

30-day Consultation on Ford Gov't proposal to destroy the Greenbelt

Deadline for ERO Response is Sunday December 4, 2022

Deadline: Sunday December 4, 2022 - <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6216>

Proposed Amendments to the Greenbelt Plan

ERO number	019-6216
Notice type	Policy
Act	Greenbelt Act, 2005
Posted by	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Notice stage	Proposal
Proposal posted	November 4, 2022
Comment period	November 4, 2022 - December 4, 2022 (30 days) Open

From our friends at Ontario Greenbelt Alliance. [Ontario Greenbelt Alliance](#)

We need your help to stop the Ford Government proceeding with this terrible proposal.

For Organizations:

Contact your supporters and ask them to:

Contact their local MPP today (see talking points below)

Contact your local Mayor and Councillors and ask them to speak out against this land grab

Be ready to sign a joint submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario with dozens of other groups.

Email franzgreenbeltalliance@gmail.com to let him know you are interested.

For Individuals:

Contact your local MPP and local Council today, especially if they are a Conservative (see talking points below)

Contact your friends and family and talk to them about what's at stake and ask them to help you reach out to elected officials

Use your social media channels to share content from the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance and groups like Environmental Defence and Ontario Nature.

Make a formal submission through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (see OGA Statement for possible content)

Reach out to local media and talk to them about this (use OGA Statement for additional talking points).

Remember, this land grab is part of a larger set of actions by the Province to push sprawl development across the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The proposed Bill 23 and related regulatory changes is a **huge attack on sustainable planning, undermine our ability to be climate ready while doing very little to build the affordable mixed housing we need.**

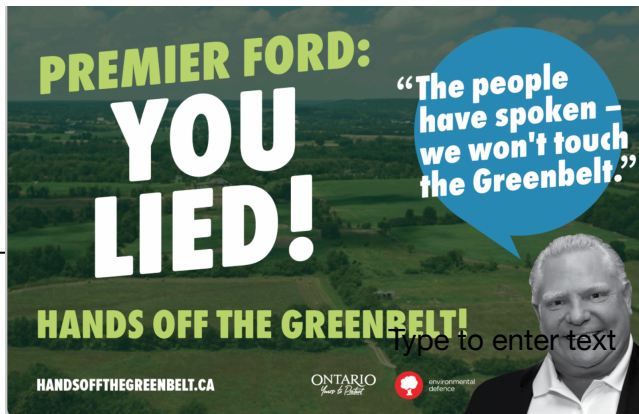
Talking Points For Conversations with Elected Officials

- To truly solve the housing crisis, the Province should focus on land in existing urban areas that is close to transit and services people want and then focus on the 88,000 acres of land in the GTHA that are already zoned for development
- Removing 7,400 acres of farmland and natural areas from Greenbelt protection will not solve the housing crisis and will create a whole new set of problems:
- Harming Ontario's food security by reducing our ability to grow fresh local food.
- Destroying land that provides key ecological services like flood protection and carbon sequestration that we will increasingly rely on as the climate crisis worsens
- Setting a destructive precedent that Greenbelt protected lands will be sacrificed when land speculators want to develop them therefore creating an ecologically damaged "swiss cheese" Greenbelt;
- I do support adding more lands to the Greenbelt, including urban river valleys

**CBC Toronto analysis of property, corporate records reveals developers
who own Greenbelt lands**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/gta-developers-own-greenbelt-land-swap-1.6648273>

Who are the GTA developers set to benefit from Ford government's
Greenbelt land swap?



Petition from Environmental Defence

From Enviromental Defence

[https://act.environmentaldefence.ca/page/117064/
action/1?ea.tracking.id=twitter](https://act.environmentaldefence.ca/page/117064/action/1?ea.tracking.id=twitter)

HANDS OFF THE GREENBELT!

Premier Doug Ford has promised over and over again to protect the Greenbelt, but late on a Friday afternoon, in the middle of a labour crisis, his government quietly dropped a plan to remove 7,400 acres of land from the Greenbelt.

The government says they will replace the lost land with land elsewhere – but many of the proposed additions are already protected. Furthermore, even if those lands weren't already protected, the very possibility of taking any land out of the Greenbelt will undermine its effectiveness by creating an open season on farmland for land speculators and sprawl developers.

These new attacks on our Greenbelt came hot on the heels of Bill 23 - which strips environmental protections to make it easier to build costly car-dependent sprawl.

Bill 23, and associated policy changes, will:

- create a process for selling off conservation lands without oversight
- Strip conservation authority powers which protect us from floods
- Remove protections from woodlands, wetlands and wildlife habitat
- Cancel municipal green building standards

Tell Premier Ford and your Member of Provincial Parliament to rethink Bill 23 and keep their promise to protect the Greenbelt.

The Ontario government's proposed 7,400 acre giveaway to land speculators is a death sentence for the entire Greenbelt

It is clear that this attack would end the critical role the Greenbelt plays to stop sprawl and protect farmland, forests, and the source of our drinking water, as well address climate change. The government should be ashamed and the people of Ontario should be outraged.

Promises by the government to “swap” in 9,400 acres of land in other locations will do nothing to mitigate the damage to the Greenbelt system. That is in part because at least some areas being floated as replacements for bulldozed segments of the Greenbelt were already off limits for development – meaning those additions would not mitigate the net loss of protected lands. Even more importantly, the government's plans would utterly destroy the certainty of permanent protection that is vital to the functioning of the Greenbelt as a whole.

Stripping these 7,400 acres of protection at the request of land speculators would unleash a firestorm of land speculation across the entire Greenbelt – denying farmers the certainty they need to continue stewarding the forests, wetlands and soils on their land, and pushing ownership forever out of reach. It will also start a never-ending queue of Greenbelt land speculators at the Minister's door, each with their own convenient rationalization for paving their own patch of Greenbelt.

There is such a vast supply of unused “greenfield” land already open for development within existing municipal settlement boundaries (350 square kilometers as of 2019), that opening up Greenbelt lands will not deliver a single net new home. The latest round of boundary expansions would – if approved – add 17,000 hectares more of non-Greenbelt land to that vast stockpile. Far from boosting the number of new homes, because of a constrained supply of skilled labour, materials and equipment, it is likely this plan would result in fewer homes being delivered within the next decade.

According to Bilal Akhtar, a prominent volunteer organizer with More Neighbours Toronto: “This proposal would be a disaster for housing supply. Slashing open the Greenbelt, combined with Bill 23's extreme watering down of promised measures to facilitate more homes in existing low-rise “single detached” neighborhoods, will mean LESS housing supply in the places where it is desperately needed – not more. The last thing we need is to squander labour, materials, and equipment that we need to add compact family homes in existing built up areas and settlement areas – and especially in Toronto– on greenfield sprawl in northern York Region and Pickering.”

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Removing land from the Greenbelt, taken together with the Ontario government's Bill 23 attack on Conservation Authorities, the Growth Plan, the Planning Act, the Endangered Species Act and other important legislation, dismantles decades of slow progress toward protecting Ontario's environment and creating more sustainable communities. These actions together repudiate the important and historic work of many previous governments, including those of Bill Davis and Mike Harris.