

Appendix 1. A glossary of Ontario legislation related to conservation and urban growth affairs

Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act

The act was passed to ensure the protection of the escarpment, and to provide policies for land use and development criteria. It establishes procedures for development control appeals and hearings.

Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act

The act was passed to protect the ecological and hydrological integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine area. The implementation piece of the act is known as the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan which provides land use and resource management direction within the moraine.

Greenbelt Act

The act enables the creation of the Greenbelt Belt Plan which protects 1.8 million acres of agricultural land and some environmentally sensitive areas around the Greater Golden Horseshoe, including the Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment.

Planning Act

The act details the provincial interest and municipal regulatory powers in land use. Within the Planning Act is the Provincial Policy Statement which contains key concepts regarding ecosystems and watersheds, ecological functions and natural connections.

Conservation Authorities Act

The act establishes and governs 36 conservation authorities in Ontario to carry out watersheds and lands management and restoration programs to address issues like erosion and flood control.

Places to Grow Act

The act coordinates a strategic direction for population growth and development in Ontario that aims to support economic prosperity, environmental protection and community building. Regional growth plans are developed based on the act.