



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF HAMILTON

**VIA: Mail**

The Honourable Paul Calandra  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

September 11, 2023

Dear Minister Calandra:

On August 18, 2023, Hamilton City Council approved Item 7.5 which reads as follows:

**7.5 City of Hamilton – Request to Abandon Greenbelt Development**

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is committed to reducing the cost of housing and has pledged to facilitate the construction of 47,000 housing units by 2031;

WHEREAS, City of Hamilton staff have concluded that residential housing development within the former Greenbelt lands is unnecessary to facilitate construction of the pledged housing units;

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2023, Hamilton City Council declared "The Minister's decision to remove 795 hectares of land from the Greenbelt Plan is unnecessary and is not supported by the City of Hamilton";

WHEREAS, the Auditor General for the Province of Ontario has confirmed Hamilton's conclusion that "Greenbelt land was not needed to meet the current housing targets assigned to them by the Housing Ministry";

WHEREAS, development of the Greenbelt would be a significant financial liability to Hamilton taxpayers;

WHEREAS, the Auditor General for the Province of Ontario stated: "Land sites removed from the Greenbelt in December 2022 were largely not serviced, were not in their servicing plans, and that many of the sites would be challenging to prioritize and service in the near future..." and "Some of these sites would require considerable infrastructure to prepare them for housing development"; and

WHEREAS, the Greenbelt should be protected as a vital element of Hamilton's environmental and agricultural resources.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton requests the Province of Ontario abandon its plan to develop the Greenbelt and that all lands within the City of Hamilton removed from the Greenbelt be reinstated; and
- (b) That this resolution be circulated to all Ontario municipalities where Greenbelt lands were slated for development for support and a similar declaration to the Province of Ontario.

Your consideration of Council's request is appreciated. We would ask that you reference File #C23-015 when responding to this correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrea Horwath", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Andrea Horwath

File #C23-015

c.c. Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO)  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association  
All Ontario Municipalities (by email)