

Presentation to Committee of the Whole
on
Consultation on Growing the Greenbelt

By
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Big Picture Questions 1

Should the Province enact policies which permanently exclude selected portions of the countryside from urbanization in order to:

- Protect against the loss and fragmentation of the agricultural land base and supports agriculture as the predominant land use,
- Provide permanent protection to the natural heritage and water resource systems that sustain ecological and human health and that form the environmental framework around which major urbanization in south central Ontario will be organized,
- Provide for a diverse range of economic and social activities associated with rural communities, agriculture, tourism, recreation, and resource uses, and,
- Build resilience to and mitigate climate change.

Big Picture Questions (2)

- If it is appropriate for the Province to regulate the allocation of land to countryside rather than urban development is establishing a Greenbelt the best policy to accomplish this goal ?

And

- If establishing a Greenbelt is the best policy alternative to give permanency to the protection of selected areas as countryside, is the Paris-Galt Moraine an appropriate element to add to the protected Greenbelt ?

Answer of the National Farmers Union-Ontario

The NFU-O continues to support, in principle, expanding the Greenbelt to protect water for drinking and agricultural purposes, ecosystem health and climate change mitigation.

Big Picture Questions (3)

Are Countryside river valleys key landscape features of importance to the physical, cultural and spiritual health of urban dwellers and countryside dwellers just as urban river valleys are ?

Why include Urban River Valleys in Greenbelt

Urban River Valleys provide contact with natural beauty which fulfills a widely expressed need for a sense of belonging and purpose.

What is missing from the draft City of Guelph
response ?

Answers to the Big Picture Questions.

Suggested amendments to City Response

1. Expression of support in principle for protection of countryside by setting Greenbelt areas aside from urban development to preserve agricultural land, natural heritage resources and to preserve the environmental services provided by the hydrological functions of moraines.
2. Support inclusion of the Urban River Valleys of the Speed and Eramosa Rivers in Guelph in the Greenbelt as key links to Countryside Greenbelt Areas.
3. Expand the study area for possible inclusion of the Paris-Galt moraine to cover the entire watershed of the Speed and Eramosa Rivers to allow consideration of ways to link Greenbelt area protection with special treatment of Exceptional Countryside River Valleys.