

Statement from Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt Co-Chairs on the Provincial Crombie Panel's Greenbelt and Growth Plan Report Release

December 10, 2015 - Toronto, ON – Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt (MLGB) applaud the Crombie report recommendations regarding Ontario's Greenbelt and Growth Plans. The recommendations are a positive high-level step towards improving both provincial plans, and MLGB support the province embracing and enacting the report recommendations in a timely manner. Municipal Leaders Co-Chairs Oakville Mayor Burton, Ajax Mayor Parish and Toronto Deputy Mayor De Baeremaeker agree that given Ontario's recent climate commitments made in Paris at COP21, the Greenbelt and Growth Plan are the province's best tools for progress on climate change.

As part of the Provinces' 2015-coordinated review of both plans, MLGB made three main policy requests urging the government to: 1) Expand Ontario's Greenbelt protecting an additional 1 million acres of environmentally sensitive features and natural heritage systems. 2) Further protect prime agricultural lands and agricultural economies in the Whitebelt by creating a special Foodbelt designation designed for permanent protection of agriculture. 3) Enabling municipal Greenbelt expansions by reducing municipal red tape simplifying the process.

MLGB are pleased to see that the Crombie Panel has listened and included recommendations that speak to our policy submissions. As the province moves forward with amendments to the Greenbelt and Growth Plan in 2016, MLGB will continue to support further strengthening and refining of the plan policies to better protect environmentally significant features and prime agricultural lands inside and outside the Greenbelt and to ensure that smart compact growth is mandated and implemented. This will truly allow Ontario to become a climate leader in North America.

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About MUNICIPAL LEADERS FOR THE GREENBELT (www.greenbeltleaders.ca):
Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt (MLGB) is a network of elected Mayors and Councillors from across the province that support the Greenbelt as a permanent feature of Ontario's landscape. They are committed to protecting the Greenbelt, encouraging the protection and connection of natural heritage systems in Greenbelt adjacent communities, ensuring agriculture thrives and ensuring that planning decisions adhere to the Greenbelt Plan.

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