

# *Planning Reform*

## **Provincial Policy Statement: Draft Policies**

### **PLANNING REFORM INITIATIVES**

*Planning Act Reform and  
Implementation Tools:*

Provincial Policy Statement:  
*Consultation Discussion Paper #2*

Ontario Municipal Board Reform:  
*Consultation Discussion Paper #3*

June 2004

This Consultation Discussion Paper contains the draft policies of the Provincial Policy Statement. It is one of three consultation discussion papers on Planning Reform.

The final section of this document can be removed and used to mail or fax back your comments.

To submit your comments electronically, you can complete an on-line questionnaire available at [www.planningreform.ontario.ca](http://www.planningreform.ontario.ca).

Comments must be received no later than **August 31, 2004**.

For additional copies of this document, or any other of the planning reform consultation documents in either French or English, please contact:

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## Message from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The strength of Ontario depends on the strength of its communities. The McGuinty government is acting on Ontarians' priorities and is delivering real, positive change that will build strong, prosperous communities with a healthy environment and quality of life that is second to none.

The Ontario government recognizes that our current planning system needs to be improved.

Over the past years, there has been a growing perception that the Ontario land-use planning system has not been working as effectively as it should. Our government intends to reform the land-use planning and development process to support our goal of stronger, better communities. We have already taken some important steps to achieve this goal.

In December 2003, I introduced Bill 26, the Strong Communities (Planning Amendment) Act, 2004, which proposes important amendments to the *Planning Act*. If passed, the reforms would bring more accountability, transparency and public input to the way land-use planning decisions are made in Ontario.

As part of our Planning Reform initiative we are:

- reviewing the planning process;
- determining the need for effective implementation tools for municipalities and other decision-makers;
- releasing draft policies of the Provincial Policy Statement for public review and input; and
- reviewing the Ontario Municipal Board.

We recognize that these initiatives are linked and that coordinated actions may be required to create a better land-use planning system.

Planning reform is one essential element of our government's strong communities agenda. Other initiatives under way to support this goal are a permanent Greenbelt in the Golden Horseshoe, the protection of source water and the development of a Growth Management Plan for the Golden Horseshoe.

Improving the land-use planning system requires input from a wide variety of individuals and groups. To hear your views, we are holding a series of public information sessions on planning reform across the province. Please read this consultation document, attend a meeting, and fill out the questionnaire.

I invite you to share your views on what is needed to improve the land-use planning system and to build strong communities where all Ontarians can thrive.



Hon. John Gerretsen  
Minister

# Setting the Stage for Planning Reform

## Ontario's Planning System: It's important to all of us

Over the next 30 years, 4 million new residents will call Ontario home. The Ontario government is setting a course for building strong, safe and liveable communities in Ontario that offer residents a high quality of life.

Our approach for attracting healthy and sustainable growth will be clear, consistent and responsive to Ontarians' priorities. This will require making decisions that will lead to long term benefits – new economic growth, more liveable communities, enhanced transportation choices, clean and safe water and improvements to our environment.

The land-use planning system is of key importance to achieving these goals in Ontario.

Land-use planning establishes the rules for development, and helps to determine how our communities grow.

Ontario's land-use planning system defines the interests and responsibilities of all Ontarians in planning for future land uses. The system provides the framework for determining the future of our communities and for protecting valuable resources such as farmlands, wetlands, water and natural features.

Ontario needs effective land-use planning, and an effective land-use planning system. This is especially critical given the pressures confronting the province today, such as:

- Increasing gridlock as a result of urban sprawl;
- Unprecedented growth pressures in some parts of Ontario, such as the Golden Horseshoe region;
- Loss of prime agricultural land and other resources;
- The need for enhanced environmental protection; and
- The need for a strong economy.

It is also clear that Ontario's communities and the public need to have an effective voice in land-use planning. There is a need for balance between individual interests and the broad public interest. Municipalities must also have the right tools to achieve good land-use planning.

The Ontario government is responding to these challenges. Through the Planning Reform initiative, it is reviewing the land-use planning system to ensure it meets today's needs.

Planning reform is a key component of the government's commitment to building strong communities in Ontario. The government believes a strong and effective planning system is critical to: building strong communities, providing a clean and healthy environment, and sustaining a strong economy. This lays the foundation for enhancing the overall quality of life for Ontarians.

There are a number of interrelated initiatives to support strong communities that are currently underway. These initiatives will depend on a stronger land-use planning system for effective implementation. They include:

## ***Strong Communities***

Several initiatives are under way to support strong communities, including a new deal for our cities and towns, a “seat at the table” with provincial and federal governments, and an enhanced rural development program.

## ***Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt***

In December 2003, the McGuinty government took the first steps toward permanent protection of a greenbelt across the Golden Horseshoe region by introducing Bill 27, the Greenbelt Protection Act, 2004. If passed, the Act would create a greenbelt study area within the Golden Horseshoe and impose a one-year moratorium on new urban development on rural and agricultural lands within this area.

The Greenbelt Task Force, a team of respected, knowledgeable and diverse stakeholder representatives, was established by the government to develop recommendations on the scope, content and implementation of the greenbelt. It is conducting public consultations in May and June 2004 for the purposes of developing recommendations on how the Province could effectively establish a permanent Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt.

## ***Growth Management in the Golden Horseshoe***

This year, the government will release a Growth Management Plan for the Golden Horseshoe that will articulate a long-term strategic vision and tools for how the Golden Horseshoe and surrounding areas should grow over the next 30 years. The plan will identify priority growth areas where new population and economic investment will be encouraged and will prioritize infrastructure through the development of a 10-year infrastructure plan to ensure those areas are adequately serviced. At the same time, the plan will identify and protect those areas that provide our food, water and recreation. An important feature of the Growth Management Plan will be a transportation strategy that promotes the efficient movement of people, goods and services throughout the Golden Horseshoe.

## ***Source Water Protection***

In mid-February 2004, the Ministry of the Environment began consultations on how best to deliver watershed-based source protection as a way of securing the long-term quality and quantity of water resources throughout the province. The initiative will result in policy, procedures and proposed legislative changes that will further affect communities in Ontario.

## **Summary**

Planning Reform and related initiatives recognize that comprehensive solutions are needed to build a strong Ontario. Consultations on these initiatives are being coordinated, and information from the other initiatives will also be coordinated and shared.

## Planning Reform

As a first step in Planning Reform, the government introduced Bill 26, the Strong Communities (Planning Amendment) Act, 2004, which would amend the *Planning Act* and provide an enhanced framework for planning in Ontario.

If passed, Bill 26 would give municipalities more time to make decisions on planning applications. It would strengthen the requirement that provincial land-use policies are followed, and would empower municipalities to determine their own local growth boundaries.

Bill 26 would also provide the Ontario government with the ability to make final decisions on matters before the Ontario Municipal Board where a provincial interest has been declared.

The Ontario government recognizes that more needs to be done in reforming key aspects of the planning system. Through consultation with stakeholders and the public, the government is seeking input and advice on the following Planning Reform components:

- Whether further changes need to be made to the *Planning Act* and to Bill 26;
- The need for implementation tools to help support and implement a strong and effective land-use planning framework in Ontario;
- The draft policies of the Provincial Policy Statement, which provide policy direction on land-use planning; and
- The need for Ontario Municipal Board Reform. The Board is an independent tribunal that hears appeals from landowners, the public and others on land-use planning matters. It hears appeals of municipal decisions, and appeals where no decision has been made on planning applications within timelines set out in the *Planning Act*.

### Consultation Booklets

This booklet and two others have been written to help you understand the initiatives and provide a range of discussion points for your consideration. They are also designed to make it easier for you to provide your thoughts and suggestions on each of the Planning Reform components (*Planning Act* Reform and Implementation Tools; draft policies of the Provincial Policy Statement; and Ontario Municipal Board Reform).

Your input on the Planning Reform components will help the provincial government to move forward with proposed land-use planning reforms and will help shape the land-use planning system of the future.

### How to Participate

We want your views on the draft policies of the **Provincial Policy Statement**.

The Ontario government will be holding public information sessions on planning reform in communities across Ontario. Please visit our website at [www.planningreform.ontario.ca](http://www.planningreform.ontario.ca) to check for further information on dates and locations, or call us at 1-866-751-8082.

The following sections provide important background information. Specific consultation questions are included in the final section of this document. You can remove the consultation questions section and mail or fax back your comments to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

To submit your comments electronically, you can complete an online questionnaire available at [www.planningreform.ontario.ca](http://www.planningreform.ontario.ca).

You may send written comments to:

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Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
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Or visit [www.planningreform.ontario.ca](http://www.planningreform.ontario.ca)

***Comments must be received no later than August 31, 2004.***

Thank you for helping to shape planning in Ontario.

## Provincial Policy Statement

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) sets out the Ontario government's interests in land-use planning and development and provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest to those involved in land-use planning. The PPS is the complementary policy document to the *Planning Act* and is issued under the authority of Section 3 of the Act. It embodies good planning principles and seeks to protect the public interest.

The current PPS came into effect on May 22, 1996 and was amended in 1997. Subsection 3(10) of the *Planning Act* states that the PPS must be reviewed every five years to determine whether revisions are needed.

The five-year review of the PPS started in 2001 and has included extensive consultation across Ontario with interested groups, professionals and individuals. A copy of the Summary Report of Consultations, issued in 2002, can be found at:  
[http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts\\_1\\_6976\\_1.html](http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_6976_1.html).

The PPS review provides an opportunity to examine the province's land-use policy direction on key issues that affect our overall well-being. These include: creating strong, livable and healthy communities by promoting infill and intensification; supporting a vibrant and strong economy by providing for an appropriate mix and ratio of employment opportunities to meet long-term needs; and protecting the environment and resources, such as water, greenspace, agricultural lands and natural and cultural heritage.

## Draft PPS Policies: Questions for Your Consideration

As part of its planning reform agenda, the Ontario government wants your views on the draft PPS policies. The draft policies have been developed for your review, and will be improved as a result of consultation.

As you read through the draft policies in the following sections of this document, we would appreciate hearing your views on the following questions:

- **Do the draft policies provide sufficient direction to effectively protect provincial interests in land-use planning?**
- **Do the draft policies achieve the right balance among different policy interests, such as building strong communities, protecting the environment and resources, and supporting a strong economy?**
- **Are there emerging or additional planning matters that require provincial policy direction which are not included or which you believe are not adequately addressed?**

For your convenience, you can remove the final section of this consultation discussion paper and use it to mail or fax back your comments to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

To submit your comments electronically, you can complete an online questionnaire at [www.planningreform.ontario.ca](http://www.planningreform.ontario.ca).

## Highlights of Proposed New Policy Directions

The draft policies contained in the following section form part of the government's strategy to improve the land-use planning system, and are intended to ensure that provincial land-use planning interests are protected.

