

Official Plan Update

Environmental Advisory Committee – April 23, 2025

Agenda

- How we got here
- OP Update Drivers & Theme Areas
- Environmental policy changes
- Next Steps



How we got here



Adopted Official Plan

- Adopted in October 2019 providing a solid foundation for the OP Update
- 2031 planning horizon and growth forecasts
- Completed before new Niagara Official Plan and changes to Provincial legislation and planning policies
- Based on significant community engagement
- Addressed local issues and priorities – including unique agricultural system of NOTL
- Completed before several local plans and strategies

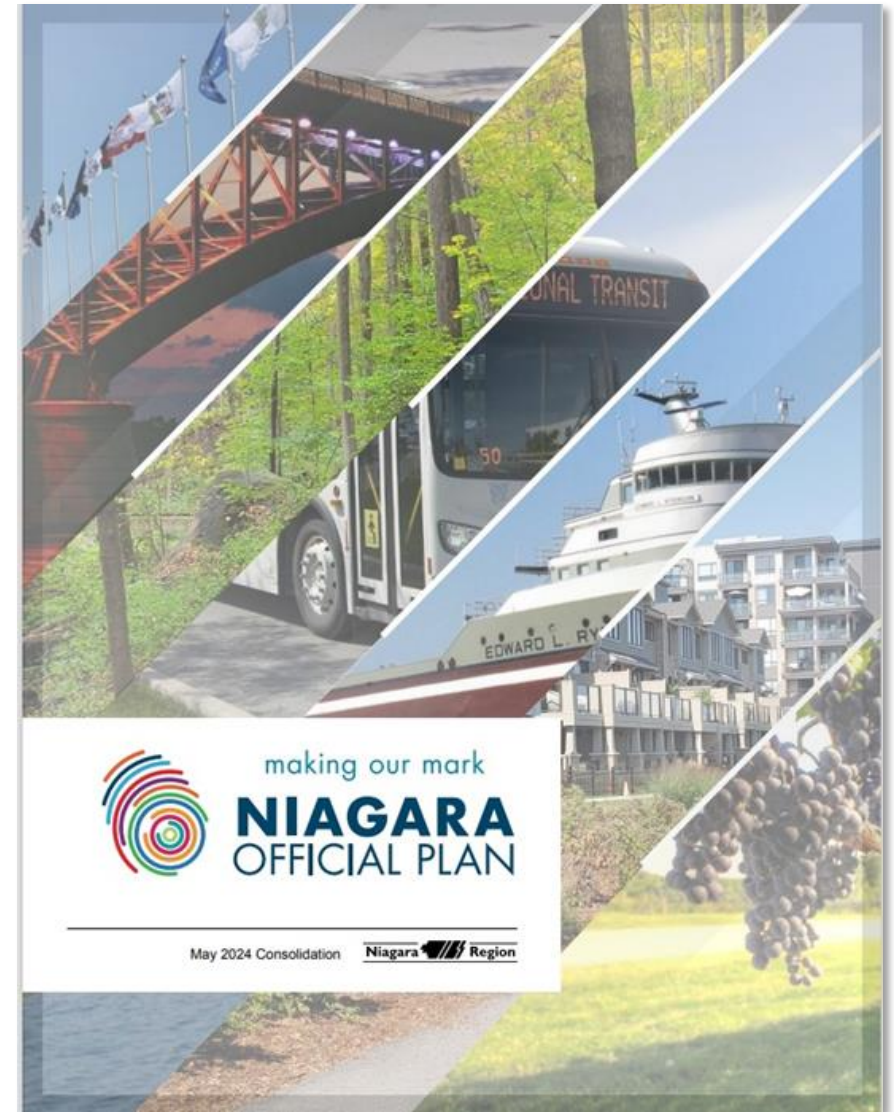
Official Plan Update - Drivers

1. Niagara Official Plan – Conformity and Integration with Town Official Plan; Repeal of Niagara Official Plan
2. Consistency with new Provincial Planning Statement, 2024, Planning Act and other legislation changes
3. Local Priorities

