

December 8, 2020

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Dear Minister Clark,

It is with regret that I submit my letter of resignation, effective immediately, as a Member of the Greenbelt Council.

I thank you for the opportunity to work with such a talented group of experts on the Council who dedicate time and knowledge to sharing with you Council's best advice on planning and policy matters related to *A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* and the *Greenbelt Plan*. It has been an honour to work with Council and its esteemed Chair, David Crombie, as we developed multi-year work plans and engaged key stakeholders who strive to make the Greater Golden Horseshoe a great place to live and work.

I was appointed to the Council in March, 2018, in my capacity as the Executive Director of the Neptis Foundation, a charitable foundation that has long history of producing non-partisan, data-driven research on complex regional planning and policy matters, including a 2002 portfolio of interdisciplinary research that informed Ontario's early smart growth planning initiative led by the Honorable Chris Hodgson.

If the challenge of addressing climate change has taught us anything, it is that we cannot trade off environmental protection in the pursuit of economic growth. Indeed, they are not mutually exclusive endeavors.

Conservation Authorities with their detailed natural systems knowledge and technical expertise are crucial to environmental matters that transcend municipal boundaries, like watershed planning, and to managing risk at the local and regional scale and in communities within and adjacent to the Greenbelt.

Schedule 6 in Bill 229 puts the integrity of planning decisions at risk if they are to be taken in absence of the knowledge and expertise of Conservation Authorities.

Given the passing of Schedule 6 in Bill 229 and the lack of a robust and transparent framework for evaluating requests for Minister's Zoning Orders, considerations for which all members of the Greenbelt Council have set out in our letters of advice, I feel I can no longer meet the obligations of my appointment.

I thank you again for the opportunity to serve you and the public.

Sincerely,



Marcy L. Burchfield

cc: Deputy Minister Kate Manson-Smith; Greenbelt Council Members