# **From A Place to Grow: Growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe**

**Vision for the GGH**

More than anything, the *Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH)* will continue to be a great place to live, work and play. Its communities will be supported by a strong economy and an approach that puts people first. This approach protects the Greenbelt and will ensure a cleaner environment is passed on to future generations. A Place to Grow will support the achievement of *complete communities* with access to transit networks, protected employment zones and an increase in the amount and variety of housing available.

A healthy natural environment with clean air, land, and water will characterize the GGH. The Greenbelt, including significant natural features, such as the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment, will continue to be enhanced and protected in perpetuity. The GGH's rivers and streams, forests and natural areas will be accessible for residents to enjoy their beauty. Our cultural heritage resources and open spaces in our cities, towns, and countryside will provide people with a sense of place.

Since the introduction of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe in 2006, the region has seen a shift to more compact development patterns, a greater variety of housing options, more mixed-use development in urban growth centres and other strategic growth areas, and greater integration of transit and land use planning.

Despite these early successes, there is still more work to do. Now is the time to build on the progress that has been made towards the achievement of complete communities that are compact, transit-supportive, and make effective use of investments in infrastructure and public service facilities. At the same time, A Place to Grow will continue to ensure protection of our agricultural and natural areas and support climate change mitigation and adaptation as Ontario moves towards the goal of environmentally sustainable communities.

**1.2.1 Guiding principles**

* Prioritize *intensification* and higher densities in *strategic growth areas* to make efficient use of land and *infrastructure*and support transit viability.
* Support a range and mix of housing options, including additional residential units and *affordable* housing, to serve all sizes, incomes, and ages of households.
* Protect and enhance natural heritage, hydrologic, and landform systems, features, and functions.
* **1.2.3 How to read this Plan**
* This Plan informs decision-making regarding growth management and environmental protection in the *GGH*.

**Relationship with other Provincial Plans**

As provided in the [*Places to Grow Act, 2005*](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05p13), where there is a conflict between the Greenbelt, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation, or Niagara Escarpment Plans and this Plan regarding the natural environment or human health, the direction that provides more protection to the natural environment or human health prevails. Detailed conflict provisions are set out in the Places to Grow Act, 2005.