

2.0 VISION + GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 Vision Statement

2.1.1 Establishing a Vision

- a. During the preparation of this Plan, the City of Peterborough undertook an extensive community consultation program to provide a foundation for this Plan. Together with Provincial policies and strategic planning documents prepared by the City, this valuable input has directly shaped the Vision, Guiding Principles and general direction of this Official Plan. The Vision and Guiding Principles in this Section form the basis for policy directions, and are intended to guide growth and land use planning decisions by reflecting local priorities, knowledge, preferences and aspirations.
- b. The Vision for Peterborough's future is articulated in the following statement:

Peterborough is a prosperous community, distinctive in its natural beauty, cultural heritage and strong sense of community. As a leader in environmental sustainability, growth in Peterborough uses infrastructure and land efficiently, promotes healthy lifestyles and incorporates green initiatives. The City will continue to develop as a complete, resilient and connected community that provides a high quality of life, supports a strong and diverse economy and promotes a unique, vibrant sense of place. Peterborough is equitable and accessible for all residents and visitors and celebrates its engaged, inclusive and diverse community.

2.2 Guiding Principles

- a. Guiding Principles provide more detailed action statements that represent a clear commitment from the City on how the Vision is to be achieved over time.

2.2.1 Complete Community

- a. A **complete community** is one that meets people's needs for daily living throughout their lifetime by providing convenient access to a mix of jobs, services, housing, food, **public service facilities**, open space, and transportation choices. Peterborough will continue to grow as a **complete community** by:
 - i. Fostering an inclusive and accessible community by providing a balanced mix of land uses including a range of housing, employment, commercial, **public service facilities**, infrastructure, a range of transportation modes, and access to parks and open spaces;

- ii. Undertaking growth management in accordance with Provincial policies and Plans, including the achievement of intensification targets in the **Delineated Built-Up Area** and density targets in **Designated Greenfield Areas** and in downtown Peterborough's **Urban Growth Centre**;
- iii. Encouraging the provision of a mix of uses to support daily needs and providing access to a full range of transportation modes at the neighbourhood level;
- iv. Encouraging increased intensification in built up areas where sufficient infrastructure capacity is available or planned and active modes of transportation can be supported, as a way of reducing land consumption and maximizing the efficiency and cost effectiveness of infrastructure investments;
- v. Encouraging and supporting the provision of a full range and mix of housing options throughout the City to meet the needs of all residents throughout their life-cycles. New development and redevelopment should address shifting household structures, provide for **affordable** and accessible units and maximize the number of residential units which are in close proximity to **active transportation** and transit routes, shops and services, and **public service facilities**. Higher density forms of housing may also enhance life-cycle and **affordable** housing options; and,
- vi. Supporting a high quality of life by encouraging initiatives that improve social equity, ensure that residents have access to health and social services, healthy food options and promote a high quality **public realm** and compact built form.

2.2.2 Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

- a. A sustainable environment is one that can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Peterborough will ensure that development contributes to a more sustainable environment over the long term by:
 - i. Considering the environmental implications of all future municipal planning decisions to ensure that potential impacts and opportunities are properly considered and acted upon;
 - ii. Improving the access of residents to natural and green spaces;
 - iii. Identifying, protecting, restoring and enhancing **natural heritage systems**, functions and resources using a **watershed** approach;

- iv. Encouraging **green buildings**, infrastructure resilience, and sustainable development practices that mitigate and adapt against climate change;
- v. Protecting water quality and sensitive surface water features;
- vi. Fostering the conservation of energy and the use of renewable and alternative energy systems;
- vii. Supporting local food sources and urban agriculture;
- viii. Protecting and enhancing the City's **urban forest**;
- ix. Restricting development in areas that contain hazards to human health or safety; and,
- x. Becoming a leader in fostering partnerships and developing creative initiatives to address environmental protection and sustainability, including with Indigenous communities, post-secondary institutions and other governmental bodies.

2.2.3 Vibrant and Unique

- a. Peterborough is home to a vibrant arts, culture and heritage community that includes a wide variety of museums; a vibrant theatre scene; hundreds of cultural workers, producers, and organizations; a busy festival calendar; and well-preserved built heritage. Additionally, Peterborough is home to the rich cultural history of the Michi Saagiig Nation. Peterborough's location in the Kawartha Lakes region offers a wide range of opportunities for recreational and leisure activities that cater to active lifestyles including fishing, boating, swimming, camping, and hiking. The Otonabee River, Little Lake, the Trent Severn Waterway and the historic hydraulic lift lock are unique features that help define Peterborough's identity.
- b. Communities have social and physical characteristics that make them special and unique and which foster a sense of attachment and belonging for residents and visitors. Peterborough will foster its unique and vibrant identity by:
 - i. Supporting a vibrant, multi-functional Downtown Area as the civic, cultural, entertainment and economic heart of the City;
 - ii. Supporting and enhancing the community's environmental, recreational, cultural and arts facilities/amenities;