The draft policies include stronger, clearer direction to support the following goals:

### **Building strong communities** by:

- Promoting intensification, infill and brownfields development
- Promoting the revitalization of cities, towns, villages and other settlement areas
- Recognizing that the long-term health of communities is dependent on providing an adequate supply of land and opportunities to meet employment, residential and other community needs
- Promoting the integrity of local planning by ensuring that changes to growth boundaries are made only in the context of comprehensive reviews of municipal official plans
- Providing better "big-picture" and cross-boundary planning through requirements for intensification and minimum density targets
- Requiring the identification of priority growth areas
- Supporting the efficient use of public investments in infrastructure, such as sewage, water and transportation to help address gridlock, save costs, and protect the environment
- Supporting a full range and mix of housing for current and future residents, including affordable and special needs housing
- Supporting urban greening, recreation opportunities, and improved accessibility for persons with disabilities and the elderly
- Supporting an improved jobs/housing balance to promote people working within their communities and to reduce the problem of gridlock

### **Protecting the environment and resources** by:

- Protecting water and ensuring a safe drinking water supply
- Protecting significant natural resource features such as coastal and other wetlands, and the habitat of endangered and threatened species
- Supporting up-front planning for natural heritage systems and environmental protection
- Helping to improve air quality and mitigate the impacts of climate change through supportive land-use patterns
- Protecting prime agricultural and specialty crop lands by addressing residential lot creation in these areas
- Ensuring the continued protection of Ontario's tender fruit lands for the future
- Supporting the protection of significant cultural heritage and archaeological resources
- Supporting the use of alternative energy systems and energy conservation
- Providing strong policies for sewer and water systems which protect the environment and public health

### **Supporting a strong economy** by:

- Recognizing that good planning provides an economic advantage by supporting strong communities, promoting a clean, healthy environment, and supporting a high quality of life
- Ensuring an adequate supply of land and opportunities to accommodate a range/mix of industrial, commercial, employment, residential and other uses to meet long-term needs
- Identifying that Ontario's long-term prosperity and social well-being depend on maintaining a diversified economy and a range and choice of employment lands

- Helping municipalities to focus their funding locally by requiring municipalities to identify priority growth areas and to co-ordinate/allocate employment projections accordingly
- Maximizing the cost-effectiveness of municipal/provincial infrastructure investment by linking infrastructure planning with land-use planning
- Promoting densities and a mix of land uses that support public transit and other alternative transportation modes
- Requiring a comprehensive, integrated and long-term approach to planning for transportation, so that transportation systems are efficient, cost-effective, facilitate the movement of people and goods, and help relieve traffic gridlock
- Ensuring an adequate supply of mineral and other resources to meet long-term needs.

The draft policies generally focus on results, rather than how to achieve those results. This protects significant provincial interests, while recognizing that approaches developed locally will best meet local needs.

## Bill 26: Proposed Change to Implementation Standard for PPS Policies

Subsection 3(5) of the *Planning Act* now requires that, in exercising any authority that affects a planning matter, a municipality, a local board, a planning board, a Minister of the Crown and a ministry, board, commission or agency of the government, including the Ontario Municipal Board, “**shall have regard to**” the PPS. Subsection 3(6) requires that the same standard be followed by a Minister or ministry, board, commission or agency of the government when providing comments, submissions or advice that affect a planning matter.

The government is proposing to change subsection 3(5) to require that any decision by planning decision makers “**shall be consistent with**” policy statements issued under the Act. The government also proposes to change subsection 3(6), to include municipalities, local boards and planning boards in the list of bodies that must apply the new implementation standard when providing comments, submissions or advice that affect planning matters.

The proposed change is intended to ensure that provincial policies are applied in all land-use planning decisions, and that the outcomes of planning decisions are not in conflict with provincial policies.

The general, common usage / meaning of the current and proposed standards, is shown in the table to the right.

Current	Proposed
<b>Shall have regard to</b>	<b>Shall be consistent with</b>
less demanding test	more demanding test
directory in nature	mandatory in nature
provincial policy statements must be considered as an important factor by decision-makers in land-use planning decisions	provincial policy statements must be applied in planning decisions
applies to decision-maker and to process of making decisions	applies to outcome of the decision

## Provincial Policy Statement Draft Policies: Comparison of Selected Proposed Policies to Existing Policies in Key Areas

Policy Areas	Current PPS Policies ("shall have regard to")	Proposed New PPS Policies ("shall be consistent with" proposed by Bill 26)
<b>Managing Growth &amp; Promoting Settlement Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Boundary expansions permitted onto prime agricultural lands, including specialty crop lands, with justification</li> <li>▪ General policies for managing and directing growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Intensification, redevelopment and infill of employment, residential and other lands prior to expanding onto greenfields</li> <li>▪ Boundary expansions only at time of comprehensive municipal review</li> <li>▪ Prohibit expansions onto specialty crop land</li> <li>▪ Upper-tier role to direct growth including allocating population, housing and employment projections for lower-tiers</li> <li>▪ Recognition of linkages to provincial plans</li> </ul>
<b>Revitalizing Brownfields / Intensification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide opportunities for intensification and redevelopment in areas with sufficient infrastructure, but not required prior to boundary expansions</li> <li>▪ Brownfields not specifically recognized</li> <li>▪ Contaminated lands viewed mainly as hazards to human health</li> <li>▪ No targets for intensification/density</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify brownfields as opportunities for redevelopment</li> <li>▪ Intensification of existing built-up areas and brownfields development prior to expanding into greenfield areas where possible</li> <li>▪ Upper-tier municipality to set targets for intensification / minimum densities</li> <li>▪ All municipalities to permit / facilitate all forms of intensification / redevelopment</li> <li>▪ Plan infrastructure to support priority growth areas</li> </ul>
<b>Transit-Supportive Land Use Patterns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support transit-supportive densities</li> <li>▪ Support multi-modal transportation systems</li> <li>▪ Protect transportation corridors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote transit-supportive land use patterns including density / intensification targets</li> <li>▪ Direct new development to areas well-served by transit</li> <li>▪ Provide housing / jobs in close proximity to one another</li> <li>▪ Focus travel intensive land uses on transit corridors</li> <li>▪ Link transportation and growth planning</li> <li>▪ Protect strategic future transportation corridors and preclude incompatible uses within them</li> <li>▪ Upper-tiers to set minimum densities for transit corridors</li> </ul>
<b>Employment Lands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Long-term (20-year) planning horizon to include sufficient land for industrial, commercial and other uses to promote employment opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure adequate supply of land and opportunities to accommodate range/mix of industrial, commercial and other employment uses to meet long-term needs</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Well-being of downtowns and mainstreets to be maintained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vitality and viability of downtowns and mainstreets to be maintained</li> <li>▪ Maintain diversified economic base and range and choice of employment lands</li> <li>▪ Focused investment through identification of priority growth areas and corresponding coordination / allocation of employment projections</li> <li>▪ Support jobs / housing balance in communities</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality / Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No policies on air quality</li> <li>▪ Support energy conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transit supportive land use patterns</li> <li>▪ Provide housing / jobs in close proximity</li> <li>▪ Focus travel intensive uses on transit corridors</li> <li>▪ Support urban greening</li> <li>▪ Support alternative energy systems and conservation</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage housing forms and densities designed to be affordable to moderate and lower income households</li> <li>▪ No target</li> <li>▪ No definition of affordable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Require municipalities to set minimum targets for the provision of housing which is affordable to low and moderate income households</li> <li>▪ Define “affordable”</li> <li>▪ Permit and facilitate special needs housing</li> </ul>
<b>Preserving Greenspace</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protect significant natural heritage features</li> <li>▪ Support planning for recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protect more significant natural heritage features including coastal wetlands, additional wetlands on Canadian Shield and habitat of endangered and threatened species</li> <li>▪ Support urban greening</li> <li>▪ Support planning for recreation / tourism and natural heritage systems</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protect quality and quantity of ground water and surface water and function of sensitive areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use watersheds as basis for planning</li> <li>▪ Maintain watershed integrity</li> <li>▪ Protect surface and ground water features, functions and drinking water supplies</li> <li>▪ Identify vulnerable areas</li> <li>▪ Promote conservation and appropriate stormwater management</li> <li>▪ Restrict development and site alteration in sensitive areas</li> <li>▪ Address cross boundary impacts</li> </ul>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protect prime agricultural areas and specialty crop lands while non-agricultural uses permitted when justification provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong protection for specialty crop lands including prohibiting growth expansion onto these lands and prohibiting non-agricultural uses</li> <li>▪ Protect prime agricultural areas</li> <li>▪ Strictly limit re-designation of prime agricultural lands to other uses</li> <li>▪ Prohibit residential lot creation on these lands</li> </ul>

# Provincial Policy Statement: Draft Policies

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## **PART I: PREAMBLE**

The Provincial Policy Statement provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. It supports the provincial goal of an Ontario which provides a high quality of life for its citizens, now and in the future, through strong, liveable communities, a clean and healthy environment, and a strong economy.

The Provincial Policy Statement provides for appropriate growth and development while protecting resources of provincial interest, public health and safety, and the quality of the natural environment. By setting out policy direction in each of these areas, the Policy Statement supports improved land use planning and management, and contributes to a more effective and efficient land use planning process.

Land use planning is only one of the tools for protecting provincial interests. A wide range of legislation, regulation, policies and programs may also affect land use planning matters, and assist in protecting these interests.

## **PART II: LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

The Provincial Policy Statement is issued under the authority of Section 3 of the Planning Act and came into effect on <DATE>. It replaces the Policy Statement which came into effect on May 22, 1996, as amended.

In respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a land use planning matter, section 3 of the Planning Act requires that decisions affecting land use planning matters shall be consistent with<sup>1</sup> policy statements issued under the Act.

This provision is intended to ensure that the Provincial Policy Statement is applied by all decision makers when making decisions on land use planning matters affecting provincial interests. It ensures that provincial interests remain an essential part of decision-making for land use planning, and that provincial policies are implemented.

## **PART III: HOW TO READ THE PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT**

The Provincial Policy Statement promotes a policy-led planning system, which recognizes that there are complex inter-relationships among environmental, economic and social factors in land use planning.

In order to best address these inter-relationships, the Provincial Policy Statement is intended to be read in its entirety. The Policy Statement is intended to be cumulative and integrated, rather than considering each policy individually, so that all policies which apply to a site, issue or feature are read as if they were specifically referenced in each individual policy which applies. This supports a comprehensive approach to planning, and facilitates the consideration of linkages among policy areas, while achieving the overall intent of the Policy Statement.

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<sup>1</sup>The "shall be consistent with" implementation standard has been included as a placeholder to reflect the standard that would apply if the proposed Strong Communities (Planning Amendment) Act, 2004 (Bill 26) is passed. The current standard, set out in subsection 3(5) of the *Planning Act*, provides that planning authorities "shall have regard to" the PPS when exercising any authority that affects a planning matter.

The Vision for Ontario's Land Use Planning System is intended to provide a context to facilitate implementation of the Policy Statement. Additional direction on matters of implementation is provided in the Implementation and Interpretation section, and may also be provided through provincial plans approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Italicized terms in the Policy Statement are defined in the Definitions section. For other terms, the normal meaning of the word applies. In certain cases, terms are italicized only in specific policies; for these terms, the defined meaning applies where they are italicized and the normal meaning applies where they are not italicized. Also, in certain cases, specific elements of defined terms are highlighted in policy and/or specific policies are referenced in other policies for ease of use. In these instances, respectively, the full definition set out in the Definitions section takes precedence in applying the policies of this Policy Statement, and specific policy references in individual policies do not take away from the need to read the Policy Statement as a whole.

There is no implied priority in the order in which the policies appear.

## **PART IV: VISION FOR ONTARIO'S LAND USE PLANNING SYSTEM**

The long-term prosperity and social well-being of Ontarians depend on maintaining strong communities, a clean and healthy environment, and a strong economy.

The wise management of growth - which may involve directing or promoting growth - is a key provincial interest. Wisely managed growth achieves efficient development patterns which focus growth in settlement areas, and direct growth away from significant or sensitive resources. Efficient development patterns optimize the use of land, resources, and public investments in transportation, servicing and other infrastructure; minimize the negative impact of growth; and support the financial well-being of the Province and municipalities over the long term. They result in strong, liveable and healthy communities that enhance social well-being, are economically and environmentally sound, and meet the full range of needs of current and future residents.

Our resources - the Province's natural heritage, water, agricultural land base, mineral resources, and cultural and archaeological heritage - provide environmental, economic and social benefits. The wise use and management of these resources over the long term is a key provincial interest. Wise use and management protects essential ecological processes and public health and safety, minimizes environmental and social impacts, and provides for resource sustainability to meet long-term needs and support ongoing prosperity.