Driver #1

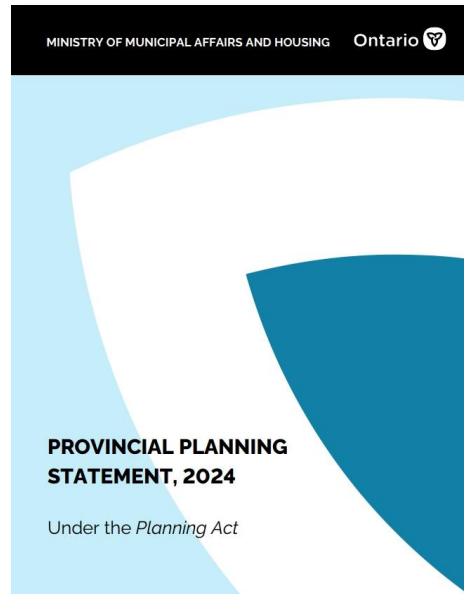
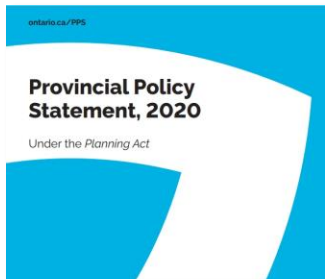
Niagara Official Plan Conformity

- 2051 planning horizon and growth forecasts
- Conforms to Growth Plan, 2020 and Provincial Policy Statement, 2020
- Became an official plan of the Town on March 31, 2025
- Intent to incorporate mandatory NOP policies and mapping into NOTL OP and repeal NOP upon approval of NOTL OP by Minister
- Contains important updates such as new Natural Heritage System, watershed planning and climate change policies



Driver #2

Provincial Planning



- Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 combined and replaced the Growth Plan, 2020 and Provincial Policy Statement, 2020
- Prescriptive Growth Plan policies replaced by more general policy direction
- Policy changes on growth forecasting, growth management, agricultural systems approach etc.



Driver #3

Local Priorities

- Strategic Plan
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Transportation Master Plan
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Glendale Secondary Plan
- Pollution Prevention Control Plan
- Infill/Intensification policies OP Amendment
- Character Study OP Amendment
- Heritage Conservation District Study

