



• **Formed in 2003 to unite organizations working to:**

- Replace urban sprawl with urban villages
- Promote sustainable, compact and healthy communities
- Ensure people are involved in the planning process

• **Currently 61 members**

www.smartgrowth.on.ca

The Challenge in Ontario:

Accommodate four to six million new people in 25 years

Build compact, vibrant, healthy communities that do not focus on the car

Use scarce tax dollars wisely



What's wrong with the current system?

Environmental impacts

- Increased gridlock
- Poor air quality
- Loss of farmland
- Loss of green space
- Loss of wildlife habitat



Financial costs

Traffic congestion & delay in movement of goods costs Ontario over \$5 B annually in lost GDP

(Ontario Chamber of Commerce)



Costs to taxpayers in the GTA to build & repair roads, bridges, parking lots

\$ 70 B over 25 years



Dense compact communities cost municipalities about 20% less to service (transit, roads, police, recreation)



If current development patterns continue, by 2031:

- Commute times in the region will increase by up to 45 per cent;
- Automobile related emissions will increase by 42 per cent;
- New development will eat up more than 1,000 sq. km of farmland.

(Ontario Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal)

Social Impacts



- Lack of access to community services
- Loss of housing and transportation choices
- Loss of community identity
- Reduced leisure & social time

Health impacts

Decrease in physical activity
=
Increase in obesity, high blood pressure, childhood asthma, diabetes



Ontario Smart Growth Policies

Places to Grow – Growth Plan for GGH

Greenbelt Act

Revised Provincial Policy Statement



1. Develop complete communities



Mixed land uses



Create a variety of housing choices to accommodate life changes



Growth occurs within existing built areas



Infill development



Transform brownfields



2. Invest in infrastructure



• Investments in public transit



• Municipalities accommodate cycling & walking in transportation plans

3. Protecting what is valuable

- Greenbelt
- Identify other natural systems
- Protect agricultural land

