

March 21, 2024

### **Electronic Submission Only**

**ATT:** Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay St., Toronto,  
Ontario, M5G 2G2

**RE: Comments on proposed amendments to the Official Plan Amendments Act, 2023 to retroactively reinstate municipally requested modifications to official plans for the cities of Barrie, Belleville, Guelph, Hamilton, Ottawa, and Peterborough, Wellington County and the regions of Niagara, Peel, Halton, York and Waterloo**

Environmental Registry of Ontario Number: 019-8273

### **Background:**

On February 20, 2024, Bill 162, Get it Done Act, 2024, was introduced in the Ontario Legislature. The Bill proposes amendments to 6 Acts, including the Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023. Schedule 3 of Bill 162 proposes changes to the Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023. The proposed amendments if passed, would update plans in response to municipal feedback. The proposed amendments follow recent consultation with the affected municipalities, and where appropriate, respond to the feedback from these municipalities. On March 5, 2024, staff presented staff report [PL-27-24 Titled: Bill 162, Get it Done Act, 2023 Update](#) to the Committee of the Whole. The purpose of the report was to provide an update related to Bill 162 as well as a brief discussion of the proposed amendments to the Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023 and to provide staff comments.

### **Previous Engagement:**

In the Fall of 2023, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing introduced legislation (Bill 150) to wind back certain modifications made to official plans and official plan amendments through the Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023. This included the modifications made by the Minister to the Region's Official Plan through the Minister's decision on Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA 49). On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Council endorsed the draft letter from the Mayor to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding support for ROPA 49 changes. Bill 150 received Royal Assent on December 6, 2023.

Community Planning Department Report [PL-75-23](#) titled Draft Submission: Minister's modifications and supporting Burlington's Strategic Objectives was considered by Community Planning, Regulation and Mobility Committee (CPRM) on December 5, 2023, and by Council on December 12, 2023, the Mayor provided comments to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing that indicated Council's support of the Minister's modifications to ROPA 49 through a

letter dated December 7, 2023, which identifies that Burlington City Council unanimously supported the following:

- *“Maintaining the 2051 time horizon. The Burlington Official Plan, 2020, Targeted Realignment Exercise – Initial Work Plan and associated efforts will include technical study, planning analysis and engagement to clarify local growth expectations. Population and employment expectations are likely to be significantly higher than reflected in policy in Table 1 of the Halton Region Official Plan, as modified by the Minister.*
- *Maintaining the addition of two new Urban Areas, specifically Eagle Heights and Bridgeview. The policies of the Regional Official Plan provide sufficient guidance to undertake appropriate processes to confirm the nature of development in these two areas.*
- *Maintaining the removal of the Employment Area overlay for Bronte Creek Meadows and 1200 King Road. Both areas are within the ROPA 38 Urban Boundary and may present key opportunities to explore and potentially leverage servicing priority through discussions with the Region of Halton.”*

### **Current Engagement:**

#### **ERO 019-8273 – Bill 162, Get It Done Act, 2024, Proposed Amendments to the Official Plan Amendments Act, 2023:**

Staff are supportive of the changes proposed to the Official Plan Amendments Act, 2023 through Schedule 3 of Bill 162, Get it Done Act, 2024. If approved, the proposed amendments will provide clarity with respect to the Regional Official Plan and will act to support the City in moving forward with appropriate processes to establish the City’s vision for achieving vibrant mixed-use neighbourhoods inclusive of the following elements:

- economic benefits including future employment targets that increase future property assessment growth.
- social benefits including affordable and attainable housing, public parks and greenspace and community facilities and amenities.
- environmental benefits including climate mitigation and adaptation, natural heritage preservation and enhanced integrated mobility.

The city of Burlington remains committed to meeting or exceeding the Housing pledge of 29,000 units and will continue to work collaboratively with the respective ROPA 49 landowners and the public in advancing the City’s interests on these lands. Priority will be given to achieving the City’s community responsive growth management objectives and long-term community development goals related to achieving vibrant mixed-use neighbourhoods.

Staff note that in addition to the modifications that were retained through Bill 150, the proposed legislation includes all of the Minister’s modifications relevant to the City of Burlington, with the exception of Modification 44 and staff have no concerns with this modification not being retained at this time.

Everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. We look forward to working together with the Province of Ontario, the public, and the development community on innovative solutions and partnerships to increase attainable housing options for residents at every stage of life.

**Next Steps:**

Please accept this letter as the City of Burlington's submission on ERO posting Number 019-8273. Given the short period for consultation the attached comments have not been approved by City Council. This letter will be shared with the City's Council at the earliest opportunity. Should Council determine any additional comments or refinements to these comments are required, the Province will be advised at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Tellier', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jamie Tellier, MCIP,RPP  
Director of Community Planning  
Community Planning Department  
City of Burlington