

**Ministry of
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July 18, 2024

Rebecca Whelan
Deputy Clerk/Information Management Coordinator
County of Dufferin
30 Centre Street
Orangeville, ON, L9W 2X1
Email: rwhelan@dufferincounty.ca

**Re: County of Dufferin Official Plan Amendment 2
Phase 1 of Municipal Comprehensive Review
MMAH File No.: 22-OP-238596**

Dear Rebecca Whelan,

I am writing to you regarding the County of Dufferin Official Plan Amendment 2 (OPA 2). Provincial staff have completed their review of OPA 2 to ensure consistency with the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (PPS), conformity with A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019 (APTG), as well as compliance with the *Planning Act*.

During the review of OPA 2, the Ministry engaged directly with Indigenous communities and consulted the public through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting 019-7119. Sixteen (16) submissions were received through the ERO, and four (4) comments were directly submitted to the Ministry. The comments mainly focused on site-specific land use redesignation requests, and a perceived lack of clarity regarding the employment land needs identified by the County through its Land Needs Assessment.

Five (5) modifications are proposed to OPA 2 based on the Ministry's review and the feedback received. The modifications to OPA 2 would clarify the population forecast and distribution, strengthen the policy requirement for lower tier municipalities to meet growth and intensification targets set by the county, and correct labelling inaccuracies in one of the tables.

Please find attached a copy of the draft decision with proposed modifications. A rationale for each proposed modification is included in the draft decision with references to the relevant provincial policies and/or legislation. If you have any questions or would like to request changes to the proposed modifications, please let us know at your earliest convenience. If the enclosed proposed modifications are satisfactory, please let us know ideally by August 2, 2024. Ministry staff would be pleased to meet virtually with you to discuss further.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Ian Kerr, Regional Director, Western Municipal Services Office, by email at Ian.Kerr@ontario.ca, or Erick Boyd, Manager, Community Planning and Development, Western Municipal Services Office, by email at Erick.Boyd@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dellarue Howard".

Dellarue Howard
Planner

C. Silva Yousif – Senior Planner, County of Dufferin.

Appendix 1

Rationale for Proposed Modifications to Official Plan Amendment 2 to the County of Dufferin Official Plan

Modification 1 – This modification changes the 2051 population forecast for the County of Dufferin from 100,600 to 100,700 to reflect the adjustment to the population forecast for the lower tier municipality of Mono (see modification # 3).

Modification 2 – This modification corrects a labelling error where the population and employment projections for the county were labeled as the “Greater Golden Horseshoe” instead of the “County of Dufferin”.

Modification 3 - OPA 2 forecast a 47% increase in the population of the County of Dufferin from 2021 – 2051. However, OPA 2 assigned a 2051 population allocation of 9,600 to the Town of Mono, which is slightly less than the current population of 9,700. The proposed population reduction is inconsistent with the intent of policies 5.2.3 e) and 2.2.2 b) of APTG which requires upper tier municipalities to allocate forecasted growth to lower tier municipalities in a manner that would support the achievement of its growth, intensification, and density targets. The growth management strategy for Mono is to maintain a stable population. This modification reverses the population reduction for Mono by keeping the town’s population constant at 9,700 over the 2051 planning horizon.

Modification 4 – APTG policy 2.2.1 4a) requires that municipalities apply the policies of the Growth Plan to support the achievement of complete communities. This modification implements APTG 2.2.1 4a) by adding language to the Official Plan which clarifies that the lower tier municipalities are required to plan for growth targets assigned by the County of Dufferin.

Modification 5 - APTG, policy 2.2.7 2b) establishes a minimum target for designated greenfield areas for the County of Dufferin which the county is required to plan for. This modification implements APTG 2.2.7 2b) by adding language to the Official Plan which clarifies that the lower tier municipalities are required to meet the greenfield density targets assigned by the County of Dufferin.