Equally, protecting the long term health and safety of the population is a key provincial interest. The preventative approach - which directs development away from areas of natural hazards, and from areas of human-made hazards where these cannot be mitigated - protects public health and safety, supports provincial and municipal financial well-being over the long term, and minimizes cost, risk and social disruption.

Doing things right conserves land and resources, avoids the need for costly remedial measures to correct problems, and supports economic and environmental principles.

Achieving long-term prosperity and social well-being requires a comprehensive, integrated, and long-term perspective for growth and resource management which facilitates strategic and cross-jurisdictional planning, the consideration of linkages among provincial interests, and efficient and

effective decision-making regarding development. It also requires a clear recognition that strong communities, a clean and healthy environment, and a strong economy are inextricably linked.

Long-term prosperity, environmental health, and social well-being should take precedence over short-term considerations.

## **PART V: POLICIES**

### **1.0 BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES**

Ontario's long-term prosperity, environmental health and social well-being depend on managing change and promoting efficient land use and development patterns that support strong, liveable, and healthy communities; protect the environment and public health and safety; stimulate economic growth; and sustain provincial and municipal financial well-being over the long term.

To achieve this goal, development will be directed in accordance with the policies of Part V.

Accordingly:

#### **1.1 EFFICIENT SETTLEMENT PATTERNS**

##### **1.1.1 SETTLEMENT AREAS**

1.1.1.1 *Settlement areas* will be the focus of growth.

*Settlement areas* are cities, towns, villages and hamlets in incorporated municipalities.

1.1.1.2 Opportunities to sustain and enhance the vitality and regeneration of built up areas within *settlement areas* through *intensification* and *redevelopment* should be utilized before extending development into *designated growth areas*.

1.1.1.3 New development taking place in *designated growth areas* should occur adjacent to the existing built-up area, and have a compact form, mix of uses, and densities that allow for the efficient use of land, *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*.

##### **Alteration to Boundaries of Settlement Areas**

1.1.1.4 The alteration of all or any part of a boundary of a *settlement area* or the creation of a new *settlement area* will be permitted only at the time of a *comprehensive review* and only where it has been demonstrated that:

- a) existing designated areas in the municipality do not have a sufficient supply of land – available through *intensification* and *redevelopment* and, if justified and feasible, *designated growth areas* - to accommodate the growth projected for the municipality over the planning horizon identified in policy 1.2. Land requirements will be determined in accordance with policy 1.2;

- b) the *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* which are planned or available are suitable for the development, and protect public health and safety over the long-term; and
- c) in *prime agricultural areas*:
  1. the lands do not comprise *specialty crop areas*;
  2. there are no reasonable alternatives, which avoid *prime agricultural areas*; and
  3. there are no reasonable alternatives with lower priority agricultural lands in *prime agricultural areas*.

The policies of Part V will be applied in the determination of the most appropriate direction for alterations to the boundaries of *settlement areas* or the location of new *settlement areas*.

## 1.1.2 RURAL AREAS

- 1.1.2.1 *Rural areas* will be the focus of activities and land uses related to the management or use of natural resources, resource-based recreational activities, limited residential development, and other rural land uses.

*Rural areas* are those lands within incorporated municipalities which are located outside *settlement areas* and *prime agricultural areas*.

- 1.1.2.2 In managing change, planning authorities will undertake comprehensive, integrated and long-term planning so that development protects provincial interests, is compatible with the landscape qualities of the *rural area*, and can be sustained by rural service levels.
- 1.1.2.3 Scattered development, including strip development, will be discouraged.
- 1.1.2.4 In those parts of the *rural area* which are adjacent or in proximity to *settlement areas*, development and land use patterns that would hinder the efficient expansion of these *settlement areas* will not be permitted.
- 1.1.2.5 Significant concentrations of new development in the *rural area* which are to be located outside *settlement areas* will only be permitted in accordance with the criteria identified in policy 1.1.1.4(a) and (b).
- 1.1.2.6 New land uses, including the creation of lots, and new or expanding livestock facilities will comply with the *minimum distance separation formulae*.

## 1.1.3 AREAS WITHOUT MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

- 1.1.3.1 Notwithstanding policy 1.1.2, the focus of development activity in territory without municipal organization will be activities and land uses related to the management or use of natural resources and resource-based recreational activities.

Territory without municipal organization comprises lands within *rural areas* where there is no municipal structure.

- 1.1.3.2 The establishment of new permanent townsites will not be permitted.

- 1.1.3.3 Conversions from seasonal to permanent dwellings will be discouraged.
- 1.1.3.4 In areas adjacent to and surrounding municipalities, only development that is related to the management or use of natural resources and resource-based recreational activity will be permitted unless:
- a) the area forms part of a planning area; and
  - b) it has been determined, as part of a *comprehensive review*, that the impacts of growth will not place an undue strain on the *public service facilities* and *infrastructure* provided by adjacent municipalities, regions and/or the Province.
- 1.1.3.5 In areas that are not adjacent to or surrounding municipalities, only development that is related to the management or use of natural resources and resource-based recreational activity will be permitted unless:
- a) it has been determined, as part of a *comprehensive review*, that the impacts of growth will not place an undue strain on the *public service facilities* and *infrastructure* provided by planning authorities, and/or the Province, designated agencies or other public service delivery bodies.

## 1.2 EFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE PATTERNS FOR EMPLOYMENT, RESIDENTIAL AND OTHER USES

- 1.2.1 Efficient, development and land use patterns which sustain the financial well-being of the Province and municipalities over the long-term will be promoted.
- 1.2.2 All planning authorities will make provision to accommodate an appropriate range and mix of industrial, commercial, institutional, employment, recreational, residential and open space uses to meet long-term needs.
- 1.2.3 Land requirements and land use patterns will be based on:
- a) The provision of sufficient land - through *intensification* and *redevelopment* and, if necessary and justified, *designated growth areas* - to promote employment opportunities and for an appropriate range and mix of housing to accommodate growth projected for a time horizon of up to 20 years.

However, where an alternate time period has been established for specific areas of the Province as a result of a provincial planning exercise or a provincial plan approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, that time frame may be used for upper, single and lower-tier municipalities within the area.

- b) Densities and a mix of land uses which:
  1. Efficiently use land, resources, *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*;
  2. Avoid the need for unjustified and/or uneconomical expansion of *infrastructure*;
  3. Are appropriate to *infrastructure* which is planned or available, including *sewage and water systems* and transportation;
  4. Contribute to improving air quality, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and promoting energy efficiency by:

- i) facilitating viable choices of public transit and other alternative transportation modes in areas where they exist or are to be developed;
  - ii) focusing major employment and travel intensive land uses on sites which are well served by public transit, or designing these sites to permit the establishment of public transit in the future;
  - iii) providing for an efficient, cost-effective, reliable *multi-modal transportation system* that is integrated with adjacent systems and those of other jurisdictions, and is appropriate to address expected population growth;
  - iv) improving the mix between employment and housing uses so as to shorten commute journeys, decrease transportation congestion and reduce the overall need to travel; and
  - v) maintaining or expanding vegetated areas within *settlement areas*, wherever possible.
- c) The provision of a range of uses, and opportunities for *intensification* and *redevelopment*, in areas which have sufficient existing or planned *infrastructure* to accommodate them;
  - d) Development standards which are cost effective and which will minimize land consumption and servicing costs; and
  - e) Take into account the applicable policies of Part V.

1.2.4 Major facilities (such as airports, transportation/transit corridors, rail yards, harbours, sewage treatment facilities, waste management systems, oil and gas pipelines, industries and resource extraction activities) and *sensitive land uses* will be appropriately designed, buffered and/or separated from each other to prevent *adverse effects* from odour, noise and other contaminants, and minimize risk to public health and safety.

1.2.5 Development and land use patterns which may cause environmental or public health and safety concerns will be avoided.

### 1.3 COORDINATION WITHIN AND BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES

1.3.1 A coordinated, integrated and comprehensive approach should be achieved when dealing with land use planning matters which cross municipal boundaries including:

- a) Managing and/or promoting growth and development;
- b) Managing natural heritage, water, agricultural, mineral and cultural and archaeological heritage resources;
- c) *Infrastructure, public service facilities and waste management systems*;
- d) Ecosystem, shoreline, and watershed related issues;
- e) Shoreline, riverine, and natural and man-made hazards; and
- f) Population, housing and employment projections, based on *regional market areas*.

1.3.2 A comprehensive, integrated and long-term approach to planning will be achieved within municipal boundaries when dealing with the matters identified in policy 1.3.1.

1.3.3 Where planning is conducted by the upper-tier level, upper-tier governments, in consultation with lower-tier governments, will:

- a) identify priority growth areas and coordinate and allocate population, housing and employment projections for lower-tier municipalities accordingly;
- b) identify targets for *intensification* and *redevelopment* within all or any of the lower-tier municipalities, including minimum targets that should be met before alteration to the boundaries of *settlement areas* is permitted in accordance with policy 1.1.1.4;
- c) identify minimum densities for transit corridors, and other significant corridors and areas, including minimum densities that should be met before alteration to the boundaries of *settlement areas* is permitted in accordance with policy 1.1.1.4; and
- d) identify and provide policy direction for the lower-tier municipalities within their jurisdiction for matters which cross municipal boundaries.

Where there is no upper-tier level, adjacent planning jurisdictions should ensure that this coordination occurs as part of the planning process.

Where single-tier planning takes place, the planning authority will ensure that the elements identified in subsections (a)-(d) are undertaken as part of the planning process.

## 1.4 HOUSING

1.4.1 All planning authorities will maintain at all times:

- a) the ability to accommodate residential growth for a minimum of 10 years through lands which are *designated and available* for residential development; and
- b) where new development is to occur, land with servicing capacity sufficient to provide at least a 3 year supply of residential units in draft approved and registered plans, or in cases of *residential intensification* and *redevelopment*, lands suitably zoned and available.

1.4.2 In meeting the land and unit supply requirements in policy 1.4.1, *residential intensification* and *redevelopment* will be considered first. Land in *designated growth areas* will be utilized only where *residential intensification* and *redevelopment* are not sufficient to meet the requirements.

1.4.3 Where planning is conducted by the upper-tier level, the maintenance of land and unit supply at the lower-tier level identified in policy 1.4.1 will be based on and reflect the upper-tier allocation of population and units.

1.4.4 All planning authorities will provide for a full range of housing types and densities to meet projected demographic, market and *special needs* requirements, including *dedicated facilities*, of current and future residents of the *regional market* area by:

- a) identifying minimum targets for the provision of housing which is *affordable* to *low and moderate income households*;

- b) permitting and facilitating:
  - i) all forms of housing required to meet the social, health and well-being requirements, including *special needs*, of current and future residents;
  - ii) all forms of *residential intensification* and *redevelopment* in parts of built-up areas that have sufficient existing or planned *infrastructure* to create a potential supply of new housing units;
- c) directing the development of new housing towards locations where appropriate levels of *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* are, or will be, available to support current and future needs; and
- d) establishing development standards for *residential intensification*, *redevelopment* and new residential development, which minimize the cost of housing and facilitate compact form, while maintaining appropriate levels of public health and safety.

## 1.5 INFRASTRUCTURE

1.5.1 All planning authorities will make provision such that *public service facilities and infrastructure* will be provided in a coordinated, efficient and cost-effective manner to accommodate projected growth.

Planning for infrastructure will be integrated with planning for growth so that the development of new *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* is directed to support priority growth areas.

1.5.2 Existing *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* within *settlement areas* will be utilized to accommodate growth, wherever feasible, before developing new *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*.

1.5.3 *Public service facilities* should be strategically located to support the effective and efficient delivery of emergency management services.

