

Greenbelt and Smart Growth Pledge

Ontario's Greenbelt is a natural and economic treasure that protects farms, forests and rivers from Niagara to Northumberland County. The establishment of the Greenbelt can be traced back to the early 1970s when the Conservative government protected the Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine. In the 1990s, the NDP government expanded Rouge Park, now a unique urban national park next to the Greenbelt. And finally, more land was added by the Liberal government in 2005 to create what is now a 2-million acre Greenbelt. With all party support, it is a shared legacy that goes beyond election cycles or party lines.

Ontario's Greenbelt and Growth Plans direct growth where we need it – near public transit and the services and amenities in existing urban areas, and keeps it away from where we don't - farms, nature and water. It also saves taxpayers from paying for expensive sprawling development, lowers our carbon pollution, and reduces congestion. By growing smarter, we all win.

If I am elected as a member of Ontario's Provincial Parliament I pledge to:

1. Support the retention of existing Greenbelt boundaries, unless they are expanded
2. Keep existing Greenbelt Plan policies that protect water and other important natural systems
3. Support smart growth practices that direct density and growth to existing towns and cities
4. Support transit funding to service existing urban growth centres to maximize public investments
5. Ensure municipalities have the authority to make local decisions consistent with provincial policies
6. Keep property taxes as low as possible by working toward compact development