



May 23, 2023

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON
M5G 2E5

Come for a visit. Stay for a lifestyle.

**RE: Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, 2023
Bill 97, Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023**

Whereas the goal of increasing housing supply and reducing barriers in planning processes as set out in the recent legislative, regulatory and policy changes, is welcomed.

Whereas the Municipality of Trent Hills is a predominantly rural municipality with a large farming population, supported by three urban centres and subsequent rural hamlets.

Whereas language within the proposed PPS with respect to Employment Policies (Section 2.8.1 Policy 4.) and Agricultural Policies (Section 4.3.3. Policy 2.) would dramatically remove municipal power and render aspects of municipal Official Plans inoperative, terminating some local planning autonomy, and directly interfering with municipalities' ability to meet local variation and unique community needs;

Whereas the proposed PPS changes that would allow proliferation of lots with protection restricted to specialty crop areas only diminishes the purpose, uses, and integrity of rural and agricultural lands, thereby removing protection and restricting future uses of those lands (Section 4.3);

Whereas the proposed PPS changes encourage sprawl and rural roadway strip development, rather than more fiscally and environmentally sustainable practices like intensification in established settlement areas (Sections 2.5, 2.6, and 4.3);

So be it that the Council of the Municipality of Trent Hills urges the province to cancel proposed changes to the PPS with respect to; a) removal of municipal planning autonomy (sections 2.8.1 Policy 4 and Section 4.3.3 Policy 2) and b) rural and agricultural lands (sections 2.5, 2.6, and 4.3).

Sincerely,

Mayor Bob Crate
The Municipality of Trent Hills

Encl: Report PLN-2023-039 re: Proposed Provincial Planning Statement 2023 - Bill 97

Municipality of Trent Hills

P.O. Box 1030, 66 Front Street South, Campbellford, ON K0L 1L0
t: 705.653.1900 f: 705.653.5203

trenthills.ca