



Office of the Auditor General of Ontario  
Bureau de la vérificatrice générale de l'Ontario

January 18, 2023

Marit Stiles, MPP  
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Ontario NDP  
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Mike Schreiner, MPP  
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Dear MPP Stiles, MPP Fraser and MPP Schreiner:

I am writing in response to your joint letter dated January 11, 2023 requesting my Office conduct a value-for-money audit of the financial and environmental implications relating to the government's recent decisions affecting the Greenbelt. The purpose of the *Greenbelt Act, 2005*, together with the Greenbelt Plan is to identify where urbanization should not occur in order to provide permanent protection to the Greater Golden Horseshoe's agricultural land base and the ecological and hydrological features, areas and functions occurring on this landscape. Further the purpose of the *Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Act, 2005* was to additionally restrict the use of lands in this preserve to agricultural uses.

This issue has garnered significant public attention over the past few months and has been repeatedly raised during question periods in the Legislature. We have received considerable correspondence on this issue. While there are a number of factors we take into consideration in determining our audit work each year, we do pay attention to matters of interest to the public and issues discussed in the Legislature.

While requests from individual members of the Legislature and the public are assessed and factor into our audit work, a letter requesting us to conduct work in a specific area jointly signed by the leaders of all Opposition parties of the Ontario Legislative Assembly is a request of high significance.

I have subsequently been in communication with the government and we will have their, and the relevant ministries, full cooperation during our audit.

Accordingly given all of these factors, I would like to confirm that my Office will be conducting certain audit work on this issue commencing within the next few weeks. The exact scope of the audit has not as yet been finalized, but I can assure you we will take the matters raised in your letter into consideration in determining the full scope of our work.

It has been our historical practice not to publicly discuss the exact scope of our work until our work is completed and our report has been tabled in the Legislature and publicly released.

Thank you for your confidence in the work of my Office. In the near future, we will reach out to each of you to further discuss your concerns. In the meantime, should any of you have any questions, please call me.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Lysyk  
Auditor General of Ontario

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