Official Plan Update

Theme Areas



Growth
Management



Housing



Employment/
Economy



Climate Change



Agriculture



Cultural
Heritage



Natural
Environment

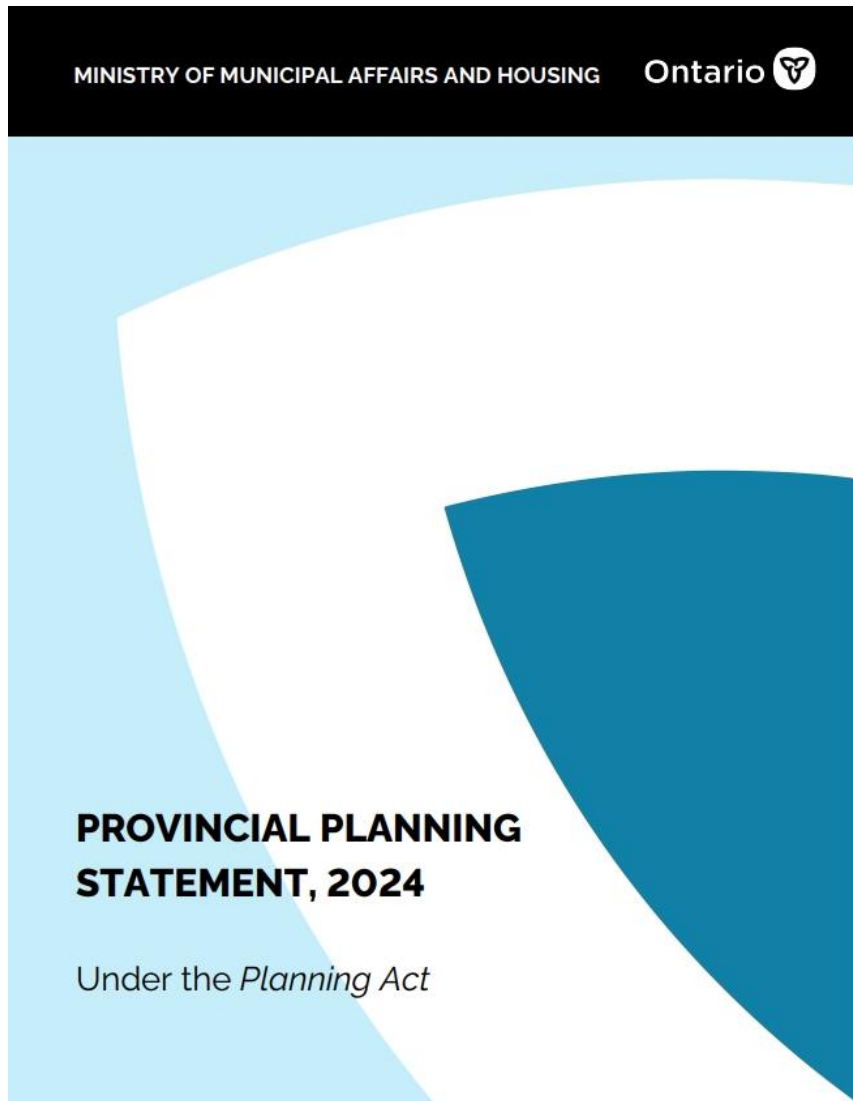


Indigenous
Engagement



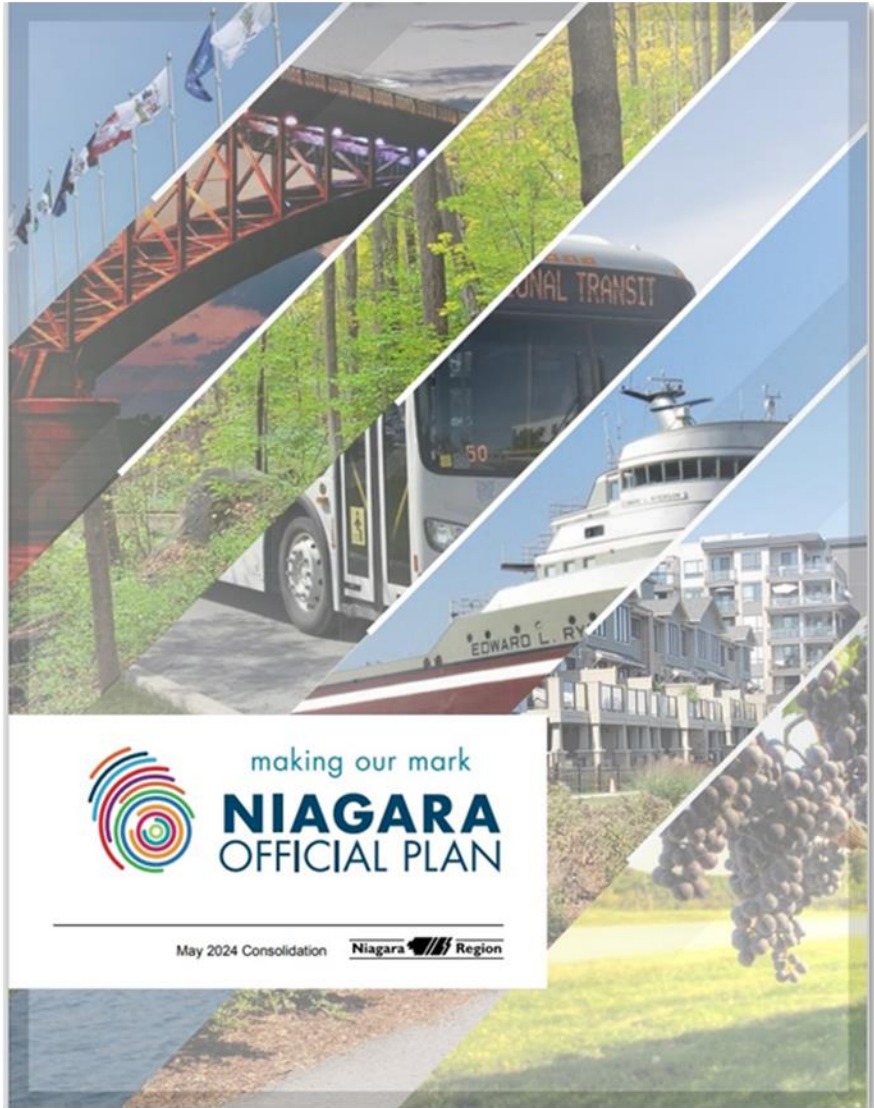
Transportation/
Infrastructure

PPS Environmental Policy Changes



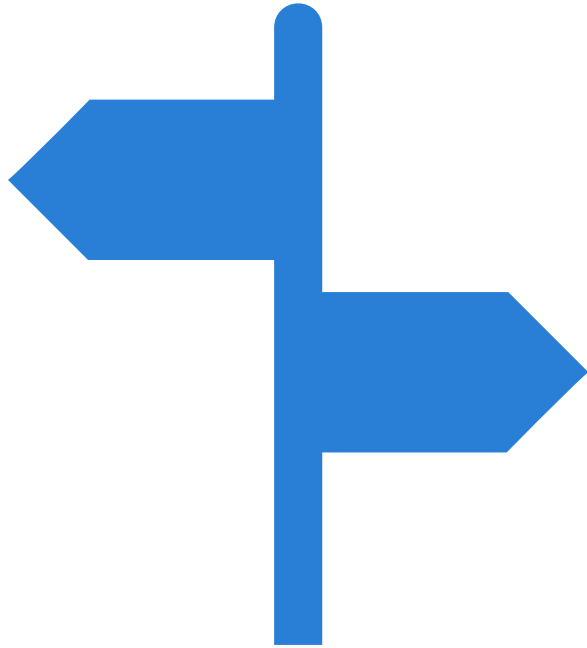
- Municipalities must use “natural heritage systems” approach to map, based on provincial guidance, but not provincially-mapped Growth Plan NHS – no impact in NOTL as it is entirely Greenbelt Plan NHS
- Encouragement for watershed planning to inform planning for servicing and SWM infrastructure
- ‘Watershed planning’ definition added
- Municipalities encouraged to work with conservation authorities in watershed planning
- Planning authorities shall plan to reduce GG emissions and prepare for impacts of a changing climate

NOP Environmental Conformity Review



- Incorporate mapping and policies of the natural environment system into OP and zoning by-law in a manner that implements the NOP
- Responsible for preparation of sub-watershed studies and implementing sub-watershed plans through development review process
- Climate projections must be considered by the local municipality in land use policies, strategies and guidance
- Mapping of Natural Environment System – linkages, buffers
- Address permitted and prohibited uses adjacent to key natural heritage /key hydrologic features and areas
- Address permissions for small-scale agricultural or residential buildings in vegetative protection zones, buffers and adjacent lands, w/o EIS
- Address Special Policy for Tender Fruit and Grape Area in Greenbelt Plan

Next Steps



- Engagement Period (April – May)
 - Town Advisory Committees – Agricultural, Environmental, Heritage
 - Indigenous communities
 - Community groups/ resident associations
- Draft Official Plan to Council/release for public engagement (June)
- Engagement Period (July – August)
- Public Open Houses/Statutory Public Meeting (September)
- Adoption of new Official Plan by Council (October/November)

THANK YOU!

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