



ontario greenbelt alliance

# Member Resource

## Council Motion/Resolution

### Why We Created This

Many of you will be meeting with your local Council Members to convince them to not use MZOs, stop Sprawl and grow the Greenbelt.

You may be asked by your Mayor and/or Councillors “what do you want us to do?”

For some OGA members, the answer will be simple: stop a proposed development that is being considered by Council. For others, there may not be a specific issue to focus on. Or, you may want your Council to do more than simply stop a bad proposal.

The draft motion below provides some more ideas for what to ask for as well as a recognized tool (motion/resolution) by which Councils express a position on issue.

### How to Use this Draft Motion/Resolution

The language in this draft is a guide. Feel free to adapt it, discard it and/or add to it, as you see fit. Also, feel free to work with Council Members who may have constructive suggestions about how to improve the Motion/Resolution to meet local circumstances. If you have questions, please contact the OGA.

### DRAFT LANGUAGE:

**WHEREAS** the COVID-19 crisis has shown the residents of [name of municipality] how important natural lands, farmland and water sources in and around [name of municipality] are to their health and well-being and their economic livelihood;

**WHEREAS** residents are rightly concerned with addressing the economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis and are looking at new types of development that create new homes and businesses, jobs and economic activity in ways that are cost effective to residents and municipalities;

**WHEREAS** there is development that creates jobs, new affordable homes and economic activity while protecting and preserving existing natural areas, farmland and water sources and meeting the needs of residents and municipalities (see City Building Institute [Density Done Right](#));

**WHEREAS** a growing body of research has shown lands protected by the Provincial Greenbelt Act provide significant ecosystem services (\$3.2 billion/year), economic benefits (\$9.6 billion/year), and almost 178,000 jobs;

**WHEREAS** Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs) are a tool that should not be used to fast-track development proposals, bypass important public consultations and override laws and policies designed to protect the environment;

**WHEREAS** in 2020 the Ontario government has issued over 30 MZOs to fast-track development, many of them in natural areas, farmland and/or important water sources;

**WHEREAS** Ontario residents would benefit financially, physically and socially from development that does not take place in natural areas, farmland, and water sources and from permanently protecting these lands instead:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

1. Council commits to not requesting a MZO to fast-track development on natural areas, farmland and/or water resources because they bypass public consultations and existing policies and procedures designed to promote environmental protection.
2. Council sends a letter to the Premier and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing asking them to stop using Minister's Zoning Orders and urges the Provincial Government to move forward with COVID recovery actions that promote development that simultaneously protects natural areas, farmland and water sources while creating affordable homes and new jobs and in a way that is cost effective to residents and the municipality.
3. Council directs staff to prepare a briefing for all Council on the City Building Institute's *Density Done Right* Report within **x** months.
4. Council endorse the efforts of [insert name of local groups] and the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance to bring more natural areas, farmland and water sources under the protection of laws like the Greenbelt Act.