### 1.5.4 SEWAGE AND WATER SYSTEMS

1.5.4.1 All planning authorities will provide for a comprehensive, integrated and long-term approach to planning for *municipal sewage and water services*, *private communal sewage and water services* and, where permitted by this policy, *private non-communal sewage and water services* so that:

- a) expected population growth can be accommodated and directed in a manner that promotes the efficient use of existing:
  - 1. *municipal water and sewage services*; and
  - 2. where such services are not available, *private communal water and sewage services*;
- b) subject to the hierarchy of services described in policies 1.5.4.2, 1.5.4.3 and 1.5.4.4, lot creation will be permitted only if there is a confirmation of sufficient *reserve capacity* for *municipal sewage and water services* or *private communal sewage and water services*, including treatment capacity for hauled sewage from *private communal* and *private non-communal sewage services*;

- c) services are being provided in a manner that:
  - i) is commensurate with the water resources upon which such services rely;
  - ii) protects human health and the natural environment; and
  - iii) ensures that *sewage and water systems* are financially viable to comply with all regulatory requirements that apply to the provision of such services;
- d) water conservation and water use efficiency is promoted; and
- e) servicing and land use considerations are integrated at all stages of the planning process.

1.5.4.2 Planning for *sewage and water systems* will be undertaken so that *municipal sewage and water services* are the preferred form of servicing for *settlement areas*. *Intensification and redevelopment* within *settlement areas* on existing sewage and water services will be promoted.

In areas serviced by *municipal sewage and water services*, development will be permitted only if sufficient *reserve water and sewage system capacity* is available.

1.5.4.3 Where *municipal sewage and water services* are not provided, and municipalities choose to utilize *private communal sewage and water services* and, where this policy permits, *private non-communal sewage and water services*, they must establish policies to ensure that the services to be provided satisfy the principles set out in policy 1.5.4.1.

*Private communal sewage and water services* and *private non-communal sewage and water services* may be permitted subject to the following:

- a) *private communal sewage and water services* will only be used as a means of servicing a new development of six or more lots or private residences in areas where *municipal sewage and water services* cannot be provided and where site conditions are suitable for the long-term provision of such services;
- b) *private non-communal sewage and water services* will only be used for a new development of five or less lots or private residences and where site conditions are suitable for the long-term provision of such services; but
- c) notwithstanding policy 1.5.4.3(b), in *rural areas*, and solely for the servicing of the permitted uses identified in policy 1.1.2.1, *private non-communal sewage and water services* may be used to service more than five lots or private residences where site conditions are suitable for the long-term provision of such services.

1.5.4.4 *Partial services* will not be permitted, except:

- a) where they are necessary to address failed *private non-communal sewage and water services* in existing development; and
- b) within *settlement areas*, to allow for infilling and rounding out of existing development on *partial services* so long as:
  - i) the development is within the *reserve water and sewage system capacity*; and
  - ii) site conditions are suitable for the long-term provision of such services.

## **1.5.5 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS**

- 1.5.5.1 All planning authorities will provide for a comprehensive, integrated and long-term approach to planning for transportation so that:
- a) *transportation systems* are provided which are safe, energy efficient, facilitate the movement of people and goods, and are appropriate to address expected growth;
  - b) efficient use is made of existing and planned *infrastructure*;
  - c) connectivity within and between transportation systems and modes is maintained or improved, including connections which cross jurisdictional boundaries;
  - d) a land use pattern, density and mix of uses is promoted which reduces growth in the length and number of motorized journeys, and creates viable choices of public transit and other alternative transportation modes; and
  - e) transportation and land use considerations are integrated at all stages of the planning process.

## **1.5.6 TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDORS**

- 1.5.6.1 Corridors and rights-of-way for significant transportation and *infrastructure* facilities will be planned for and protected to serve current and projected needs.
- 1.5.6.2 In *identified corridors*, *development* that could preclude use of the corridor for the purpose(s) for which it was identified will not be permitted.
- 1.5.6.3 The preservation and reuse of abandoned corridors for purposes that maintain the corridor's continuous linear characteristics should be encouraged, wherever feasible.

## **1.5.7 AIRPORTS**

- 1.5.7.1 *Airports* will be protected from incompatible land uses and development by:
- a) Prohibiting new residential *development* and other sensitive land-uses in areas near *airports* above 30 NEF/NEP, as set out on maps (as revised from time to time) reviewed by Transport Canada;
  - b) Considering redevelopment of existing residential uses and other sensitive land uses or infilling of residential and other sensitive land uses in areas above 30 NEF/NEP only if it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the long-term function of the *airport*; and
  - c) Discouraging land uses which may cause a potential aviation safety hazard.

## 1.5.8 WASTE MANAGEMENT

1.5.8.1 *Waste management systems* will be provided that are of an appropriate size and type to accommodate present and future requirements, and facilitate, encourage and promote reduction, reuse and recycling objectives.

*Waste management systems* will be located and designed in accordance with provincial legislation and standards.

## 1.6 LONG-TERM PROSPERITY AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING

1.6.1 In accordance with the policies of Part V, long-term prosperity and social well-being will be supported by:

- a) optimizing the long-term availability and use of land, resources, *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*;
- b) maintaining the vitality and viability of downtowns and mainstreets;
- c) providing opportunities for a diversified economic base, including maintaining a range and choice of available employment lands;
- d) providing opportunities for the generation and use of *alternative energy systems*, where feasible;
- e) providing for a full range of publicly-accessible built and natural settings for *recreation*, including facilities, parklands, open space areas, trails and water-based resources;
- f) providing opportunities for sustainable tourism development;
- g) planning public streets and spaces, and facilities used by the public, to meet the needs of pedestrians, facilitate pedestrian and non-motorized movement, and to be safe and lively;
- h) improving accessibility for persons with disabilities and the elderly by removing and/or preventing land use barriers, including housing and transportation barriers, which restrict their full participation in society;
- i) mitigating adverse effects on *natural heritage systems* so that biodiversity and natural functions are maintained; and
- j) providing for the sustainability of provincial parks and conservation reserves.

## 2.0 WISE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

Ontario's long-term prosperity, environmental health, and social well-being depend on protecting natural heritage, water, agricultural, mineral, and cultural heritage and archaeological resources for their economic use and/or their environmental and/or societal benefits.

To achieve this goal, development will be directed in accordance with the policies of Part V.

Accordingly:

## 2.1 NATURAL HERITAGE

2.1.1 The diversity and connectivity of natural features in an area, and the long-term *ecological function* of *natural heritage systems*, should be maintained, restored or improved where possible, recognizing linkages between and among *natural heritage features and areas*, *surface water features* and *ground water features*.

### 2.1.2 Natural Heritage Features And Areas

2.1.2.1 Development will generally be directed away from *natural heritage features and areas*.

2.1.2.2 *Development* and *site alteration* will not be permitted in:

- a) *significant habitat* of *endangered and threatened species*;
- b) *significant wetlands* in Site Regions 5E, 6E and 7E;<sup>2</sup> and
- c) *significant coastal wetlands* within the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System.

2.1.2.3 *Development* and *site alteration* will not be permitted in:

- a) *significant wetlands* in the Canadian Shield north of Site Regions 5E, 6E and 7E;<sup>2</sup>
- b) *significant woodlands* south and east of the Canadian Shield;<sup>3</sup>
- c) *significant valleylands* south and east of the Canadian Shield;<sup>3</sup>
- d) *significant wildlife habitat*; and
- e) *significant areas of natural and scientific interest*

unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no *negative impacts* on the natural features or the *ecological functions* for which the area is identified.

2.1.2.4 *Development* and *site alteration* will not be permitted in *fish habitat*, except in accordance with provincial and federal requirements.

2.1.2.5 *Development* and *site alteration* will not be permitted on *adjacent lands* to 2.1.2.2, 2.1.2.3, and 2.1.2.4 unless the *ecological function* of the *adjacent lands* have been evaluated, and it has been demonstrated that there will be no *negative impacts* on the natural features or on the *ecological functions* for which the area is identified.

### 2.1.3 Existing Agricultural Uses

2.1.3.1 Nothing in policy 2.1 is intended to limit the ability of existing agricultural uses to continue.

## 2.2 WATER

2.2.1 All planning authorities will provide for a comprehensive, integrated and long-term approach for the protection, improvement or restoration of the *quality and quantity of water* by:

- a) utilizing the watershed as the ecologically meaningful scale for planning;

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<sup>2</sup> Site Regions 5E, 6E and 7E are shown on Figure 1.

<sup>3</sup> Areas south and east of the Canadian Shield are shown on Figure 1.

- b) addressing potential *negative impacts*, including cross-jurisdictional and cross-watershed impacts;
- c) identifying *surface and ground water features, hydrologic functions and natural heritage features and areas* necessary for the ecological and hydrological integrity of the *watershed*;
- d) identifying restrictions on *development and site alteration*:
  1. to protect all municipal drinking water supplies;
  2. to protect, improve or restore *sensitive surface and ground water features* and their *hydrologic functions*;
- e) maintaining linkages and related functions among *surface and ground water features, hydrologic functions and natural heritage features and areas*;
- f) promoting efficient and sustainable use of water resources, including practices for water conservation and sustaining water quality; and
- g) ensuring stormwater management practices which minimize stormwater volumes and contaminant loads, and maintain or increase the extent of vegetative and pervious surfaces.

2.2.2 *Development and site alteration* will be restricted in or near *sensitive surface and groundwater features* such that these features and their related *hydrologic functions* will be protected, improved or restored.

Mitigative measures and/or alternative development approaches may be required in order to protect, improve or restore *sensitive surface and groundwater features*, and their *hydrologic functions*.

## 2.3 AGRICULTURE

2.3.1 *Prime agricultural areas* will be protected for long term use for agriculture.

*Prime agricultural areas* are areas where *prime agricultural lands* (which include specialty crop areas and/or Canada Land Inventory Classes 1, 2 and 3 soils) predominate. *Specialty crop areas* will be given the highest priority for protection, followed by Classes 1, 2 and 3 soils, in this order of priority.

2.3.2 All planning authorities will designate *specialty crop areas* using evaluation procedures established by the province, as amended from time to time.

### 2.3.3 Permitted Uses

2.3.3.1 In *prime agricultural areas*, permitted uses and activities are: *agricultural uses; secondary uses; and agriculture-related uses*.

Proposed new *secondary uses and agriculture-related uses* will be compatible with, and will not hinder, surrounding agricultural operations.

2.3.3.2 In *prime agricultural areas*, *agricultural uses and normal farm practices* will be promoted and protected.

New land uses, including the creation of lots, and new or expanding livestock facilities will comply with the *minimum distance separation formulae*.

## **2.3.4 Lot Creation And Lot Adjustments**

2.3.4.1 Lot creation in *prime agricultural areas* is discouraged and will only be permitted for:

- a) *agricultural uses*, provided that they are of a size appropriate for the type of agricultural use(s) common in the area and are sufficiently large to maintain flexibility for future changes in the type or size of agricultural operations;
- b) *agriculture-related uses*, provided that any new lot will be limited to a minimum size needed to accommodate the use and an appropriate *sewage and water system*;
- c) *infrastructure*, where the facility cannot be accommodated through the use of easements or rights-of-way; and
- d) *legal or technical reasons*.

## **2.3.5 Redesignation Of Prime Agricultural Areas**

2.3.5.1 An area will only be excluded from *prime agricultural areas* for:

- a) an expansion of *settlement areas* in accordance with policy 1.1.1.4;
- b) extraction of mineral resources, in accordance with policies 2.4 and 2.5; and
- c) limited non-residential uses, provided that:
  - 1. the land to be developed does not comprise *specialty crop areas*;
  - 2. there is a demonstrated need within the planning horizon provided for in policy 1.2 for additional land to be designated to accommodate the proposed use;
  - 3. there are no reasonable alternative locations which avoid *prime agricultural areas*; and
  - 4. there are no reasonable alternative locations in *prime agricultural areas* with lower priority agricultural lands.

