

# **Presentation to Council -City of Kawartha Lakes**

## **Speaking Notes (5 Minutes)**

### **Our Greenbelt Vision**

“Mayor and Council. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. We’re here to talk about Ontario’s Greenbelt — the farmland, forests, and water systems that sustain us.

We need the Greenbelt now more than ever. Farmland is disappearing at the rate of 319 acres every day. Flood risks are increasing. And climate change is straining the natural systems that keep our communities safe and livable. The Greenbelt is one of the most effective tools Ontario has to meet these challenges.”

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### **OGA & Presenter Background**

“We are presenting as a supporter of the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance. The Alliance is the province’s oldest and largest Greenbelt advocacy group, representing over 120 member organizations across Ontario.

Together, we believe a healthier and more prosperous Ontario requires a strong and growing Greenbelt — one that protects our water, natural heritage, and farmland, while also helping us adapt to climate change.”

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### **The Greenbelt**

“The Greenbelt isn’t new. It builds on decades of planning and conservation.

- The Niagara Escarpment was protected in 1985.
- The Oak Ridges Moraine in 2002.
- And the Greenbelt Act itself in 2005.

In 2015, David Crombie’s expert panel recommended that the Greenbelt be strengthened and expanded to better protect water and farmland. A 2017 plan was laid out to make this happen, but it was left unfinished after a change in government.

This review gives us a chance to return to that work — and finish the job.”

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## The Greenbelt's Impact

“At 2 million acres, the Greenbelt is a cornerstone of Ontario’s prosperity. It delivers:

- \$9.6 billion in annual economic activity
- \$3.2 billion in ecosystem services like water purification and pollination
- \$224 million annually in flood prevention
- And 71 million tonnes of carbon storage

This isn’t just green space. It’s critical infrastructure for Ontario.”

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## Current Opportunity

“By law, the Greenbelt is reviewed every 10 years. That review is expected this year.

A strong, evidence-based review could give municipalities real benefits:

- Greater planning certainty
- Stronger watershed and environmental protection
- More secure farmland and agricultural systems.

This is a chance to strengthen protections, not weaken them.”

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## OGA Greenbelt Resolution

“That’s why we’re asking Council to pass this resolution.

*‘Therefore be it resolved that [Municipality] Council supports opportunities to expand and strengthen Greenbelt protections, calls on the Province to collaborate with municipalities, Indigenous Nations, and stakeholders, and forwards this resolution to provincial ministers, MPPs, and AMO.’*

This resolution has already been adopted by several municipalities. Adding our City's voice helps create province-wide support.”

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## Greenbelt Champions- What Council Can Do

“Your support matters. By passing this resolution, you show your municipality values farmland, water security, and climate resilience — and that you expect the province to do the same.

Together, municipalities can ensure the Greenbelt review is not just a formality, but a recommitment to Ontario's future."

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## **Closing**

"Thank you for your time and leadership. I'd be pleased to answer any questions."