

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs and Housing**

Ontario Growth Secretariat

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**Ministère des Affaires
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**Secrétariat des initiatives de
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February 23, 2021

Doug Giles
Acting Commissioner, Planning & Development Services
Niagara Region

Dear Doug Giles:

As part of Ontario's COVID-19 economic recovery efforts, this past summer changes were made to A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe to help increase housing supply, create more jobs, attract business investments, and better align infrastructure while protecting what matters most, including the Greenbelt.

I am writing to you today in follow up to our discussions this past summer regarding the proposed and final changes to the Plan and the upcoming requirements for Municipal conformity. The date by which upper and single-tier municipalities must update their official plans to conform with the policies in A Place to Grow is July 1, 2022. This can be achieved through phasing a series of official plan amendments or a single official plan amendment.

As you know, the Plan's policies require municipalities to designate all land required to accommodate the Schedule 3 growth forecasts to the 2051 planning horizon. We encourage you to work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff at the various stages as you work towards meeting conformity. As a reminder, Official Plans/Official Plan Amendments must be submitted by end of 2021 or early 2022.

Continued engagement with our Indigenous partners helped inform the changes to A Place to Grow. As part of these changes, a reminder that municipalities have a requirement to work with Indigenous communities in recognition of the unique relationship that all levels of government have with Indigenous Peoples.

We are committed to continue working with you and our inter-ministerial partners to achieve balance that ensures local decision-making that better reflects local realities. Should you or your staff have any questions about A Place to Grow, its implementation criteria, or matters related to conformity, please feel free to contact the Ontario Growth Secretariat at growthplanning@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your community and for your ongoing collaboration and engagement in support of effective growth management in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cordelia Clarke Julien', with a stylized, flowing script.

Cordelia Clarke Julien
Assistant Deputy Minister