# Memo

To: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

From: Planning, Development and Building Services, Legal and Finance Departments and Economic Development, Town of Oakville

Date: July 31, 2023

Subject: ERO number 019-6813 – Review of proposed policies adapted from A Places to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument

**Comments**

The Town of Oakville is aligned with the province’s goal of building 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years. The town also supports the purpose and intent sustaining the province’s land use planning framework exemplified in the *Planning Act*, A Place to Grow (the Growth Plan) and the Provincial Policy Statement.

The town welcomes the opportunity to provide comments to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on the Minister’s proposed changes to replace and combine the Growth Plan and Provincial Policy Statement into an integrated province-wide land use planning policy document. A formal town submission was made June 29, 2023.

Staff prepared a report to Planning and Development Council, titled “[Information and Update Report on Provincial Initiatives – Bill 109, Bill 23, Bill 97 and the proposed Provincial Planning Statement 2023 – May 15, 2023](https://pub-oakville.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=55110)”. Please see the hyperlinked report for staff responses to the proposed Provincial Planning Statement.

Subsequently, on June 16, 2023, the province added natural heritage policies and associated definitions to the proposed Provincial Planning Statement 2023 via ERO 019-6813 for public consultation until August 4, 2023.

Staff provides the following additional comments in response to the proposed natural heritage policies:

* Staff recommends the province maintain watershed policies to “require” rather than “encourage” watershed planning that promotes a provincial and coordinated effort to assess and mitigate potential impacts.
* Staff points out that the Growth Plan Natural Heritage System is not carried forward in the proposed Provincial Planning Statement, however staff are supportive that the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System mapping and policies are being maintained as part of the overall provincial policy framework.
* Overall, staff supports the province’s direction to maintain the natural heritage policies through the Provincial Planning Statement 2023 and provide municipalities with certainty about how the policies will apply.

The additional comments in this memo should be reviewed in conjunction with the town’s earlier submission that addresses the other aspects of the proposed changes via ERO 019-6813.

The Town of Oakville will continue to monitor and adapt to the changes enacted by the province. With respect to housing, the town will keep increasing housing supply through improved processes and efficiencies. The town looks forward to ongoing and future consultation with the province in delivering an appropriate range and mix of housing.

Should there be any questions or follow-up from this Memo, please contact Planning Services at the Town of Oakville.