

October 26, 2016

Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Legislative Building,
Queens Park,
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne,

We support the messages of the Grow our Greenbelt movement and the Food & Water First Organization to protect the Greenbelt and prohibit any removal of land from it.

The Greenbelt plays a vital role in Ontario's economy in addition to providing Ontarians with fresh air, clean water and local food. We urge the Province to act on protecting the Greenbelt's farmland that accounts for 43% of the Greenbelt's area. This precious farmland is home to 11% of Ontario's farms, 55% of Ontario's fruit production and 13% of Ontario's vegetable production. In 2011, farming in the Golden Horseshoe and the Greenbelt alone generated \$2.6 Billion in GDP.

In addition to protecting the current boundary of the Greenbelt, we ask the Province to extend and grow the Greenbelt to include the Bluebelt; key headwater features, significant ground and surface water features, source water areas and urban river valley connections. We support the call for a 1.5-million-acre Greenbelt expansion into Ontario's sensitive water systems.

We strongly oppose the more than 600 requests submitted to the Province to remove lands from the Greenbelt. Municipalities in the GTHA have only used up 20% of their greenfield area designated for urban development until 2031. We ask that developers seeking to remove land from the Greenbelt be directed to those designated areas instead. Furthermore, we oppose the proposed 413 Highway that will pave over prime farmland in the greenbelt and create opportunity for more urban sprawl. Towns and cities are encouraged to grow smart and to meet intensification targets within their urban growth centers and around transit hubs and corridors.

In summary, the Province has always supported and protected the Greenbelt, and we ask that it continue to do so, and to work with community partners to ensure the Greenbelt's prosperity and long term success.

Sincerely,



Gloria Reid
President - Board of Directors
BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association

Attachment: Greenbelt Facts and Figures

Green Belt Facts and Figures

Agriculture¹

- Agriculture is the most significant land use in the Greenbelt, comprising 43% of the Greenbelt area in 2011.
- \$2.6 Billion in GDP was generated from farming in the Golden Horseshoe and the Greenbelt.
- Greenbelt farms are very specific in nature, they are 39% smaller but produce 23% more gross domestic revenue than the average Ontario farm. The Greenbelt is home to 11% of Ontario's farms.
- The Greenbelt is home to around 17% of Ontario's horses and ponies.
- 55% of Ontario's fruit production and 13% of Ontario's vegetable production come from the Greenbelt.

Urban Sprawl

- More than 107,000 hectares of land had been set aside by the municipalities of the Greater Golden Horseshoe to accommodate growth to 2031. About half of that land, 56,200 hectares, is located in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). This supply of land is referred to as the designated greenfield area (DGA)².
- Only about 10,800 of the 56,200 hectares of DGA in the GTHA was developed between 2006 and 2016; less than 20% of the total supply. That leaves 80% of the designated land supply to accommodate another 15 years' worth of growth to 2031 and possibly beyond³. Development should be directed to those lands to protect the Greenbelt from urban sprawl.
- Proposal to build Highway 413 on Greenbelt land, details [here](#).

The Bluebelt

The Bluebelt is a movement to expand the Greenbelt to include key headwater features, significant ground and surface water features, source water areas and urban river valley connections in the Greenbelt designation⁴. The movement calls for a 1.5 million acre Greenbelt expansion into Ontario's sensitive water systems⁵.

Environmental Defence [Check List](#).

Environmental Defence [Report Card](#).

¹ Info quoted from the Greenbelt Foundation and can be found [here](#).

² Info is from a Neptis Foundation publication and can be found [here](#).

³ Info is from a Neptis Foundation publication and can be found [here](#).

⁴ Info is from the Environmental Defence blog and can be found [here](#).

⁵ Info is from the Greenbelt Foundation and can be found [here](#).