



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

Media Release

Improving the Growth Plan: Commentary

Areas of Action to Improve the Growth Plan

Toronto, September 9, 2015 – The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) continues to provide the Ontario Government and the Expert Panel the necessary evidence, information and facts needed to improve the implementation of Ontario's *Places to Grow Act*. OHBA commissioned the commentary to provide institutional history and knowledge along with an economic practitioners experience on the challenges of growth planning implementation to the current *Co-ordinated Review* undertaken by the Expert Panel chaired by David Crombie.

University of Toronto Fellow Brad Graham led the Ontario Growth Secretariat as the Assistant Deputy Minister through development and implementation of Ontario's award winning *Places to Grow Act*. An economist, Brad teaches at the School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Toronto and is a Consultant in Public Policy.

Tom McCormack served as a member of the Province of Ontario's Panel on Smart Growth Strategy, the Ontario Jobs and Investment Board. A past president of Pragma Council (an advisory group to Waterloo University's School of Planning), and the Canadian Association for Business Economics, Tom has four decades of experience in analyzing economic and demographic trends and developing assessments of the economic and demographic potential of provinces and communities throughout Canada and the US. Tom is the President of Strategic Projections Inc. and a partner of the Centre for Spatial Economics.

"Improving the Growth Plan: A Commentary" outlines a series of actions and areas for consideration that will maximize the benefit of significant transit investments on urban form and function, to better align the investment in public facilities and community infrastructure with the Growth Plan, to explore a new more effective and equitable financing model for water and waste water, to ensure that sufficient "Whitebelt" lands are available and are developed to the highest standards, to examine the application of the Plan's density targets to ensure that employment activity remains strong and that the future mix of residential development matches future population needs.

"The expert commentary helps to connect the dots. It provides an understanding of how to improve the Growth Plan with both a solid understanding of how it was developed and an eye into the future. It will help the Province, regions and municipalities refocus on community and economic development as we look beyond 2041," noted Joe Vaccaro, CEO of OHBA.

To view the report, *Improving the Growth Plan: A Commentary*, please [click here](#).

The Ontario Home Builders' Association is the voice of the building, land development and professional renovation industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 31 local associations across the province. Our members have built over 700,000 homes in the last 10 years in over 500 Ontario communities. The industry contributes over \$45 billion to Ontario's economy and employs over 325,000 people across the province.

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For further information or to arrange an interview, Brad Graham can be reached at b.graham@rogers.com and Tom McCormack at tmccormack@c4se.com. To arrange an interview with OHBA CEO Joe Vaccaro please contact Kathryn Segal at the OHBA office at 416-443-1545.

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