



July 13, 2022

Karen Redman
Regional Chair
Regional Chair's Office
1st Floor, 150 Frederick Street
Kitchener Ontario N2G 4J3

via email: KRedman@regionoofwaterloo.ca

Dear Chair Redman,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Region of Waterloo for the time and attention that has been taken in consultation with Six Nations of the Grand River Consultation and Accommodation Process (CAP) Team in regards to Region of Waterloo Official Plan.

We are very pleased that you have taken our values, world view, and beliefs into consideration when drafting your plan. The Region of Waterloo is embracing the idea of shared stewardship of the lands that we have called home since time immemorial. This is so important in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

As you know, the protection of the natural environment is paramount in our concerns and we are pleased that you have heard and understood our views. The Grand River is also of utmost importance as it the source of our drinking water and needs protection to the best extent that is possible.

As we are sure you would agree, and as we have stated repeatedly, the natural environment will do quite well without human intervention. As a matter of fact, the natural environment would thrive without human intervention but we, as humans, cannot survive without the natural environment. For instance, if all the trees were destroyed, we would die. If the waters or air were polluted, we would die. If the pollinators had nothing to pollinate, we would die. We are all connected and we need the natural environment to sustain us. That is the basis for our Thanksgiving Address or “the words that come before all else” in which we give thanks for all aspects of the natural environment and is also the basis of the Value Statement that we have shared with you.

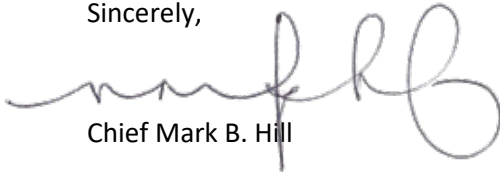
We are very pleased to see that you have significantly limited the amount of land that the Region of Waterloo is in need of in order to meet the growth requirements as set out in the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

We are also very pleased that there will still be places in Southern Ontario where our future generations will have an opportunity to live in a world that is not made of steel and concrete, where they will still have the ability to put their feet on ground.

This is possible due to the efforts that the planning team at the Region of Waterloo are making today. That very much aligns with our view of looking ahead seven generations into the future and ensuring that what you are leaving them is something for which we can all take pride.

We are very much in support of the approach to planning that the Region of Waterloo has undertaken and look forward to a continued mutually supportive relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark B. Hill', written in a cursive style.

Chief Mark B. Hill

Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council