Impacts from any new or expanding non-agricultural uses on surrounding agricultural operations and lands will be mitigated.

## **2.4 MINERALS AND PETROLEUM**

2.4.1 *Minerals and petroleum resources* will be protected for long-term use.

### **2.4.2 Protection Of Long Term Resource Supply**

2.4.2.1 *Mineral mining operations and petroleum resource operations* will be protected from *development* and activities that would preclude or hinder their expansion or continued use or which would be incompatible for reasons of public health, public safety or environmental impact.

2.4.2.2 In areas adjacent to or in known *mineral deposits* or known *petroleum resources*, and in *significant areas of mineral potential*, *development* and activities which would preclude or hinder the establishment of new operations or access to the resources will only be permitted if:

- a) resource use would not be feasible; or
- b) the proposed land uses or development serves a greater long term public interest; and
- c) issues of public health, public safety and environmental impact are addressed.

### **2.4.3 Rehabilitation**

- 2.4.3.1 Rehabilitation to accommodate subsequent land uses will be required after extraction and other related activities have ceased. Progressive rehabilitation will be undertaken wherever feasible.

### **2.4.4 Extraction In Prime Agricultural Areas**

- 2.4.4.1 Extraction of *minerals* and *petroleum* resources is permitted in *prime agricultural areas*, provided that the site is rehabilitated.

## **2.5 MINERAL AGGREGATES**

- 2.5.1 *Mineral aggregate resources* will be protected for long term use.

### **2.5.2 Protection Of Long Term Resource Supply**

- 2.5.2.1 As much of the *mineral aggregate resource* as is realistically possible in the context of other land use planning objectives will be made available as close to markets as possible to supply local, regional and provincial needs.

Demonstration of need for *mineral aggregate resources*, including any type of supply/demand analysis, will not be required, notwithstanding the availability, designation, or licensing for extraction, of *mineral aggregate resources* locally or elsewhere.

- 2.5.2.2 Notwithstanding the need for *mineral aggregate resources* identified in 2.5.2.1, extraction will be undertaken in a manner which minimizes social and environmental costs.

- 2.5.2.3 The conservation of *mineral aggregates resources* will be promoted by making provision for the recovery of these resources, wherever feasible.

- 2.5.2.4 *Mineral aggregate operations* will be protected from *development* and activities that would preclude or hinder their expansion or continued use or which would be incompatible for reasons of public health, public safety or environmental impact. Existing *mineral aggregate operations* will be permitted to continue without the need for official plan amendment, rezoning or development permit under the Planning Act. When a license for extraction or operation ceases to exist, policy 2.5.2.5 continues to apply.

- 2.5.2.5 In areas adjacent to or in known *deposits of mineral aggregate resources*, *development* and activities which would preclude or hinder the establishment of new operations or access to the resources will only be permitted if:

- a) resource use would not be feasible; or
- b) the proposed land uses or development serves a greater long term public interest; and

- c) issues of public health, public safety and environmental impact are addressed.

### **2.5.3 Rehabilitation**

- 2.5.3.1 Progressive and final rehabilitation will be required to accommodate subsequent land uses, and to promote land use compatibility and the interim nature of extraction. Final rehabilitation will take surrounding land use and approved land use designations into consideration.
- 2.5.3.2 In parts of the Province not designated under the Aggregate Resources Act, rehabilitation standards that are compatible with those under the Act should be adopted for extraction operations on private lands.

### **2.5.4 Extraction In Prime Agricultural Areas**

- 2.5.4.1 In *prime agricultural areas*, on *prime agricultural land*, extraction of *mineral aggregate resources* is permitted as an interim use provided that rehabilitation of the site will be carried out whereby substantially the same areas and same average soil quality for agriculture are restored.

On these *prime agricultural lands*, complete agricultural rehabilitation is not required if:

- a) there is a substantial quantity of *mineral aggregate resources* below the water table warranting extraction, or the depth of planned extraction in a quarry makes restoration of pre- extraction agricultural capability unfeasible;
- b) other alternatives including resources in areas of classes 4 to 7 agricultural lands, resources on lands committed to future urban areas, and resources on prime agricultural lands where rehabilitation is feasible have been considered by the applicant and found unsuitable. Where no other alternatives are found, *prime agricultural land* will be protected in this order of priority: *specialty crop areas*, Canada Land Inventory classes 1, 2 and 3; and
- c) agricultural rehabilitation in remaining areas will be maximized.

### **2.5.5 Wayside Pits And Quarries, Portable Asphalt Plants, And Concrete Plants**

- 2.5.5.1 *Wayside pits and quarries, portable asphalt plants, and portable concrete plants* used on public authority contracts will be permitted, without the need for official plan amendment, rezoning, or development permit under the Planning Act in all areas, except those areas of existing development or particular environmental sensitivity which have been determined to be incompatible with extraction and associated activities.

## **2.6 CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

- 2.6.1 *Significant built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes will be conserved.*
- 2.6.2 *Development and site alteration will only be permitted on lands containing archaeological resources or areas of archaeological potential if significant archaeological resources have been conserved by removal and documentation, or by preservation on site. Where significant archaeological resources must be preserved on site, only development and site alteration which maintain the heritage integrity of the site will be permitted.*
- 2.6.3 *Development and site alteration may be permitted on adjacent lands to designated heritage properties where it has been demonstrated through evaluation that the heritage attributes of the designated heritage properties will be conserved.*

## **3.0 PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Ontario's long-term prosperity, environmental health, and social well-being depend on reducing the potential for public cost or risk to Ontario's residents by directing development away from areas of natural and/or human-made hazards where there is a risk to public health or safety or of property damage.

To achieve this goal, development will be directed in accordance with the policies of Part V.

Accordingly:

### **3.1 NATURAL HAZARDS**

- 3.1.1 Development will generally be directed to areas outside of:
- a) *hazardous lands adjacent to the shorelines of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System and large inland lakes which are impacted by flooding, erosion, and/or dynamic beach hazards;*
  - b) *hazardous lands adjacent to river, stream and small inland lake systems which are impacted by flooding and/or erosion hazards; and*
  - c) *hazardous sites.*
- 3.1.2 *Development and site alteration will not be permitted within:*
- a) *the dynamic beach;*
  - b) *defined portions of the one hundred year flood level along connecting channels (the St. Mary's, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers);*
  - c) *areas that would be rendered inaccessible to people and vehicles during times of flooding, erosion and/or other water related hazards, unless it has been demonstrated that the site has safe access appropriate for the nature of the development, and the natural hazard; and*
  - d) *a floodway regardless of whether there are high points of land within the area of inundation.*

- 3.1.3 Notwithstanding policy 3.1.2, *development* and *site alteration* may be permitted in the areas identified in Policy 3.1.2:
- a) in those exceptional situations where a *Special Policy Area* has been approved by the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Natural Resources. Any change or modification to the site-specific policies applying to the *Special Policy Area* must first be approved by the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Natural Resources prior to the approval authority giving its consent for such changes or modifications; and
  - b) where the *development* is limited to: uses which by their nature must locate within the *floodway*; flood and/or erosion control works; minor additions or passive, non-structural uses which do not affect flood flows.

3.1.4 Where the two zone concept for *flood plains* is applied, *development* and *site alteration* may be permitted in the *flood fringe*, subject to appropriate floodproofing to the *flooding hazard* elevation or another *flooding hazard* standard approved by the Minister of Natural Resources.

3.1.5 New *development* will not be permitted to locate in *hazardous lands* and *hazardous sites* where the use is:

- a) an institutional use associated with hospitals, nursing homes, pre-school, school nurseries, day care and schools, where there is a threat to the safe evacuation of the sick, the elderly, persons with disabilities or the young during an emergency as a result of flooding, failure of floodproofing measures or protection works, or erosion;
- b) an essential emergency service such as that provided by fire, police and ambulance stations and electrical substations, which would be impaired during an emergency as a result of flooding, the failure of floodproofing measures and/or protection works, and/or erosion; and
- c) associated with the disposal, manufacture, treatment or storage of *hazardous substances*.

3.1.6 Except as prohibited in policies 3.1.1 and 3.1.2, *development* and *site alteration* may be permitted in those portions of *hazardous lands* and *hazardous sites* where the risk to public safety and other effects - as determined by the demonstration and achievement of all of the following - can be absorbed, managed or mitigated in accordance with the following provincial standards:

- a) the hazards can be safely addressed, and the *development* and *site alteration* is carried out in accordance with *floodproofing standards*, *protection works standards*, and *access standards*;
- b) vehicles and people have a way of safely entering and exiting the area during times of flooding, erosion and other emergencies
- c) new hazards are not created and existing hazards are not aggravated; and
- d) no adverse environmental impacts will result.

## **3.2 HUMAN-MADE HAZARDS**

3.2.1 Development on, abutting or adjacent to lands affected by *mine hazards*; *oil, gas and salt hazards*; or former mineral resource operations will be permitted only if rehabilitation measures to address and mitigate known or suspected hazards are under-way or have been completed.

3.2.2 Contaminated sites will be remediated as necessary prior to any activity on the site associated with the proposed use such that there will be no *adverse effect*.

## 4.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. The Provincial Policy Statement came into effect on <DATE>, and replaces the Provincial Policy Statement which was approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, Order in Council No. 764-96, as amended.

The Provincial Policy Statement applies to all applications submitted on or after <DATE>, and to all applications submitted prior to <DATE> in respect of which no decision has yet been made.

For the purposes of this section, a decision shall be deemed to have been made in accordance with the provisions of Regulation <X>.<sup>4</sup>

2. In accordance with Section 3 of the Planning Act, this Policy Statement will be applied by planning authorities and decision-makers in dealing with all planning matters, including providing comments, submissions or advice that affect a planning matter, and decisions on official plans, subdivisions, consents, zoning bylaws, minor variances, and other land use planning matters.
3. In implementing the Provincial Policy Statement, the Minister may take into account other considerations when making decisions to support strong communities, a clean and healthy environment, and the economic vitality of the Province.
4. The Provincial Policy Statement is to be read in its entirety, and all pertinent policies are to be applied to each situation.
5. Within the framework of the provincial policy-led planning system, matters of regional and local importance can build upon this Policy Statement. Nothing in this Policy Statement is intended to prevent planning authorities and decision makers on land use planning matters from going beyond the minimum standards established in specific policies, in developing official plan policies and when making decisions on planning matters, unless doing so would conflict with any other policy of the Policy Statement.

While municipal official plans can build upon the minimum standards of the Provincial Policy Statement, their adoption does not remove the requirement for a decision-maker to apply the Provincial Policy Statement.

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<sup>4</sup> Bill 26 proposes to introduce a new section 70.4 to the *Planning Act* giving the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing power to make a regulation respecting transitional provisions relating to applications commenced before the new amendments to the Act come into force. Through this initiative, a decision shall be deemed to have been made, in the case of:

1. an official plan, on the day council adopts all or part of the plan or on the day that the approval authority approves, modifies and approves or refuses to approve all or part of the plan, whichever is earlier;
2. an official plan amendment, on the day council adopts or refused to adopt all or part of the amendment or on the day that the approval authority approves, modifies and approves or refuses to approve the amendment, whichever is earlier;
3. a zoning by-law, on the day council passes the by-law;
4. a zoning by-law amendment, on the day that council passes or refuses to pass the amending by-law;
5. a holding by-law, on the day that council passes the by-law applying the holding symbol;
6. a minor variance, on the day the committee of adjustment makes its decision;
7. a site plan, on the day the council gives or refuses to give its approval;
8. a draft plan of subdivision, on the day the approval authority makes its decision (draft approval or refusal);
9. a plan of condominium, on the day the approval authority makes its decision to exempt the plan or approve or refuse to approve (draft approval);
10. a consent, on the day the council or the Minister gives or refuses to give a provisional consent;
11. a zoning order, on the day the Minister makes the order, or on the day the Minister amends, refused to amend or revoke an order, or on the day the Minister makes a decision for a minor variance to a zoning order; and
12. an application, matter or proceeding appealed or referred to the Ontario Municipal Board from the council's neglect, refusal or failure to make a decision, on the day the Ontario Municipal Board makes a decision disposing of the application, matter or proceeding in whole or in part.