- iii. Ensuring a publicly accessible system of parkland, major open spaces and trails throughout the City, including the shorelines of the Otonabee River, Little Lake and the Trent Severn Waterway, for the benefit of residents and visitors;
- iv. Protecting and enhancing **cultural heritage resources** over the long term;
- v. Fostering excellence in design in both the public and private realms;
- vi. Acknowledging the importance of the Indigenous language, known as Anishinaabemowin in Ojibwa, and including Indigenous place names on the landscape of the City;
- vii. Providing opportunities for Indigenous placemaking and working with Indigenous communities to celebrate and commemorate Indigenous history and/or culture in public spaces;
- viii. Creating new unique and vibrant spaces, including focal points, landmarks, and gateways, involving residents, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders in the decision-making process through continuous, mutually respectful, meaningful and inclusive engagement; and,
- ix. Defining memorable spaces with the use of relevant public art.

2.2.4 Well Connected with Options for Mobility

- a. Peterborough is a social, cultural and economic hub, made possible by its ability to move people and goods throughout the city and region. An efficient, integrated and **multi-modal** transportation system provides choice for easy travel by facilitating all forms of transportation, including **active transportation**, transit, automobile, rail, air and water. Fostering a **multi-modal**, linked transportation system enhances the community's economic competitiveness, fosters active healthy lifestyles, facilitates social and economic inclusion, and promotes environmental and economic sustainability. Peterborough will create a more linked community by:
 - i. Integrating land use planning with transportation planning;
 - ii. Planning for an improved and safe transit and **active transportation** system, including through pedestrian-oriented development and enhanced infrastructure;
 - iii. Directing growth and development to areas with existing infrastructure and to **Strategic Growth Areas** that provide a range of services in convenient locations and encourage **active transportation**;

- iv. Providing new linkages between key destinations and the **multi-modal** transportation network;
- v. Ensuring that new development is barrier-free and easily accessible and that existing development is retro-fitted, wherever possible;
- vi. Working with relevant partners to ensure access to high quality telecommunications networks and a range of transportation modes to support telecommuting and other creative work options and minimize the need for automobile trips; and,
- vii. Protecting transportation corridors, planned corridors, major goods movement facilities, and utility corridors over the long term for their intended purpose and reusing abandoned corridors in a manner that preserves their linear integrity, where feasible.

2.2.5 Strong and Diverse Economy

- a. A strong, diverse economy is integral to a successful community. Peterborough is fortunate to be home to an abundance of natural resources, world-class educational facilities, a modern regional health care centre, a strong government sector, a diverse industrial sector including food services, manufacturing and aerospace, and a highly skilled, creative workforce. Additionally, Peterborough is favourably positioned with strong regional agricultural and tourism sectors, a growing regional airport, and convenient transportation links to regional, national and international markets.
- b. Peterborough recognizes the economic benefits and importance of being accessible to all people. Diversity and inclusion are important drivers of economic growth and innovation. Strong and diverse economies capitalize on existing community assets and are sustained by: strategic infrastructure investment; maintaining and protecting a sufficient land base for employment; developing and retaining a talented, creative labour force; fostering partnerships and economic diversification; and by enhancing quality of life. Peterborough will support a strong, diverse and creative economy by:
 - i. Providing for a wide range of employment opportunities, including employment in major institutions and the tourism industry;
 - ii. Fostering a high quality of life to attract and retain a younger workforce and new investment
 - iii. Planning for, protecting and preserving **Employment Areas** for current and future employment uses and ensuring that the necessary infrastructure is provided to support current and future needs;

- iv. Protecting **Employment Areas** for the long term by limiting the conversion of such areas to other uses or permitting the infiltration of uses which would undermine the function and viability of **Employment Areas**;
- v. Protecting **Employment Areas** near major transportation facilities and corridors associated with the inter- and intra-provincial movement of goods for uses which require such locations;
- vi. Cooperating with existing and prospective businesses to facilitate economic growth and opportunity, with a particular focus on supporting and providing opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses, local business and local economies;
- vii. Considering opportunities to offer incentives for business growth, particularly in the green and knowledge economies and food production; and,
- viii. Strategically planning the location, function and built form of Mixed-Use Corridors to support their vitality and the vitality of the Central Area.