



November 22, 2022

**Community Leaders**

Natasha Salonen, Mayor  
Wilmot Township  
Sue Foxton, Mayor  
North Dumfries Township  
Dorothy McCabe, Mayor  
City of Waterloo  
Jan Liggett, Mayor  
City of Cambridge  
Joe Nowak, Mayor  
Wellesley Township  
Karen Redman, Chair  
Region of Waterloo  
Sandy Shantz, Mayor  
Woolwich Township  
Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor  
City of Kitchener

**Ambassadors**

David Agro  
Ljubodrag Andric  
Michael Barnstijn  
Kehkashan Basu  
David Buckland  
Ed Burtynsky  
Geneviève Caron  
Severn Cullis-Suzuki  
Ron Dembo  
Louise MacCallum  
Gerry Remers  
R. Murray Schafer  
Jane Urquhart  
Frances Westley, OC  
Morden Yolles

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Dear Government of Ontario,

The **rare Charitable Research Reserve** is a land trust that operates in the Region of Waterloo and Wellington County. In our roles as stewards of conservation land and advocate for wise and responsible land use in Ontario, **rare** must object to many aspects of the proposed Bill 23, also known as the “More Homes Built Faster Act.”

Southern Ontario is one of the most densely populated areas of North America, home to millions of people now, and tens of thousands more expected over the next few years. It is undeniable that people will require housing, although responsibly planning for this growth is a key role of the provincial government. The Greenbelt is one of the most forward-thinking items of planning legislation in Ontario, yet finds itself under continued attack by advocates of outdated, car-centered sprawling development practices. A healthy environment forms the basis of the very ecological services that support human society. These ecological services are free, but for the land they require, and often cannot be replicated by technology and built infrastructure. We encourage the province to find and acknowledge expertise in this area in the planning process. The Greenbelt should be viewed as infrastructure supporting Ontario’s population, rather than as a reserve of potential development land to be plundered for the benefit of corporate interests.

More residents will require greater access to food and water, and result in a greater need for conservation land to support Ontario’s biodiversity and ecological services. The superior planning approach would be to increase the size of the Greenbelt by adding lands in the Paris-Galt Moraine, without decreasing the size of the existing Greenbelt. This approach has long been supported by the residents of Ontario, and advocated by planning experts, including the Greenbelt Advisory Committee.

We encourage the government to seek a more sensible and sustainable approach to long-term planning, including identifying population growth and supporting ecological services that can be accommodated by the land. To do otherwise is to choose a future of shortage and want for Ontarians.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Stephanie Sobek-Swant  
Executive Director

Dr. Tom Woodcock  
Planning Ecologist

