared a detailed and [comprehensive submission](#) with our recommendations to improve and streamline authorizations within the 2007 legislation.

## OHBA Housing Supply Action Plan Submission

In November, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) released a *Housing Supply Action Plan* consultation to address the barriers to creating more housing. Since the announcement, OHBA has held numerous meetings with MPPs and Cabinet Ministers on the *Housing Supply Action Plan* and a number of OHBA's local home builders' associations have also held and are continuing to schedule locally focused meetings with MPPs and members of Cabinet on how the provincial government can make policy changes to deliver more housing supply and choice for **#homebelievers** across Ontario. OHBA is anticipating a very busy legislative and housing policy schedule this coming spring as the final plan is set to be released soon.



OHBA applauds the provincial government for recognizing constraints on housing supply and for their determination to reduce red tape in order to make it easier to live and do business in Ontario. OHBA would like to acknowledge and note our support for many changes and recent announcements already made by the government to address housing supply and support Ontario's economic competitiveness including, but not limited to: eliminating rent control from new units, proposed amendments to the Growth Plan, apprenticeship reforms including a modernized 1-to-1 apprentice-to-journey person ratio and significant reductions in WSIB premiums. OHBA looks forward to working with the government on our recommended course of action to address the housing supply challenge – Please follow this link for a copy of the [OHBA Housing Supply Action Plan Submission](#) delivered to the government on January 25, 2019.

## OHBA's Made-in-Ontario Environmental Plan

The provincial government launched a consultation in the fall of 2018 seeking feedback from Ontario citizens and businesses on a *Made-in-Ontario Climate Change Plan*. [OHBA made a submission earlier in November 2018](#) with our recommendations responding to the proposed *Climate Change Plan*. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) subsequently released a proposed [Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#) which OHBA responded to with the OHBA [Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan Submission](#) on January 29, 2019.

OHBA members have an important role to play in protecting and preserving our environment. Through environmental stewardship, building energy efficient new housing or upgrading aging



government in delivering upon a *Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan*. In the OHBA submission, OHBA outlined areas that our industry can play a leading role in climate change mitigation and provided public policy recommendations to balance a healthy environment with a healthy economy.

OHBA believes that the consultation represents an important opportunity to recalibrate public policy to facilitate the construction of more new energy efficient homes, encourage homeowners to upgrade the energy efficiency of existing homes and modernize other environmental regulations to facilitate the cleanup of more

brownfield sites, provide clarity on excess soil movements and a number of other positive initiatives.

## SAVE-THE-DATE: OHBA's Presidents and Executive Officers Seminar Day

# OHBA's Presidents and Executive Officers Seminar Day

## SAVE-THE-DATE

April 15, 2019

Hilton Toronto/Markham Suites

More Info - [sjiwani@ohba.ca](mailto:sjiwani@ohba.ca)

[View the archive](#) of OHBA Government Relations newsletter, Activity Summary.

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