



## Municipal Heritage Committee Report

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<b>Report Number:</b>	<b>KLMHC2024-029</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	May 2, 2024
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Proposed Provincial Planning Statement Draft Review</b>
<b>Description:</b>	Review of revised draft of the Provincial Planning Statement
<b>Author and Title:</b>	Emily Turner, Economic Development Officer – Heritage Planning

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### Recommendations:

**That** Report KLMHC2023-029, **Proposed Provincial Planning Statement Draft Review**, be received;

**That** comments be prepared for Planning staff by the Chair.

**Department Head:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial/Legal/HR/Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Administrative Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Background:**

Land use planning in Ontario is guided by legislation, including the Planning Act and the Ontario Heritage Act, and by provincial policy. The primary guiding document for land use planning decision making in the province is the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) which is periodically revised and was last updated in 2020. The PPS provides high level policies intended to guide municipal decision making with regard to land use planning matters and provide overarching direction to planning and development across the province. Municipalities must comply with the intent of the PPS in their decision making processes as well as in their planning policies.

As with all municipalities across Ontario, Kawartha Lakes is subject to the policies contained in the Provincial Policy Statement. It is also subject to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019), a secondary planning document that provides specific guidance for communities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Kawartha Lakes is located on the outer edge of the Growth Plan area. This document was last updated in 2019.

Both the PPS and the Growth Plan contain specific policies related to cultural heritage resources. In general, these policies recognize the importance of cultural heritage resources in promoting a sense of place in communities across the province and direct municipalities to identify and conserve cultural heritage resources, generally and through the land use planning process. These policies provide the underpinning for a wide range of heritage processes, including the designation of property and the review of Planning Act applications which are associated with heritage properties.

In April 2023, the province introduced Bill 97, the Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act which made a number of changes to the Planning Act, specifically the creation of a new Provincial Planning Statement which will replace the Provincial Policy Statement and the Growth Plan with a single overarching planning policy document for the entirety of the province. Practically, the new PPS is a revised version of the old PPS while the Growth Plan, which only applies to a certain geographic area within the province, will be repealed when the new PPS comes into effect.

At the time of its initial release, the province posted the draft new PPS on the Environmental Registry of Ontario for comments. Comments were submitted both by the City as a whole, including heritage staff comments, and by the Municipal Heritage

Committee. The Committee's comments are attached to Appendix A of this report for reference.

Initially, municipalities had anticipated the new PPS coming into effect in fall 2023. However, in response to the substantial number of comments received by the province during the initial commenting period, revisions to the draft PPS were made and a revised draft released on the ERO for commenting on April 10, 2024. The commenting period concludes on May 12.

The Committee is encouraged to provide comments on the updated PPS draft. Planning staff are developing a coordinated response to the province and have requested comments by May 3 to allow time to put together a response including comments from various City staff and committees. In the past, the Committee had struck a subcommittee to draft comments. However, the tight deadline does not allow time for a subcommittee to be struck and the comments will need to be formulated within the Committee meeting itself. Staff will provide an more in depth review of the new PPS policies at the meeting.

### **Rationale:**

The policies contained within the PPS guide municipal decision making and strategic and policy direction in relation to land use planning matters. Cultural heritage preservation decisions are made using the policy as guiding principles and justification. As the proposed policies in the new PPS have the potential to substantially impact the heritage related work undertaken by the City, it is prudent for the Municipal Heritage Committee to review and comment on these policies during the commenting period. In the past, a subcommittee has been struck to review the changes more in-depth and provide feedback on behalf of the Committee. A summary of the changes is outlined below and a red-line version of the policy wording is attached to this report as Appendix A. The Cultural Heritage Policies have not changed since the first draft of the new PPS.

### **Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Section**

The Cultural Heritage and Archaeology in the new PPA is similar but not identical to its predecessor and is formatted in the same manner. The majority of changes are changes to wording which, while still allowing municipalities to conserve heritage resources, weaken the general policy direction. Notably, wording regarding significant heritage properties has been removed and been replaced with protected heritage

properties and wording related to development adjacent to heritage properties has been changes.

## **Definitions**

A number of definitions related to cultural heritage resources have been revised. Notably, the definition of “significant” has been removed in line with the wording changes in the policy itself. Similarly, the definition of adjacent has been narrowed to remove scope for municipalities to establish what counts as an adjacent property. Examples previously contained as part of the definitions have been generally removed. The definition of heritage attribute has also been revised considerably to relate more specifically to built attributes, as opposed to tangible attributes such as views and visual settings.

## **Growth Plan Items**

Certain items from the Growth Plan will not be carried over to the new Policy Statement. These are related to language noting the role of cultural heritage resources in fostering a sense of place and direction to consult with stakeholders in developing and implementing official plan policies and strategies for the identification, wise use and management of cultural heritage resources.

## **Other Relevant Items**

A number of other items have been added, removed or modified in the new Policy Statement which relate to cultural heritage resources:

- Wording has been maintained and moved to the preamble elaborating on municipalities’ duty to consult indigenous communities within the land use planning and development process.
- The “Vision” section of the new statement notes that “Cultural heritage and archaeology in Ontario will provide people with a sense of place.”
- Language related to the impact of cultural heritage resources, a sense of place, and well designed built form on economic vitality has been removed.

## **Other Alternatives Considered:**

There are no recommended alternatives.

### **Financial/Operation Impacts:**

There are no financial or operational impacts as a result of the recommendations of this report.

### **Consultations:**

N/A

### **Attachments:**

Appendix A – June 2023 Municipal Heritage Committee PPS Comments



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

Appendix B – Red Line New Heritage Policies



Adobe Acrobat  
Document

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