6. Since the policies in the Provincial Policy Statement focus on end results, the official plan is the most important vehicle for its implementation.

Municipal official plans provide an appropriate mechanism through which: comprehensive, integrated and long-term planning is achieved; provincial interests are identified for protection; and cross-boundary matters are coordinated so that the actions of one planning authority complement the actions of another planning authority and promote mutually beneficial solutions.

Municipal official plans will integrate all applicable provincial policies, identify provincial land use planning interests, and apply appropriate land use designations and policies. Municipal official plans will provide clear, reasonable and attainable policies for protecting provincial interests, and for development and site alteration in suitable areas.

In order to best protect provincial interests, planning authorities will keep their official plans up-to-date with the Provincial Policy Statement.

7. A wide range of legislation and regulations may affect lands which are the subject of applications under the Planning Act, and may assist in the implementation of the Provincial Policy Statement. There may be cases where a proposal requiring approval under the Planning Act may also require approval under other legislation or regulation.

8. In addition to land use approvals under the Planning Act, infrastructure may also require approval under other legislation and regulations, including the Environmental Assessment Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, the Environmental Protection Act, the Ontario Energy Board Act, the Ontario Water Resources Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2003. An environmental assessment process may be applied to new infrastructure and modifications to existing infrastructure under applicable legislation. The applicable policies would be considered as part of the evaluation conducted under the relevant environmental assessment process.

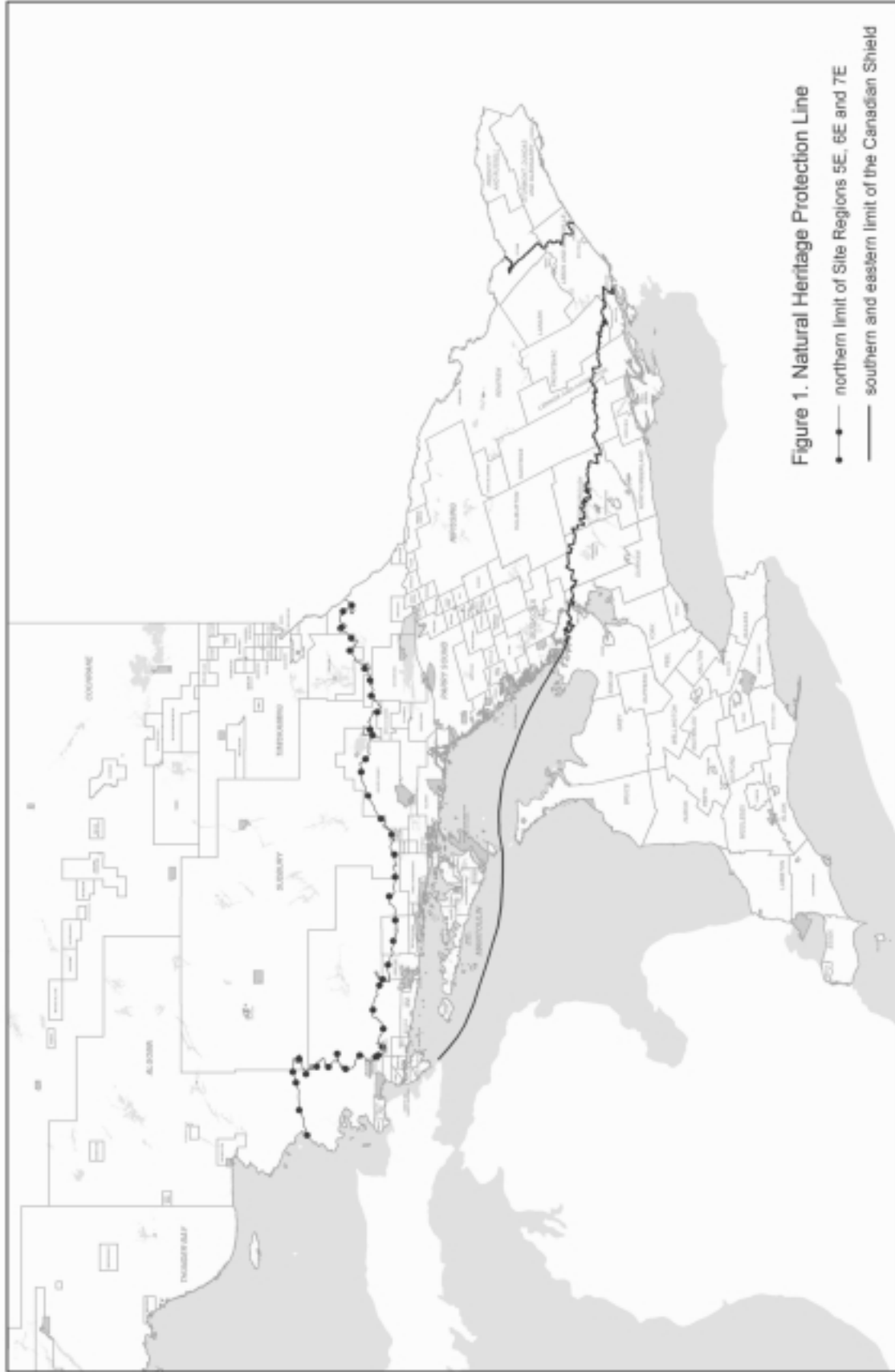
9. Provincial plans (such as those adopted under the Ontario Planning and Development Act, 1994, the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, or the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act 2001, which have been approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, will take precedence over policies in the Provincial Policy Statement to the extent of any conflict.

10. The Province, in consultation with municipalities, will identify performance indicators for measuring the effectiveness of some or all of the policies, and will monitor their implementation, including reviewing performance indicators concurrent with any review of the Provincial Policy Statement.

Municipalities are encouraged to establish performance indicators to monitor the implementation of the policies in their official plans.

11. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, together with other ministries with land use planning interests, may issue new support materials and/or update existing materials to assist planning authorities and decision-makers in implementing the Provincial Policy Statement.

5.0: FIGURE 1



## 6.0: DEFINITIONS

Definitions are alphabetized. For ease of reference, those definitions pertaining to policy 1.5.4 (“sewage and water systems”) and policy 3.1 (“natural hazards”) have been alphabetized under the headings of “sewage and water systems” and “natural hazards”, respectively.

**Adjacent lands:** means

- a) for the purposes of policy 2.1, those lands, contiguous to a specific natural heritage feature or area, where it is likely that *development* or *site alteration* would have a *negative impact* on the feature or area. The extent of the adjacent lands may be recommended by the Province or based on municipal approaches which achieve the same objectives; and
- b) for the purposes of policy 2.6.3, those lands contiguous to a *designated heritage property* or as otherwise defined in the municipal official plan.

**Adverse effects:** as defined in the Environmental Protection Act, means one or more of:

- a) impairment of the quality of the natural environment for any use that can be made of it;
- b) injury or damage to property or plant and animal life;
- c) harm or material discomfort to any person;
- d) an adverse effect on the health of any person;
- e) impairment of the safety of any person;
- f) rendering any property or plant or animal life unfit for use by humans;
- g) loss of enjoyment of normal use of property; and
- h) interference with normal conduct of business.

**Affordable:** means

- a) in the case of ownership housing, the least expensive of:
  - i) housing for which the purchase price results in annual accommodation costs which do not exceed 30 percent of gross annual household income for *low and moderate income households*; or
  - ii) housing for which the purchase price is at least 10 percent below the average purchase price of a resale unit in the *regional market area*;
- b) in the case of rental housing, the least expensive of:
  - i) a unit for which the rent does not exceed 30 percent of gross annual household income for *low and moderate income households*; or
  - ii) a unit for which the rent is at or below the average market rent of a unit in the *regional market area*.

**Agricultural uses:** means the growing of crops, including nursery and horticultural crops; raising of livestock; raising of other animals for food, or fur including poultry and fish; aquaculture; apiaries; agro-forestry; maple syrup production; and associated on-farm buildings and structures.

**Agriculture-related uses:** means those farm related commercial and farm-related industrial uses that are small scale and directly related to the farm operation and are required in close proximity to the farm operation.

**Airports:** means all Ontario airports, including designated lands for future airports, with Noise Exposure Forecast (NEF)/Noise Exposure Projection (NEP) mapping.

**Alternative energy systems:** mean generation sources which produce electrical power from renewable resources such as solar or wind energy.

**Archaeological resources:** includes artifacts, archaeological sites, and marine archaeological sites. The identification and evaluation of such resources are based upon archaeological fieldwork undertaken in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act.

**Areas of archaeological potential:** means areas with the likelihood to contain archaeological resources. Criteria for determining archaeological potential are established by the Province, but municipal approaches which achieve the same objective may also be used. Archaeological potential is confirmed through archaeological fieldwork undertaken in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act.

**Areas of mineral potential:** means areas favourable to the discovery of mineral deposits due to geology, the presence of known mineral deposits or other technical evidence.

**Areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSI):** means areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features that have been identified as having life science or earth science values related to protection, scientific study, or education.

**Brownfield sites:** means previously developed properties that may be contaminated. They are usually, but not exclusively, former industrial or commercial properties that may be underutilized, derelict or vacant.

**Built heritage resources:** means one or more *significant* buildings, structures, monuments, installations, or remains associated with architectural, cultural, social, political, economic, or military history, and identified as being important to a community. These resources may be identified through designation under the Ontario Heritage Act, or listed by local, provincial or federal jurisdictions.

**Coastal wetland:** means:

- a) any wetland that is located on one of the Great Lakes or their connecting channels (Lake St. Clair; St. Mary's, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers); or
- b) any other wetland that is on a tributary to any of the above-specified water bodies and lies, either wholly or in part, downstream of a line located 2 kilometres upstream of the 1:100 year floodline (plus wave run-up) of the large water body to which it is connected.

**Comprehensive review:** means

- a) for the purposes of 1.1.1.4, an official plan review which is initiated by a planning authority and which:
  1. is based on a review of population and growth projections;
  2. considers alternative directions for growth and determines how best to accommodate this growth while protecting provincial interests;
  3. utilizes opportunities to accommodate projected growth through *intensification* and *redevelopment* and, if necessary, *designated growth areas*;
  4. confirms that the lands to be developed do not comprise *specialty crop areas* in accordance with policy 2.3.2;
  5. is integrated with planning for *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*; and
  6. considers cross-jurisdictional issues.

- b) for the purposes of policy 1.1.3, means a review undertaken by a planning authority or comparable body which addresses long-term population projections, infrastructure requirements and related matters.

The determination of land requirements to meet projected needs for subsections (a) and (b) above will be based on and reflect upper-tier projections and allocations where these exist, and provincial plans approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

**Conserved:** means the identification, protection, use and management of cultural heritage and archaeological resources in a responsible manner. This may be addressed through a heritage impact assessment.

**Cultural heritage landscape:** means a defined geographical area of heritage significance which has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community. It involves a grouping(s) of individual heritage features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites, and natural elements, which together form a significant type of heritage form, distinctive from that of its constituent elements or parts. Examples may include heritage conservation districts designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, a heritage village, historic parks, gardens, battlefields, heritage mainstreets and neighbourhoods, and cemeteries.

**Dedicated facilities:** mean those facilities whose attributes, including built form, location and affordability, are suited to the accommodation needs of people with *special needs*.

