

## Appendix 1 - Key Themes

### **Natural Heritage Systems Options-Key Themes**

- Advocacy for the most protective options and that environmental protection be prioritized above other land-use planning objective of the Region and the new Official Plan.
- Request for clarification on the steps of the work program including why mapping at this stage of the work program only being conceptual and misconceptions regarding the identification of a preferred option. ;
- Concerns related to the prioritization of environmental protection versus developable urban land.
- The importance of addressing climate change and biodiversity loss
- Questions and comments on the goals and objectives of the Official Plan and Natural Environment Work Program as well as discussion on canopy, tree, and vegetative cover in the Region
- Questions related to who pays for environment impact studies and determines significance of features associated with development applications.
- Reinforcement for the protection of appropriate buffers and linkages
- Recommendation that tree planting and other private landowner stewardship policies be included in the new Official Plan

### **Water Resource System Options and Watershed Planning-Key Themes**

- Concern over the implementation of policies for unmapped features and timing of when system mapping would be available.
- Requests to prevent ground water contamination by policies that regulate the types of development on highly vulnerable aquifers.
- The importance of integrating watershed planning and growth management was stressed from the perspectives of protecting water quality and natural features in the urban area and reducing sprawl.

### **Growth Management (Regional Structure, Land Needs, Growth Allocations, Settlement Area Boundary Review and Housing)-Key Themes**

- Questions on the methodology for growth allocation
- How the environmental policy review and watershed planning will inform the growth management work.

- The relationship between targets and growth and whether growth can be halted if targets are exceeded.
- Concerns over protecting established neighbourhoods from intensification.
- Concern over urban expansions and how they are assessed through the preparation of the Niagara Official Plan
- Clarification on the definition of “affordable” housing and that planning for “age in place” includes providing housing for the older and younger age demographics.

### **Employment Lands, Urban Design, District and Secondary Plans-Key Themes**

- Clarification on the role different employment areas serve.
- The suitability of brownfields relative to future employment or conversion to other uses.
- The role of heritage building in urban design.

### **Agricultural/Rural Lands, Mineral Aggregate Resources, Archaeology-Key Themes**

- Questions on site specific issues on expected or submitted aggregate applications in Niagara Falls, Fonthill and Port Colborne.
- Questions around the administration of the Archaeological Management Plan.
- Clarification as to how development can take place on some agricultural lands and not on others.
- Clarification on the region’s approach to identifying prime agricultural areas.

### **Infrastructure-Water and Wastewater, Storm Water, Transportation-Key Themes**

- The relationship between development charges and provision of infrastructure.
- Question regarding the use of low impact development standards for storm water management.
- Questions on transit route planning and the provision of housing along transit routes.
- Site specific questions pertaining to existing or planned treatment plants.
- Incorporating cycling in planning for streets and at a broader community level.