

# Managing Provincial Policy Changes to Urban Boundary Expansion

## Hamilton's Draft Framework for Processing and Evaluating Urban Boundary Expansion Applications

### What is the Draft Framework?

The Draft Framework guides how the City of Hamilton will handle applications to expand its urban boundary. Currently, the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and Rural Hamilton Official Plan do not provide guidance for how to assess urban boundary expansion proposals. The Framework will establish a clear and rigorous process for reviewing these requests, ensuring transparency and providing opportunities for public input. The Framework is critical because recent provincial policy changes now allow urban boundary expansion applications to be made at any time, despite the City's commitment to a firm urban boundary until 2051. The Framework is divided into Parts A, B, and C:

### Navigating the Framework: Three Key Parts

#### A Establishes Urban Boundary Expansion Submission Requirements

Part A outlines the specific plans and technical studies required for any urban boundary expansion application. These include existing requirements found in the City's Official Plans and new requirements specifically designed for urban boundary expansion applications, like a Housing Needs Assessment and an Emergency Services Assessment.

##### Required Submissions:



#### B Key Considerations

Part B outlines the factors the City will consider when evaluating urban boundary expansion applications to ensure a comprehensive and rigorous review process. The key considerations are informed by the Planning Act, the Provincial Planning Statement and the goals and objectives of the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and Rural Official Plan.

##### Considerations for Assessing Applications:



#### C Outlines a Clear Process for Submission, Review, and Public Engagement

Part C details the process for submitting an urban boundary expansion application for review. Importantly, it outlines the enhanced public and Indigenous community consultation requirements the City has added beyond the minimum legal requirements, including notification methods, and ways to review the applications. It sets out a process in which the City would consider urban boundary expansion applications within the **120 day time frame** required by the Province.