**Deposits of mineral aggregate resources:** means an area of identified *mineral aggregate resources*, as delineated in Aggregate Resource Inventory Papers or comprehensive studies prepared using evaluation procedures established by the Province for surficial and bedrock resources, as amended from time to time, that has a sufficient quantity and quality to warrant present or future extraction.

**Designated and available:** means, designated in the official plan for urban residential use. For municipalities where more detailed official plan policies (eg. secondary plans) are required before development applications can be considered for approval, only lands that have at least begun the more detailed planning process are considered to be designated for the purposes of this definition.

**Designated growth areas:** means areas designated in the official plan for growth, but which have not yet been developed. Designated growth areas include lands which are *designated and available* for residential growth.

**Designated heritage properties:** mean real property designated under Parts IV, V or VI of the Ontario Heritage Act.

**Development:** means the creation of a new lot, a change in land use, or the construction of buildings and structures, requiring approval under the Planning Act; but does not include activities that create or maintain *infrastructure* authorized under an environmental assessment process; or works subject to the Drainage Act.

**Ecological functions:** means the natural processes, products or services that living and non-living environments provide or perform within or between species, ecosystems and landscapes. These may include biological, physical and socio-economic interactions.

**Endangered species:** means a species that is listed or categorized as an 'Endangered Species' on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' official species at risk list, as updated and amended from time to time.

**Fish:** means fish, which as defined in the Fisheries Act, R.S.C, 1985, c. F-14, S.2 as amended, includes fish, shellfish, crustaceans, and marine animals, at all stages of their life cycles.

**Fish habitat:** means spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply, and migration areas on which *fish* depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes.

**Ground water feature:** refers to water-related features in the earth's subsurface, including recharge/discharge areas, water tables, aquifers and unsaturated zones that can be defined by surface and subsurface hydrogeologic investigations.

**Heritage attributes:** means the principal features, characteristics and appearance of *designated heritage properties* that contribute to its cultural heritage significance.

**Hydrologic function:** means the functions of the hydrological cycle that include the occurrence, circulation, distribution and chemical and physical properties of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere, and water's interaction with the environment including its relation to living things.

**Identified Corridors:** mean corridors identified as required to serve current and projected needs by the Province or through provincial plans approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The identification of corridors will be based on the following principles: the relief of existing or projected transportation/infrastructure problems; enhanced economic competitiveness; the protection of the environment and resources; safety benefits; accessibility; integration; improved conditions for pedestrians and cyclists and access to public transport.

**Infrastructure:** means physical structures that form the foundation for development. Infrastructure includes: *sewage and water systems*, septage treatment systems, waste management systems, electric power, communications/ telecommunications, transit and transportation corridors and facilities, oil and gas pipelines and associated facilities.

**Intensification:** means the development of a property, site or area at a higher density than currently exists through:

- a) *redevelopment*, including the reuse of *brownfield sites*;
- b) the development of vacant and/or underutilized lots within previously developed areas;
- c) infill development; and
- d) the expansion or conversion of existing buildings.

Intensification will be directed in accordance with the policies of Part V.

**Legal or technical reasons:** means severances for purposes such as easements, corrections of deeds, quit claims, and minor boundary adjustments, which do not result in the creation of a new lot.

**Low and moderate income households:** means

- i) in the case of ownership housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 percent of the income distribution for the *regional market area*; or
- ii) in the case of rental housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 percent of the income distribution for renter households for the *regional market area*.

**Mine hazards:** means any feature of a mine as defined under the Mining Act, or any related disturbance of the ground that has not been rehabilitated.

**Mineral aggregate resources:** means gravel, sand, clay, earth, shale, stone, limestone, dolostone, sandstone, marble, granite, rock or other material prescribed under the Aggregate Resources Act suitable for construction, industrial, manufacturing and maintenance purposes but does not include metallic ores, asbestos, graphite, kyanite, mica, nepheline syenite, salt, talc, wollastonite, mine tailings or other material prescribed under the Mining Act.

**Mineral aggregate operation:** means:

- a) lands under license or permit, other than for a *wayside pit or quarry*, issued in accordance with the Aggregate Resources Act, or successors thereto;
- b) for lands not designated under the Aggregate Resources Act, established pits and quarries that are not in contravention of municipal zoning by-laws and including adjacent land under agreement with or owned by the operator, to permit continuation of the operation; and
- c) associated facilities used in extraction, transport, beneficiation, processing or recycling of *mineral aggregates* and derived products such as asphalt and concrete, or the production of secondary related products.

**Mineral deposits:** mean areas of identified minerals that have sufficient quantity and quality based on specific geological evidence to warrant present or future extraction.

**Mineral mining operation:** means mining operations and associated facilities, or, past producing mines with remaining mineral development potential that have not been permanently rehabilitated to another use.

**Minerals:** means metallic minerals and non-metallic minerals as herein defined, but does not include *mineral aggregate resources* or *petroleum resources*.

Metallic minerals means those minerals from which metals (e.g. copper, nickel, gold) are derived.

Non-metallic minerals means those minerals that are of value for intrinsic properties of the minerals themselves and not as a source of metal. They are generally synonymous with industrial minerals (e.g. asbestos, graphite, kyanite, mica, nepheline syenite, salt, talc, and wollastonite).

**Minimum distance separation formulae:** means formulae developed by the Province to separate uses so as to reduce incompatibility concerns about odour from livestock facilities.

**Multi-modal transportation system:** means a transportation system which may include several forms of transportation such as automobiles, walking, truck, cycling, bus, rapid transit and rail, air, marine and pipelines.

## Natural Hazards:

**Access standard**, which means a method or procedure to ensure safe vehicular and pedestrian movement, and access for the maintenance and repair of protection works, during times of *flooding, erosion and/or other water related hazards*.

**Defined portions of the one hundred year flood level along connecting channels:** means those areas which are critical to the conveyance of the flows associated with the *one hundred year flood level* along the St. Mary's, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers, where *development or site alteration* will create *flooding hazards*, cause updrift and/or downdrift impacts and/or cause adverse environmental impacts.

**Dynamic beach:** means shoreline areas which are highly unstable and/or critical to the natural protection and maintenance of the first main dune feature and/or beach profile, where any *development or site alteration* would create or aggravate *flooding or erosion hazards*, cause updrift and/or downdrift impacts and/or cause adverse environmental impacts.

**Dynamic beach hazard:** means areas of inherently unstable accumulations of shoreline sediments along the *Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System and large inland lakes*, as identified by provincial standards, as amended from time to time. The dynamic beach hazard limit includes the *flooding hazard* limit plus a dynamic beach allowance.

**Erosion hazards:** means the loss of land, due to human or natural processes, that poses a threat to life and property. The erosion hazard limit is determined using the 100 year erosion rate (the average annual rate of recession extended over a hundred year time span), an allowance for slope stability, and an erosion allowance.

**Floodproofing standard**, which means the combination of measures incorporated into the basic design and/or construction of buildings, structures, or properties to reduce or eliminate flooding, *wave uprush and other water related hazards* along the shorelines of the *Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System and large inland lakes*, and *flooding along river and stream systems*.

**Flooding hazards:** means the inundation, under the conditions specified below, of areas adjacent to a shoreline or a river or stream system and not ordinarily covered by water:

- a) Along the shorelines of the *Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System and large inland lakes*, the *flooding hazard* limit is based on the *100 year flood level* plus an allowance for *wave uprush and other water related hazards*.
- b) Along *river and stream systems*, the *flooding hazard* limit is the greater of:
  1. the flood resulting from the rainfall actually experienced during a major storm such as the Hurricane Hazel storm (1954) or the Timmins Storm (1961), transposed over a specific watershed and combined with the local conditions, where evidence suggests that the storm event could have potentially occurred over watersheds in the general area;
  2. the *one hundred year flood*; or
  3. a flood which is greater than 1) or 2) which was actually experienced in a particular watershed or portion thereof as a result of ice jams and which has been approved as the standard for that specific area by the Minister of Natural Resources;

except where the use of the *one hundred year flood* or actually experienced event as the standard for a specific watershed has been approved by the Minister of Natural Resources (where the past history of flooding supports the lowering of the standard).

**Flood fringe (for river and stream systems):** means the outer portion of the *flood plain* between the *floodway* and the *flooding hazard* limit. Depths and velocities of *flooding* are generally less severe in the flood fringe than those experienced in the *floodway*.

**Flood plain (for river and stream systems):** means the area, usually low lands adjoining a watercourse, which has been or may be subject to *flooding hazards*.

**Floodway (for river and stream systems):** means the portion of the *flood plain* where *development* and *site alteration* would cause a danger to public health and safety or property damage.

Where the one zone concept is applied, the floodway is the entire contiguous *flood plain*. Where the two zone concept is applied, the floodway is the contiguous inner portion of the *flood plain*, representing that area required for the safe passage of flood flow and/or that area where flood depths and/or velocities are considered to be such that they pose a potential threat to life and/or property damage. Where the two zone concept applies, the outer portion of the *flood plain* is called the *flood fringe*.

**Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System:** means the major water system consisting of Lakes Superior, Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario and their connecting channels, and the St. Lawrence River within the boundaries of the Province of Ontario.

**Hazardous lands:** means property or lands that could be unsafe for development due to naturally occurring processes. Along the shorelines of the *Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System*, this means the land, including that covered by water, between the international boundary, where applicable, and the furthest landward limit of the *flooding, erosion or dynamic beach hazard* limits. Along the shorelines of *large inland lakes*, this means the land, including that covered by water, between a defined offshore distance or depth and the furthest landward limit of the *flooding, erosion or dynamic beach hazard* limits. Along *river and stream systems*, this means the land, including that covered by water, to the furthest landward limit of the *flooding or erosion hazard* limits.

**Hazardous sites:** means property or lands that could be unsafe for *development* and *site alteration* due to naturally occurring hazards. These may include unstable soils (sensitive marine clays [leda], organic soils) or unstable bedrock (karst topography).

**Hazardous substances:** means substances which, individually, or in combination with other substances, are normally considered to pose a danger to public health, safety and the environment. These substances generally include a wide array of materials that are toxic, ignitable, corrosive, reactive, radioactive or pathological.

**Large inland lakes:** means those waterbodies having a surface area of equal to or greater than 100 square kilometres where there is not a measurable or predictable response to a single runoff event.

**One hundred year flood (for river and stream systems):** means that flood, based on an analysis of precipitation, snow melt, or a combination thereof, having a return period of

100 years on average, or having a 1% chance of occurring or being exceeded in any given year.

**One hundred year flood level:**

means:

- for the shorelines of the Great Lakes, the peak instantaneous stillwater level, resulting from combinations of mean monthly lake levels and wind setups, which has a 1% chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year.
- in the connecting channels (St. Mary's, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers), the peak instantaneous stillwater level which has a 1% chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year.

for large inland lakes, lake levels and wind setups that have a 1% chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year, except that, where sufficient water level records do not exist, the one hundred year flood level is based on the highest known water level and wind setups.

**Other water-related hazards:** means water-associated phenomena other than *flooding* and *wave uprush* which act on shorelines. This includes, but is not limited to ice, ice piling and ice jamming.

**Protection works standard,** which means the combination of non-structural or structural works and allowances for slope stability and flooding/erosion to reduce the damages caused by *flooding*, *erosion*, and *other water related hazards*, and to allow access for their maintenance and repair.

**River, stream and small inland lake systems:** means all watercourses, rivers, streams, and small inland lakes or waterbodies that have a measurable or predictable response to a single runoff event.

**Special policy area:** means an area within a community that has historically existed in the *flood plain* and where site specific policies, approved by the Ministers of Natural Resources and Municipal Affairs and Housing, are intended to provide for the continued viability of existing uses (which are generally on a small scale) and address the significant social and economic hardships to the community that would result from strict adherence to provincial policies concerning *development*. The criteria and procedures for approval are established by the Province.

