

**From:** Ian McLean

**Sent:** August 11, 2022 2:47 PM

**To:** Regional Clerk <RegionalClerk@regionofwaterloo.ca>

**Cc:** Holly Kents; Karen Redman <KRedman@regionofwaterloo.ca>; asinclair >; GregDurocher; Bruce Lauckner <BLauckner@regionofwaterloo.ca>

**Subject:** Correspondence on ROP - August 11th, 2022

Good afternoon,

Please accept my apologies as I am unable to attend the Committee meeting this afternoon as I had planned.

Attached is correspondence on the matter.

It is submitted on behalf of myself and the Greater KW Chamber of Commerce and Greg Durocher and the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce.

I would very much appreciate it if you would please ensure the correspondence is distributed to Council and senior staff.

On another note, I understand the final decision by Council is slated for August 18<sup>th</sup>.

If delegations are permitted, please register me to appear on that date.

Many thanks and once again, I apologize that I am unable to attend this afternoon.

Think Positive

Test Negative

Get Vaccinated

Stronger Together

Cheers,

Ian

Ian McLean  
President/CEO  
Greater KW Chamber of Commerce  
@IanMcLeanKW



GREATER KITCHENER WATERLOO  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
BUSINESS BUILDING COMMUNITY

August 11, 2022

Region of Waterloo Council  
150 Frederick Street  
Kitchener, Ontario  
N2G 4J3

Dear Members of Council,

I am submitting written comments today rather than consume your time with yet another delegation... particularly as it seems evident our concerns are not being heard.

The Business and Economic Support Team of Waterloo Region (BESTWR) has been an engaged organization in this present 2022 Regional Official Plan (ROP) process in our community.

BESTWR wrote to the Planning and Works Committee Chair July 21, 2022, outlining a number of concerns, perspectives and questions. We requested a response by August 5<sup>th</sup>. We received a reply yesterday.

Therefore, our group of course has not yet had an opportunity to collectively review the responses within yesterday's communication.

The Chamber leadership of both Greater Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge has been vocal before this Committee in underscoring concerns from the business community perspective and we the Greater Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge Chambers go on record today to echo our fundamental viewpoints as previously expressed. We believe it regrettable that a broad community consensus could not be achieved in this so very important regional process.

### **Why is this 2022 Regional Official Plan (ROP) so important?**

Waterloo Region needs to remain an economic engine for Ontario. Employers and talent choose where they locate. We compete nationally and globally for talent. We need housing choice and supply for that young talent. We cannot take our past economic successes for granted as we look to face greater competition, greater mobility and greater opportunities in the next 30-year horizon.

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## **Do we have confidence in Regional Municipality of Waterloo Land Needs Assessment (LNA)?**

No. Many independent provincial experts -- land economists, planners and business leaders -- have been participating in the Region lead process for the last 2 years and we as Waterloo Region Chambers are hearing differing expert opinions on whether the Region of Waterloo staff/consultant lead LNA meets the Province of Ontario LNA requirements. From our vantage point there has been very little to no consideration given to the expert dissenting views which do not support a staff preferred outcome.

## **Will our decisions be local or imposed by the Province of Ontario?**

We have advocated repeatedly for a made in Waterloo Region plan however we do appreciate the provincial responsibility to meet provincial growth targets. Indeed, it's a national problem. How is Waterloo Region disconnected from the housing realities that are being sounded by organizations such as the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (i.e.. "Canada needs 5.8 million new homes by 2030 to bring prices down to affordable levels" according to CMHC).

At this juncture our shared Chamber position is that we need provincial assistance to ensure that a balanced and achievable plan for accommodating 300,000 new residents in Waterloo Region over the course of the next 30 years is put in place.

We encourage Waterloo Region Planning Committee and Council to change course, it is not too late, and find a balanced approach.

Sincerely,

Ian McLean  
President & CEO

