



May 24, 2023

Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park 17th Floor
777 Bay St
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Dear Sir:

RE: Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, 2023

The County of Peterborough has reviewed the proposed Provincial Planning Statement (ERO# 019-6813) and would like to submit the following comments.

At its meeting held on May 17, 2023, County Council passed the following motion:

Moved by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor Nelson

That Report PPW 2023-13, Report on the draft Provincial Planning Statement, be supported with the exception of 4.3.3 in Appendix A;

That staff be directed to add a cover letter to the Minister and local MPPs, which includes considerations for:

- Local autonomy regarding the number of severances in Agricultural Areas taking into account soil classifications and local mapping, and,
- Removes the broad-brush approach to Natural Heritage mapping that allows for more local autonomy.

That staff be directed to forward the cover letter and report to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and local MPPs as the formal response from Peterborough County on the draft Provincial Planning Statement; and
That a copy of the report and cover letter be forwarded to each local Township for their information.

Carried

Generally speaking, the County of Peterborough is in support of the proposed Provincial Planning Statement (PPS). The County has been on record for a great number of years advocating to be removed from the rigors of the Growth Plan. We appreciate the flexibility contained in the proposed PPS and the ability to consider local elements as we embark on a more County-appropriate approach to land use planning.

You will see in our staff report (attached) that we state our support for many of the proposed policies. However, you will also see from the above Resolution of Council, Council did not support staff comments associated with Section 4.3.3. To be clear, Council is very supportive of our agricultural industry and for the preservation of good farmland. At issue is the lack of flexibility for determining exactly what good farmland is. We would prefer to be able to use our own mapping based on existing ground conditions. Council doesn't necessarily oppose some/limited lot creation on farmland however, it would like the ability to determine the number of new lots based on local soil classes.

Council also wants to address the identification of natural heritage features. While we understand that this component will be considered at a later time by the Province, Council wanted to make you aware that it does not agree with the broad brush approach to the Natural Heritage Systems mapping that is currently in place. Peterborough County undertook an extensive mapping exercise with the assistance and involvement of the then Ministry of Natural Resources and community stakeholders to arrive at our Kawarthas Naturally Connected natural heritage mapping. The ability to utilize this mapping, which is much more accurate and geographically-specific, would assist us in applying more local autonomy to our decision making. We therefore ask that the current Natural Heritage Systems mapping be re-imagined.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed PPS. If Ministry staff have any questions they may contact me or Mr. Iain Mudd, Director of Planning.

Yours truly,

BWeir

Bryan Weir
Sr. Director, Planning & Public Works
County of Peterborough

Cc: MPP Laurie Scott
MPP David Smith
MPP David Piccini

Attachments: Staff Report and Appendix