**Natural heritage features and areas:** means features and areas, such as *significant wetlands*, *fish habitat*, *significant woodlands* south and east of the Canadian Shield, *significant valleylands* south and east of the Canadian Shield, *significant habitat of endangered and threatened species*, *significant wildlife habitat*, and *significant areas of natural and scientific interest*, which are important for their environmental and social values as a legacy of the natural landscapes of an area.

**Natural heritage system:** means a system made up of *natural heritage features and areas*, linked by natural corridors necessary to maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species and ecosystems.

**Negative impacts:** means:

- a) in regard to policy 2.2, degradation to the *quantity or quality of water, sensitive surface and groundwater features* and their related *hydrologic functions*, due to single, multiple or successive *development or site alteration* activities;
- b) in regard to *fish habitat*, the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of *fish habitat*, except where, in conjunction with the appropriate authorities, it has been authorized under the Fisheries Act, using the guiding principle of no net loss of productive capacity; and
- c) in regard to other *natural heritage features and areas*, degradation that threatens the health and integrity of the natural features or *ecological functions* for which an area is identified due to single, multiple or successive *development or site alteration* activities.

**Normal Farm Practices:** means a practice, as defined in the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, that is conducted in a manner consistent with proper and acceptable customs and standards, makes use of innovative technology in a manner consistent with proper advanced farm management practices, and complies with the Nutrient Management Act.

**Oil, gas and salt hazards:** means any feature of a well or work as defined under the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act, or any related disturbance of the ground that has not been rehabilitated.

**Petroleum resources:** means oil, gas, and brine resources which have been identified through exploration and verified by preliminary drilling or other forms of investigation. This may include sites of former operations where resources are still present or former sites that may be converted to underground storage for natural gas or other hydrocarbons.

**Petroleum resource operations:** means oil, gas and brine wells, and associated facilities, oil field brine disposal wells and associated facilities, and facilities for the underground storage of natural gas and other hydrocarbons.

**Portable asphalt plant:** means a facility:

- a) with equipment designed to heat and dry aggregate and to mix aggregate with bituminous asphalt to produce asphalt paving material, and includes stockpiling and storage of bulk materials used in the process; and
- b) which is not of permanent construction, but which is to be dismantled at the completion of the construction project.

**Portable concrete plant:** means a building or structure:

- a) with equipment designed to mix cementing materials, aggregate, water and admixtures to produce concrete, and includes stockpiling and storage of bulk materials used in the process; and
- b) which is not of permanent construction, but which is designed to be dismantled at the completion of the construction project.

**Prime agricultural areas:** means areas where *prime agricultural land* predominates. Prime agricultural areas may also be identified through an alternative agricultural land evaluation system approved by the Province.

**Prime agricultural lands:** means land that includes *specialty crop areas* and/or Canada Land Inventory Classes 1, 2, and 3 soils, in this order of priority for protection.

**Public service facilities:** means land, buildings and structures for the provision of *public services*, but does not include *infrastructure*.

**Public services:** means programs and services provided or subsidized by a government or other public body. Examples include social assistance, recreation, police and fire protection, health and educational programs, and cultural services.

**Quality and quantity of water:** is measured by indicators such as minimum base flow, depth to water table, aquifer pressure, oxygen levels, suspended solids, temperature, bacteria, nutrients and hazardous contaminants, and hydrologic regime.

**Recreation:** means leisure time activity undertaken in built or natural settings for purposes of physical activity, health benefits, sport participation and skill development, personal enjoyment, positive social interaction and the achievement of human potential.

**Redevelopment:** means the creation of new residential or non-residential units on previously developed land in existing communities, including *brownfield sites*. Redevelopment will be directed in accordance with the policies of Part V.

**Regional market area:** refers to an area, generally broader than a lower-tier municipality, that has a high degree of social and economic interaction. In southern Ontario, the upper or single tier municipality will normally serve as the regional market area. Where a regional market area extends significantly beyond upper or single tier boundaries, it may include a combination of upper, single and/or lower-tier municipalities.

**Reserve water and sewage system capacity:** means design capacity in a centralized water and waste water treatment facility which is not yet committed to existing or approved development.

**Residential intensification:** means intensification of a property, site or area which results in a net increase in residential units or accommodation and includes:

- a) redevelopment, including the redevelopment of *brownfield sites*;
- b) the development of vacant and/or underutilized lots within previously developed areas;
- c) infill development;
- d) the conversion or expansion of existing industrial, commercial and institutional buildings for residential use; and
- e) the conversion or expansion of existing residential buildings to create rooming houses, or additional residential units including accessory apartments.

Residential intensification will be directed in accordance with the policies of Part V.

**Rural areas:** mean lands in the rural area which are located outside *settlement areas* and which are outside *prime agricultural areas*.

**Secondary uses:** means uses secondary to the principal use of the property, including home occupations, home industries, and uses that produce value-added agricultural products from the farm operation on the property.

**Sensitive:** in regard to *surface and ground water features*, means areas that provide important functions in the maintenance of *water quality and quantity* and are vulnerable to the loss or reduction of those functions.

**Sensitive land uses:** means buildings, amenity areas, or outdoor spaces where routine or normal activities occurring at reasonably expected times would experience one or more adverse effects from

contaminant discharges generated by a nearby major facility. Sensitive land uses may be a part of the natural or built environment. Examples include: residences, day care centres, and educational and health facilities.

**Settlement area:** means areas within cities, towns, villages and hamlets in incorporated municipalities where development is concentrated (including existing development as well as vacant registered and draft approved lots), and that surrounding land which has been designated for development over the long term planning horizon. In some cases, the settlement area may be no larger than the area where development is concentrated.

### **Sewage and water systems:**

**Municipal Sewage and Water Services:** means development that is serviced by:

- a) a sewage works within the meaning of section 1 of the Ontario Water Resources Act that is owned or operated by a municipality; and
- b) a municipal drinking-water system within the meaning of section 2 of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

**Partial Services:** means development that is serviced by

- a) municipal sewage services or private communal sewage services and private non-communal water services; or
- b) municipal water services or private communal water services and private non-communal sewage services.

**Private Communal Sewage and Water Services:** means development that is serviced by:

- c) a sewage works within the meaning of section 1 of the Ontario Water Resources Act that serves six or more lots or private residences and is not owned by a municipality; and
- d) a non-municipal drinking-water system within the meaning of section 2 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 that serves six or more lots or private residences.

**Private Non-Communal Sewage and Water Services:** means development that is serviced by:

- a) one or more on-site sewage disposal systems within the meaning of s.8.1.2, O.Reg. 403/97, under the Building Code Act; and
- b) one or more individual or shared wells.

**Significant:** means:

- a) in regard to *wetlands, coastal wetlands, and areas of natural and scientific interest*, an area identified as provincially significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources using evaluation procedures established by the province, as amended from time to time;
- b) in regard to the habitat of *endangered and threatened species*, means the habitat, as approved by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, that is necessary for the maintenance, survival, and/or the recovery of naturally occurring or reintroduced populations of *endangered or threatened species*, and where those areas of occurrence are occupied or habitually occupied by the species during all or any part(s) of its life cycle;

- c) in regard to *woodlands*, an area which is ecologically important in terms of features such as species composition, age of trees and stand history; functionally important due to its contribution to the broader landscape because of its location, size or due to the amount of forest cover in the planning area; or economically important due to site quality, species composition, or past management history;
- d) in regard to other features and areas in policy 2.1, ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or *natural heritage system*;
- e) in regard to mineral potential, means an area identified as provincially significant through comprehensive studies prepared using evaluation procedures established by the province, as amended from time to time, such as the Provincially Significant Mineral Potential Index; and
- f) in regard to cultural heritage and archaeology, resources which make an important contribution to the understanding of the history of a place, an event, or a people.

Criteria for determining significance for the resources identified above in sections (c), (d) and (e) are recommended by the Province, but municipal approaches that achieve the same objective may also be used.

While some significant resources may already be identified and inventoried by official sources, the significance of others can only be determined after evaluation.

**Site alteration:** means activities, such as fill, grading and excavation, that would change the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of a site.

**Special needs:** means, for the purposes of policy 1.4.4, any housing, in whole or in part, that is used by people with special needs.

**Specialty crop areas:** means areas designated using evaluation procedures established by the province, as amended from time to time, where specialty crops such as tender fruits (peaches, cherries, plums), grapes, other fruit crops, vegetable crops, greenhouse crops, and crops from agriculturally developed organic soil lands are predominantly grown, usually resulting from:

- a) soils that have suitability to produce specialty crops, or lands that are subject to special climatic conditions, or a combination of both; and/or
- b) a combination of farmers skilled in the production of specialty crops, and of capital investment in related facilities and services to produce, store, or process specialty crops.

**Surface water feature:** refers to water-related features on the earth's surface, including headwaters, rivers, stream channels, inland lakes, seepage areas, recharge/discharge areas, springs, wetlands, and associated riparian lands that can be defined by their soil moisture, soil type, vegetation or topographic characteristics

**Threatened species:** means a species that is listed or categorized as a 'Threatened Species' on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' official species at risk list, as updated and amended from time to time.

**Transportation systems:** means a system consisting of corridors and rights-of way for the movement of people and goods, and associated transportation facilities including transit stops and stations, high occupancy vehicle lanes, park'n'ride lots, service centres, rest stops, vehicle inspection stations, intermodal terminals, and harbours and associated facilities.

**Valleylands:** means a natural area that occurs in a valley or other landform depression that has water flowing through or standing for some period of the year.

**Waste management system:** means sites and facilities to accommodate solid waste from one or more municipalities and includes landfill sites, recycling facilities, transfer stations, processing sites and hazardous waste depots.

**Watershed:** means an area that is drained by a river and its tributaries.

**Wayside pits and quarries:** means a temporary pit or quarry opened and used by or for a public authority solely for the purpose of a particular project or contract of road construction and not located on the road right of way.

**Wetlands:** means lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, as well as lands where the water table is close to or at the surface. In either case the presence of abundant water has caused the formation of hydric soils and has favoured the dominance of either hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants. The four major types of wetlands are swamps, marshes, bogs and fens.

Periodically soaked or wet lands being used for agricultural purposes which no longer exhibit wetland characteristics are not considered to be wetlands for the purposes of this definition.

**Wildlife habitat:** means areas where plants, animals and other organisms live, and find adequate amounts of food, water, shelter and space needed to sustain their populations. Specific wildlife habitats of concern may include areas where species concentrate at a vulnerable point in their annual or life cycle; and areas which are important to migratory or non-migratory species.

**Woodlands:** means treed areas that provide environmental and economic benefits to both the private landowner and the general public, such as erosion prevention, hydrological and nutrient cycling, provision of clean air and the long-term storage of carbon, provision of wildlife habitat, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the sustainable harvest of a wide range of woodland products. Woodlands include treed areas, woodlots or forested areas and vary in their level of significance at the local, regional and provincial levels.

# CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

## Provincial Policy Statement: Draft Policies

This section contains specific consultation questions to stimulate discussion and is provided for your consideration and input.

For your convenience, this section of the discussion paper can be removed and used to mail or fax back your comments to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Comments should be directed to:

Planning Reform Initiative  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Provincial Planning and Environmental Services Branch  
777 Bay St., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M5G 2E5  
Tel: (416) 645-8082 or 1-866-751-8082  
Fax: (416) 585-4006

You can also submit your comments electronically, by visiting [www.planningreform.ontario.ca](http://www.planningreform.ontario.ca)

The government values your input and thanks you for your comments. Public input is essential to ensure we have a land-use planning system that supports a strong Ontario.

***Comments must be received no later than August 31, 2004.***

### Your Contact Information

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Name

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Organization

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Address

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Telephone

Fax

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E-mail Address

















