

Growth Plan Impacts on Slow Growth Municipalities



Growth Plan:

- » Sound principles
- » Supportable directions
- » Uniform applicability

Growth Plan for Low Growth Areas:

- » Sound principles
- » Supportable directions
- » Onerous and unrealistic implementation

Peterborough County has a very low rate of growth. Peterborough County 2011 to 2016: total population increase of 1.78% or 0.26% annually; equates to approximately 200 persons per year.

Based on the Growth Plan, Peterborough County is calculated to grow by only 600 people per year between 2031 and 2041, (700 and 900 per year for CKL and NC respectively).

Places like Durham Region will grow by 22,000 people per year for the same period. Durham Region would achieve a population increase (given a uniform growth rate) of 600 persons within 1.5 weeks.

The required level of analysis, scope of work and the intricate Land Needs Assessment (LNA) methodology is too onerous, complex and costly to justify for our low level of growth. Consultants for the Province on this matter told us in January at the land needs assessment rollout that we shouldn't be part of this process given our low growth situation.

Our feeling is that if we can't manage 600 people per year using the Provincial Policy Statement and policies approved by MMAH in our Official Plan, then there's something seriously wrong.

Options for Slow/Low Growth Upper/Single Tier Municipalities:

1. Removal from the Growth Plan; or
2. Allow for scoped GP implementation requirements/ lesser standards; or
3. Create a "trigger", such as a threshold rate of growth, as a reasonable criteria for undertaking the LNA methodology.

Schedule 3 Provincial Growth Plan: Select Comparison

Municipality	2031 Population*	2041 Population*	10-year Growth	Annual Growth
Durham Region	970,000	1,190,000	220,000	22,000
York Region	1,590,000	1,790,000	200,000	20,000
Peel Region	1,770,000	1,970,000	200,000	20,000
Halton Region	820,000	1,000,000	180,000	18,000
Peterborough County	70,000	76,000	6,000	600
City of Kawartha Lakes	100,000	107,000	7,000	700
Northumberland County	100,000	110,000	10,000	900

* Source: Schedule 3 Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

List of Possible Reports to be Used for Land Needs Assessment:

- Intensification analysis and targets
- Greenfield density target
- Employment density strategy and targets
- Anticipated composition of households
- Housing analysis and strategy
- Age-structure forecast prepared by the municipality (p. 30 and 36)
- Township Building Permit compilations/data

Other Study requirements for Growth Plan implementation:

- Agricultural Impact Assessment
- Watershed Study
- Land Availability Analysis

What's in it for the New Provincial Government?

By enabling a change in legislation as per the above options, it assists in the achievement of new Provincial Government's objectives as follows:

- Reduce wasteful activity for Province and municipalities
- Eliminate costly endeavours that do not match local municipal realities
- Reduce provincial and municipal efforts regarding annual reporting analysis, addressing Growth Plan inquiries, undertaking calculations & projections, monitoring, etc.

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