



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

Committee Report

To: Chair and Members of the Planning Committee
From: Jameson Pickard, Senior Policy Planner
Date: Thursday, February 08, 2024
Subject: Bill 150 - Planning Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023



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1.0 Background

On November 16, 2023, Bill 150, Planning Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023, was introduced in the Ontario Legislature. The purpose of this bill is to roll back the Provincial decisions on 12 different municipal official plan amendments, including County of Wellington Official Plan Amendment 119. The Bill also included amendments to the Planning Act that updated immunity provisions for the Province. Bill 150 received Royal Assent and passed into law on December 6, 2023.

To achieve the rollback of Provincial decisions, Bill 150 enacted new legislation called the Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023, which detailed the legal framework for the reversal of official plan modifications. The Act clarifies the effective date of the 12 municipal official plan amendments subject to the legislation, as well as Provincial modifications that would continue to be in effect once the legislation passed into law. The Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023, became law on the same day Royal Assent was given to Bill 150 (December 6, 2023).

2.0 Official Plan Amendment 119

As the Committee is aware, Official Plan Amendment 119 (OPA 119) was the County's first official plan amendment under the Official Plan Review project. OPA 119 set in place policies and mapping to revise the County's growth structure to support forecasted growth until 2051. County Council adopted OPA 119 on May 26, 2022, and the Province approved the amendment on April 11, 2023, with 33 modifications. Staff prepared Planning Committee report [PD2023-16 County Official Plan Review - Provincial Approval of OPA 119](#), which provided a review of the original Provincial approval of OPA 119 and associated modifications.

With the Official Plan Adjustment Act in effect, the original Provincial decision and modifications to OPA 119, including all urban boundary expansions and employment area conversions that the government introduced, have been reversed, and a re-modified OPA 119 is now in effect. This decision restores OPA 119 to its original Council-adopted version with an effective date of April 11, 2023, subject to the following 6 Provincial modifications that continue to apply:

- 1) Policy 4.1.5 i) is revised to clarify the County engagement with Indigenous Communities related to cultural heritage and archaeological resources.
- 2) Policy 13.18 Indigenous Engagement is added to clarify that the County will engage with Indigenous communities with Aboriginal and treaty rights or traditional territory in the area regarding land use planning matters.

- 3) Schedules A-1, A-3, A-4 and A-8 to Official Plan Amendment 119 are modified to reflect the Greenbelt Boundaries of the Greenbelt Area, as defined in the *Greenbelt Act, 2005*.
- 4) Schedules A-1 and A-3 to Official Plan Amendment 119 are modified to identify the community of Brisbane, Town of Erin as a hamlet in the Greenbelt Plan, 2017.
- 5) Schedules A-1, A-8, and A-16 to Official Plan Amendment 119 are modified to remove parts of the Regionally Significant Economic Development Study Area that are located in the Greenbelt Boundaries of the Greenbelt Area, as defined in the *Greenbelt Act, 2005*.
- 6) Schedules A-1 and A-8 are modified to delete the hamlet of Puslinch from being identified as a hamlet within the Greenbelt Plan, 2017, as amended. Schedule A-17 is deleted in its entirety. (Staff note that this decision does not preclude the re-consideration of identifying the Hamlet of Puslinch through a future review of the Greenbelt Plan).

3.0 Provincial Request for Municipal Feedback

The Province asked for feedback from Member Municipalities about changes they would like to see made to the official plan, based on the modifications that the Province had previously made to OPA 119. The 45-day comment window ended December 7, 2023. All Member Municipalities and the County submitted additional comments to the Minister to clarify their position on the past modifications. At this time, Ministry Staff have been unable to confirm the timing or approach for moving forward to consider such changes.

4.0 Next Steps

Now that the decision on OPA 119 is final, Planning Staff will update the applicable text and schedules of the Official Plan to incorporate the most recent Provincial decision and modifications. With regards to further Official Plan changes related to municipal feedback on OPA 119, Staff will report back to the Planning Committee when additional details are known.

In response to the Provincial modifications related to Indigenous consultation, the Planning and Development Department will be reviewing its approach to engagement with Indigenous Communities and will report back to the Planning Committee at a later date. It is noted that the endorsed technical work and adopted official plan amendments under the Official Plan Review Project all underwent Indigenous consultation with Indigenous Communities that have interests in Wellington.

5.0 Recommendation

That the Planning Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023 report be received for information.

That the County Clerk circulate this report to Member Municipalities for information.

Respectfully submitted,



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