



**SMART GROWTH AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT IN ONTARIO**  
**Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI)**  
**Position Statement**  
**June 15, 2001**

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) supports policies that promote growth management in Ontario.

OPPI believes that an effective Smart Growth strategy for Ontario must be broadly encompassing, clearly articulated, and based upon sound growth management objectives and policies. Further, the strategy must be based upon the same principles as good planning - the orderly development of socially, economically and environmentally sustainable communities and the efficient and effective use of public investments.

OPPI supports Smart Growth initiatives consistent with the following growth management principles:

- Establishing meaningful settlement area boundaries and implementing effective regional growth management.
- Promoting cities as the engines of the economy — ensuring downtown cores, mainstreets, towns and cities are healthy and liveable.
- Protecting prime agricultural lands, rural landscapes and natural resources.
- Linking new transportation, water and sewer infrastructure to sound and sustainable growth management plans.
- Strategically investing in and efficiently operating a full range of transportation modes.
- Implementing incentive-based systems and performance measures that consider and reflect social, economic and environmental priorities.
- Ensuring that existing and new communities are healthy places to live and have high standards of air and water quality.

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- Investing in the physical infrastructure of existing communities through infill, reuse and intensification of well-serviced centres and corridors.
- Building healthy communities that respond to the social and cultural needs of existing and new residents.
- Making certain that every community, new or old, has a distinctive sense of place, character and vibrancy that attracts people and investment.
- Ensuring that existing and new communities support the broad mixture and range of land uses, development densities and housing options that make communities liveable and meet economic and social needs.
- Protecting, acquiring and restoring open spaces and natural systems that define, characterize and support communities and regions.
- Ensuring fairness, openness, efficiency and certainty in the development process.
- Fostering cooperation and partnerships among governments, agencies, citizens and entrepreneurs in investing in and building communities.
- Promoting education and advocacy regarding the objectives, principles and implementation of growth management.

OPPI is the recognized voice of the province's planning profession. Our 2,400 practising planners work for government, private industry, agencies, and academic institutions. Members work in a wide variety of fields including urban and rural community development, urban design, environment, transportation, health and social services, housing, and economic development. Our members are committed to improving the quality of Ontario environments and communities. Planners have in-depth knowledge on growth and development issues. We believe that OPPI can contribute substantially to the formulation of a Smart Growth strategy.

OPPI is currently sponsoring research on growth management. The goal of this research paper is to highlight best practices with respect to tools and implementation measures available for urban and rural areas to effectively manage growth. This will provide planners, decision-makers, and citizens interested in urban and rural growth management with new approaches to ensure the long-term liveability, economic viability and environmental health of their communities. The anticipated release date is October 2001.

*For further information, please contact Loretta Ryan, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Policy and Communications, Ontario Professional Planners Institute at [policy@ontarioplanners.on.ca](mailto:policy@ontarioplanners.on.ca)*