

Developing a co-ordinated approach to planning Ontario

The Premier of Ontario recently released letters that have been sent to:

- The Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Community and Social Services
- The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

The letters outline clearly the importance of connecting the directions and policies of these ministries if we are to build stronger communities and a better quality of life for all. This position supports what the Peterborough community has been striving for over the past many years.

The government's most recent Speech from the Throne outlined a number of key priorities:

- Growing the economy and helping to create good jobs in order to create more opportunity and security, now and in the future.
- To do so the province will encourage strategic investments in the talent and skills of people, from childhood to retirement.
- This is supported through:
 - the building of modern infrastructure, transit and a seamless transportation network and,
 - development of a dynamic business climate that thrives on innovation, creativity and partnerships to foster greater prosperity.

Specifically the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing was directed to:

- strengthen and support communities across the province by improving affordable housing and land use planning,

- protect the environment and agricultural lands,
- strengthen partnerships with municipal governments, and
- review provincial policies relating to disaster relief and building codes to ensure that Ontario’s communities are safe, connected and able to thrive.

The letters to all 3 ministers emphasize the importance of co-ordination amongst their portfolios. The directions for each ministry reflect the inter-relationship needed for stronger communities.

The following examples underscore these directions and are supportive of work presently underway in a variety of Peterborough community initiatives:

Directions to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing:

Moving Forward on Social and Affordable Housing

Provincial directions	Local examples of how this is needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working to implement the renewed five-year agreement with the federal government on the Investment in Affordable Housing program. As part of this investment,(there will need to be) improved availability of suitable, affordable housing for seniors and collaboration with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to expand supportive housing opportunities for people with mental health and addictions issues. 	<p>Supported by the directions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Peterborough’s 10-year housing & homelessness plan, 2014-2024” • Consultations led by the Housing Supply Committee of the Affordable Housing Action Committee • Local submissions made to the Local Health Integration Network re developing alternatives to long-term care facilities for the young adult • Affordable Housing Action Committee, “Housing is Fundamental”, 2014 • Peterborough Drug Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to work collaboratively with the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, other provinces, territories and municipal partners to call on our federal partners to commit to long-term funding for social and affordable housing. 	<p>Supported by directions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Supply Committee of Affordable Housing Action Committee • Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network • Peterborough Social Planning Council, “Quality of Life Report – Indicators Vital to Our Community”, 2012.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking a review of the Long-term Affordable Housing Strategy by 2015-16 to support Realizing Our Potential, Ontario’s Poverty Reduction Strategy. (A review will be 	<p>Supported by directions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Peterborough’s 10-year housing &

Provincial directions	Local examples of how this is needed
<p>) conducted in collaboration with the Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Minister of Community and Social Services, MOHLTC and other relevant ministers. This work will include examining the methods available to measure housing needs and related metrics, and ensuring that the strategy reflects current research and best practices and (the) goal to end homelessness.</p>	<p>homelessness plan, 2014-2024”</p>
Improving Land Use Planning	
Provincial directions	Local examples of why/how this is needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking initiatives for Ontario’s one-window land use planning system, that will balance the need to support economic growth, protect the environment and improve the province’s social well-being. 	<p>Supported by directions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Peterborough’s Sustainability Plan • Farms at Work & Peterborough Social Planning Council’s report “Proceedings from The Future of Food & Farming Summit” October 11, 2012 • Future of Food & Farming Working Group • Transition Town • Peterborough Economic Development Strategic Planning Process • City and County of Peterborough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the development of sustainable, transit-friendly complete communities by amending the Planning Act and the Development Charges Act to improve land use planning and encourage smarter growth, with these amendments ensuring respect for local official plans and decision-making, generating more growth-related revenue for transit, requiring that citizen input is considered in the land use planning process and having the effect of reducing the number of applications to the Ontario Municipal Board. 	<p>Supported by directions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Peterborough Comprehensive Transportation Plan • Peterborough Social Planning Council, “Quality of Life Report – Indicators Vital to Our Community”, 2012. • Peterborough Social Planning Council, “Planning for Great Streets: A report on how the City of Peterborough can transform its street network into cherished public space”, 2010. • Peterborough County City Health Unit, Community Action Plan, 2010 • City of Peterborough Official Plan update, ongoing consultation process • Peterborough Green Up • Peterborough County City Health Unit, Green Up, City of Peterborough: Active

Provincial directions	Local examples of how this is needed
	Transportation & Health Indicators, 2014
Reviewing Provincial Growth and Greenbelt Plans	
Provincial Directions	Local examples supporting why/ how this is needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading the co-ordinated review of the Growth Plan and the Greenbelt Plans, working closely with the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister of Transportation and relevant stakeholders. (The) goals are to improve alignment across provincial plans and transit investments, and to support planning and development decisions that will create more complete communities across the province, providing options for healthier living and shorter commute times for Ontarians. 	<p>Supported by directions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Peterborough Comprehensive Transportation Plan Peterborough Social Planning Council, “Quality of Life Report – Indicators Vital to Our Community”, 2012. Peterborough Social Planning Council, “Planning for Great Streets: A report on how the City of Peterborough can transform its street network into cherished public space”, 2010. Sustainable Peterborough’s Sustainability Plan Future of Food & Farming Working Group of Sustainable Peterborough, co-facilitated by Farms at Work & Peterborough Social Planning Council. Peterborough County City Health Unit, Community Action Plan, 2010 City of Peterborough Official Plan update, ongoing consultation process Peterborough Partnership Council on Immigrant Integration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working to protect prime agricultural lands. (The Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing) will do so as part of the co-ordinated reviews of provincial land use plans, working with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and in consultation with farmers, municipalities, stakeholders and the public. 	<p>Supported by directions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Peterborough’s Sustainability Plan Farms at Work & Peterborough Social Planning Council’s report “Proceedings from The Future of Food & Farming Summit” October 11, 2012 Future of Food & Farming Working Group of Sustainable Peterborough Transition Town City of Peterborough & County of Peterborough Official Plan Update processes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalizing the indicators for the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and for the Greenbelt Plans to assess the results of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Peterborough, County of Peterborough Sustainable Peterborough’s Sustainability

