

https://guelphpolitico.ca/2022/11/13/emergency-council-meeting-to-discuss-impact-of-bill-23/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Note to Clerk's Office: Please include the below as a written submission to the meeting package. Thank you.

This is my first letter to the new cohort of Council following the election so firstly congratulations to the new and returning Councillors and the Mayor!

I am pleased to hear that Council will be meeting to discuss the implications of [Bill 23](#).

The stated purpose and intent of the legislation is to address the housing crisis and I think it safe to say no one opposes this goal. That said there are many provisions that are questionable at best. The current provincial government is once again demonstrating that it feels no obligation to provide evidence or reasons for sweeping changes that often go against the best advice available. The disregard for input from stakeholders (other than developers) is particularly concerning and is creating massive public distrust and resistance. While many of the proposed changes have merit others are in direct opposition to the stated aims of the legislation and the [guidance of the government's own advisors](#). In other cases the proposals are blatantly undemocratic as they undermine local democracy and decision making. Some of the provisions break promises made by the government such as opening up the Greenbelt to development. Others undermine public institutions such as Conservation Authorities that were created and only exist to protect people and property from extreme, expensive and deadly events. Still others undermine the ability of municipalities to manage development revenues which will likely lead to even larger property tax increases.

The housing crisis requires timely AND prudent action. Bill 23 is certainly timely but is it prudent? Little time or effort has been dedicated to evaluating this so we don't know. I urge Guelph City Council to join with the [many other municipalities](#) denouncing THIS ITERATION of Bill 23 and calling for amendments based on input from experts and stakeholders....not just developers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin Bowman