



**Halton Region Federation of Agriculture**

Halton Region Federation of Agriculture • 650 Joyce Blvd., • Milton, ON L9T 3C6  
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January 25, 2021

The Regional Municipality of Halton  
1151 Bronte Road,  
Oakville, Ontario  
L6M 3L1

Subject: Regional Official Plan Review

Attention: Halton Regional Chair and Halton Regional Councillors

The Halton Region Federation of Agriculture (HRFA) acts as the voice for our 350+ members regarding concerns of agriculture in the Region of Halton. The HRFA has been active in Halton since before the Region became a Region and has been involved in every Regional Official Plan (ROP) review (or new plan) to date. While we are not planners, we have experienced and dealt with the “on the ground” fall out of the ROP. The HRFA does have ROP perspective and expertise to offer. To get it right we need to work together.

The HRFA has deep concerns with Regional Official Plan Policy and how it is developed. The process status quo is not working for rural policy. The HRFA is planning to work with both Regional Staff and Regional Councillors (to the extent that we are permitted) to try and ensure good workable rural policy is developed such that agriculture is enabled and productive.

For Regional Councillors we feel it is important for you to understand the issues. To that end we will be meeting with (offering to meet with) individual or small groups of councillors to discuss rural issues and possible solutions. In addition, we plan on highlighting some of the issues to council. To that end this letter includes a HRFA Board motion confirming HRFA position on Urban expansion. This issue was also addressed in response to questions during the HRFA presentation to council on November 18, 2020.

*This resolution is to confirm HRFA position with regards to Regional Planning.*

1. *The HRFA supports firm Urban Boundaries in ROP. Given the long planning horizon there should be orderly phasing such that as much agricultural land remains in production for as long as possible.*
2. *The HRFA encourages and supports Urban Intensification as means to reduce requirements for conversion of agricultural land to Urban Uses.*
3. *The HRFA agrees that HAAC be the primary reviewer of the growth Strategy for the ROP on behalf of agriculture.*
4. *The HRFA advises the Region that we would like a direct and active role in ROP rural policy development.*
5. *Given that the ROP growth strategies all result in the loss of viable farmland the HRFA will be looking for ROP Policy and other programs to make the remaining agricultural lands more productive.*

*Outside of the ROP the HRFA wishes to once again extend the invitation to the Region to join with us and the OFA to figure out how to come up with a long-term plan that keeps agricultural land for agriculture.*

*And that this resolution be forwarded to Director of Planning and Regional Council*

For more details, questions, concerns or to arrange a meeting please contact Nancy Comber, HRFA Coordinator at [hrfa@outlook.com](mailto:hrfa@outlook.com) or 905-876-8026.

Thank you for your attention.

Regards,



Allan Ehrlick  
President HRFA

CC: Halton Regional Councillors

Drew Spoelstra, OFA Vice President and Zone 5 Director

Curt Benson, Director, Planning Services and Chief Planning Official Region of Halton