Provincial directions	Local examples of how this is needed
plans' implementation and develop reports to monitor progress toward more complete communities and the achievement of the plans' goals.	Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peterborough Partnership Council on Immigrant Integration Peterborough 2030: Moving Towards a Diverse Future, 2014
Developing a Community Hubs Policy	
Provincial Directions	Local examples supporting why/ how this is needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, Education, and others, to consult with stakeholders and develop clear government policy on community hubs. This policy will promote efficient use of public assets and build better ties among schools, municipalities and community organizations. 	Supported by directions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peterborough Social Planning Council' report "Global Age-friendly Cities: How does Peterborough compare?", 2012 Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network City of Peterborough's Official Plan Update process

Directions to Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Putting Patients at the Centre — the Right Care, Right Place, Right Time	
Provincial directions	Local examples of how this is needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Championing the delivery of quality coordinated care to patients by making the best use of the skills and capacity of all our health care providers, hospitals, community clinics and organizations, long-term care homes and others. (the Minister) will take the lead in ensuring that changes are informed by evidence — and that Ontario's precious health care dollars improve quality of care and health outcomes for patients and families. 	Supported by directions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Peterborough's 10-year housing & homelessness plan, 2014-2024" Consultations led by the Housing Supply Committee of the Affordable Housing Action Committee Local submissions made to the Local Health Integration Network re developing alternatives to long-term care facilities for the young adult Affordable Housing Action Committee, "Housing is Fundamental", 2014 Peterborough Council on Aging Trent Centre on Aging & Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to expand home and community care to ensure that people receive care as close to home as possible. 	Supported by directions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peterborough Social Planning Council, "Global Age-friendly Cities: How does Peterborough compare?", 2012 Peterborough Social Planning Council, Trent

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Provincial directions	Local examples of how this is needed
	<p>University, Trent Centre for Community Based Education, City of Peterborough, “Voices of Seniors: A report on how the City and County of Peterborough can create a better senior-friendly community”, 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations led by the Housing Supply Committee of the Affordable Housing Action Committee • Local submissions made to the Local Health Integration Network re developing alternatives to long-term care facilities for the young adult • “Peterborough’s 10-year housing & homelessness plan, 2014-2024” • Peterborough Council on Aging • Trent Centre for Aging & Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to expand home and community care to ensure that people receive care as close to home as possible. • Improving the capacity of the health care system by making the following investments: capital grants for major hospital expansion and redevelopment projects; community infrastructure to help shift care from hospitals to community settings; and home and community care services. 	<p>Supported by directions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peterborough Social Planning Council, “Global Age-friendly Cities: How does Peterborough compare?”, 2012 • Peterborough Social Planning Council, Trent University, Trent Centre for Community Based Education, City of Peterborough, “Voices of Seniors: A report on how the City and County of Peterborough can create a better senior-friendly community”, 2013 • Consultations led by the Housing Supply Committee of the Affordable Housing Action Committee • Local submissions made to the Local Health Integration Network re developing alternatives to long-term care facilities for the young adult • “Peterborough’s 10-year housing & homelessness plan, 2014-2024” • Peterborough Council on Aging • Trent Centre for Aging & Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working as part of <i>Realizing Our Potential, Ontario’s Poverty Reduction Strategy</i> to expand access to health benefits for children in low-income families. You will do so in collaboration with the ministers Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy, of 	<p>Supported by directions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Needs Committee of Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network (Member of OOHA)

Putting Patients at the Centre — the Right Care, Right Place, Right Time	
Provincial directions	Local examples of how this is needed
<p>Community and Social Services, of Children and Youth Services, and others. This will build on work underway to expand access to existing dental programs to all low-income children. I also ask that you explore long-term options for a sustainable program that provides health benefits to lower-income Ontarians.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping develop a policy on community hubs that reflects the perspective of health and wellness. You will work on this in partnership with the ministers of Education and of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Associate Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (Long-Term Care and Wellness), and others — and in consultation with stakeholders. 	<p>Supported by directions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network Peterborough Council on Aging & Society City of Peterborough Official Plan Update process

Directions to Minister of Community & Social Services

Transforming Social Assistance and Developmental Services	
Provincial directions	Local examples of how this is needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driving long-term transformation of the social assistance system....the changes implemented (must) promote greater independence by improving incomes, encouraging work and enhancing access to core supports outside the social assistance system. (The Minister) will work with stakeholders, municipalities and other ministries to revise key benefits to improve the accountability and integrity of the social assistance system. 	<p>Supported by directions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The many community agencies working to alleviate poverty through their services and programmes and supported by the membership of the Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, of Municipal Affairs and Housing, of Education and others, as required, to develop a policy on community hubs. This policy will support using public assets efficiently — and building stronger ties among community organizations, schools and municipalities. 	<p>See above notations</p>

For the full letters go to:

<http://www.ontario.ca/government/2014-mandate-letter-municipal-affairs-and-housing>

<http://www.ontario.ca/government/2014-mandate-lettercommunity-and-social-services>

<http://www.ontario.ca/government/2014-mandate-letter-health-and-long-term-care>

For more information about our InfoNotes contact: Dawn Berry Merriam at 705-743-5915 or email dawnbm@pspc.on.ca.

