

October 30, 2016

The Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) strongly supports the proposed changes outlined in the Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review.

We are pleased to note the government's proactive approach to align the four land use plans - the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, and the Niagara Escarpment Plan – to better meet the needs of future generations by planning for the protection of Ontario's agricultural land, water resources and natural heritage while meeting the challenges of future needs for growth and development.

We appreciated the government process of extensive public consultation on this important issue. As part of that process, we fully supported the appointment of an Advisory Panel comprised of representatives from various stakeholder groups who shared their expertise and came to consensus in their recommendations which took into account the needs of all sectors. We note that they underlined the urgency of the need for change.

We are also pleased to see inter-ministry involvement and thus ownership and cooperation in the development - and the implementation - of this plan between the Ministries of Natural Resources and Forestry, and Municipal Affairs.

CFUW Ontario Council strongly supports the proposals which are specified in the Review to:

- enhance protection for natural heritage and vital water resource systems across the whole of the Greater Horseshoe area;
- expand the Greenbelt, adding 21 major river valleys and seven associated coastal wetlands, the four designated parcels of land, and any other areas where important water resources are under pressure from urban growth;
- identify additional areas of ecological significance and important water features where urbanization should not occur;
- address climate change with a Precautionary Principle approach;
- support agriculture and agricultural lands from encroachment.

We also support the government vision of complete cities with vibrant community hubs and the alignment of policies and standardization of methodology which will assist municipalities to achieve them. And we appreciate the move to establish stronger environmental, agricultural and planning criteria in the Growth Plan for settlement area boundary expansions.

We trust that the actions of the government will reflect the sense of urgency recognized by the Advisory Panel, and that the Consolidated Land Use Plan will be quickly approved with all the new provisions to further protect the environment, the water resources, and the natural heritage intact.

Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit organization with 54 clubs across the province, which is affiliated with the national CFUW and Graduate Women International.

Our mandate is to promote education and life-long learning, to encourage the participation of members in their communities and to enhance the status of women and girls.

Our main concerns include high quality public education, universal health care, a clean safe environment, the economic security of women as well as the prevention of violence against women.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Thomson".

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