



# Interoffice Memorandum

**Date:** July 7, 2023

**To:** Regional Chair Henry and Members of Regional Council

**From:** Brian Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development

**Subject:** Envision Durham, new Regional Official Plan

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On May 17, 2023, Durham Region Council adopted the new Regional Official Plan (ROP) pursuant to Sections 17 and 26 of the Planning Act by By-law 38-2023. On June 1, 2023, Regional staff submitted the required documentation related to the adoption of the new Regional Official Plan to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and on June 27<sup>th</sup>, the submission was deemed to be complete by MMAH staff. The new ROP is now before the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for a decision under the Planning Act.

On June 21, 2023, the Region received the attached letter from Minister Steve Clark, advising that the 120-day timeframe has been suspended and that the Region will be notified when the Minister takes additional steps towards approval under the Planning Act. It is unclear why the Minister would take this action at this time, coincident with posting of the new ROP on the ERO ([ERO #019-7195](#)) for a 60-day consultation period. Agencies, stakeholders and the public can submit comments directly to the Ministry until August 20, 2023.

Regional staff will work with Ministry staff as they work through their review of the new ROP and be available to respond to any questions of clarification.

The Regional Municipality of Durham

Planning and Economic Development Department

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**Brian Bridgeman,**  
**MCIP, RPP, PLE**  
Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development

Sincerely,

Original signed by

*Brian Bridgeman*

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development

Enclosed

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

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234-2023-3305

June 21, 2023

Alexander Harras  
Regional Clerk and Director of Legislative Services  
Region of Durham  
605 Rossland Road East  
Whitby, ON LIN 6A3  
[clerks@durham.ca](mailto:clerks@durham.ca)

Dear Alexander Harras:

Bill 109, the *More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022* was passed by the Legislature and received Royal Assent on April 14, 2022. Schedule 5 of the Bill makes changes to the *Planning Act* to:

- expedite approvals and incent timely decisions for zoning, plan of subdivision and site plan applications, and
- ensure provincial housing policies are implemented and priority projects are expedited by providing the province with new tools to address dispute resolution.

One of the *Planning Act* changes provides a new discretionary authority for me as the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to suspend the time period to make a decision on official plans and amendments.

I am writing to notify you that I am using this authority, pursuant to ss. 17(40.1) of the *Planning Act*, to suspend the 120-day timeline for the new Region of Durham Official Plan, which was adopted on May 17, 2023, and received by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on June 1, 2023.

You will be notified when I take further steps under the *Planning Act* in relation to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Clark".

Steve Clark  
Minister

c. Brian Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development