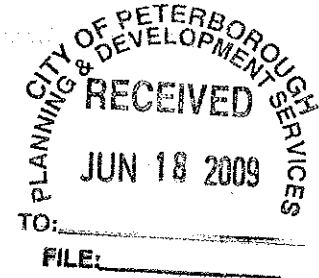


Peterborough Partnership Council on Immigrant Integration

c/o New Canadians Centre Peterborough
205 Sherbrooke St., Unit D
Peterborough, ON, K9J 2N2

June 16, 2009

Malcolm Hunt
Director of Planning and Development Services
City of Peterborough
500 George St. N.,
Peterborough, ON
K9H 3R9



Subject: Planning Peterborough to 2031: How the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe will affect the City of Peterborough

Dear Malcolm,

We would like to thank the Planning and Development Services Department of the City of Peterborough for the presentation "Planning Peterborough to 2031" at the Peterborough Partnership Council meeting on May, 14, 2009. Your presence was greatly appreciated at our last Executive Committee meeting as well. We found both of the discussions very useful and view these discussions as the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial collaboration between us for Peterborough's plan for growth and diversity.

The members of the Partnership Council include major business leaders through GPA EDC, the Workforce Development Board, the Chamber of Commerce, and other key employers such as GE, the Separate and Public School Boards, Trent University and Fleming College. We are proud to highlight the City of Peterborough as one of the key members of our partnership. Statistics show that by 2011, immigrants are expected to account for all net Canadian labour force growth, and for all net population growth by 2031. The Partnership Council, and its major funder, the Federal Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration Canada understand the importance for Peterborough to attract and retain new Canadians for economic prosperity and community health. Indeed, the establishment of the Partnership Council and its over 30 members indicate clearly that the City is preparing for change and value the role of new Canadians in community building.

We addressed many concerns at our meeting about the City's plan, and we thought that it would be useful to summarize them, because we see immigration as a promising and realistic source for population growth and maybe the only answer for the challenges we face with our aging and declining population:

- a) There is a growing immigrant population in Peterborough that should be recognized in the Plan. The implications for housing, transportation, services, education and leisure cannot be ignored.
- b) Settled newcomers offer much to the City. They are investors, tax payers, consumers, skilled workers, students, artists - contributing diversity and commitment to Peterborough.
- c) The City's plan does not deal with the important political response to population growth. The question should not be "where do we belong in Ontario?" as a way of avoiding some of the policies for the Golden Horseshoe. Instead, a thorough analysis of the benefits of following

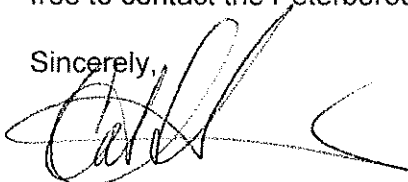
the Places to Grow legislation as a member of either the golden horseshoe or Eastern Ontario might indicate the best direction for the City.

- i. The Golden Horseshoe has been extremely successful in attracting newcomers and has maintained a skilled workforce that could be emulated locally
 - ii. The 13,000 increase in population predicted for Peterborough is only 520 people per year, less than current growth
 - iii. The Planning department is unique in wanting to avoid "infilling" our current city centre. There are many non-intrusive models around the world that don't support inhuman scaled 'living towers'. Local developers understand the economic benefits of building shared domiciles. Taxpayers understand the higher taxes that come with huge suburbs on the edge of town. The environmental crises dictate new ways of building, heating, transport, etc. These are not obstacles, these are opportunities.
- d) At 18%, Peterborough has 5% more seniors than the provincial percentage of 13% (Peterborough Profile, Peterborough Social Planning Council, 2009, pg.4 and 6.) Increased immigration will help balance that growing sector.
- e) Clearer directions would be greatly appreciated on population and infilling our city, on where all newcomers and current residents of the city will find housing in the future, on what service needs are predicted for the libraries, health services, schools, fire departments and police services. It would be great to determine first *who* we are building *for*, before we decide *how* to build integrated neighbourhoods.

The Peterborough Partnership Council on Immigrant Integration understands that the planning should stay within the border of the Province's forecast, but at the same time we would like to see planning for our city to be more optimistic, positive and forward thinking, with a brighter vision of the future. Including new Canadians will help Peterborough increase its population base and its vitality. The quality of life offered by Peterborough and the surrounding area will largely depend on the City's capacity to attract, retain and integrate immigrants.

We are looking forward to working with you in the future. Please keep our concerns in mind and feel free to contact the Peterborough Partnership Council with any questions.

Sincerely,



Cath D'Amico, Peterborough Partnership Council Chair

For the members of the Peterborough Partnership Council:

Casa Maria Refugee Homes, City of Peterborough, City of Peterborough Social Services, Community and Race Relations Committee, Community Opportunity & Innovation Network, Fleming College - Dean Apprenticeship and Training, Fleming College - Diversity Office, Fleming College - Job Connect, Fleming College - LINC Program, GE-Hitachi, Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation, Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities, New Canadians Centre Peterborough, Northern Lights Canada, Opportunity Centre, Peterborough Community Legal Clinic, Peterborough County Ontario Provincial Police, Peterborough County-City Health Unit, Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service, Peterborough Public Library, Peterborough Social Planning Council, ReViVe Career, Siemens Milltronics, Trent Centre for Community-Based Education, Trent University, Trent Valley International Coffee House, Workplace Development Board, Andreas Pickel, Makeda Zook, Paula Madden, Sonya Singh, Tammy Pan