

Appendix III – Themes of the Regional Official Plan

Environmental Imperative

The environmental imperative is to protect, enhance and foster self-sustaining, regional, native biodiversity while reducing the impact of development on the ecosystem based on an integrated systems approach. Draft policies ensure the policy framework for the environment and resources in the ROP is effective and will contribute to achieving a sustainable, resilient community that is able to respond to a changing climate and growing Region. Draft policies aim to protect resources, inform decisions regarding growth and infrastructure through watershed planning, consider climate change implications, and the need for coordination of environmental initiatives with Regional partners. Draft policies on sustainable transportation are also a crucial component of achieving climate change adaptation and environmental protection goals and reducing traffic-related air pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions. The draft policies align with the climate change priorities of the Peel Climate Change Partnership, Region of Peel Climate Change Master Plan and the various Transportation Master Plans and Strategies.

Social Imperative

The social imperative is to create conditions conducive to healthy citizens and thriving communities, achieving social harmony and social inclusion, and ensure community needs are met through the principles of complete communities. Draft policies strive to create communities that are inclusive and welcoming of all individuals by conducting research and examining opportunities to ensure more effective and inclusive consultations. Affordable housing for diverse populations is also an essential component of thriving communities, and draft policies ensure that new housing development and the use of existing stock is aligned with growth trends and contributes to the creation of healthy, mixed-use, transit supportive, and complete communities. This aligns with the Region's Community Safety and Well-being Plan, Peel's Housing and Homelessness Plan, and Regional Housing Strategy.

Cultural Imperative

The cultural imperative is to promote arts, culture and heritage, and quality of place, encourage creativity and entrepreneurship, and create buildings and public spaces that are accessible. While majority of the detailed work on this takes place at the local level, draft policies aim to enhance the existing strong framework through improved recognition of Indigenous communities, and stronger policies related to cultural heritage resources and archaeological resources.

Economic Imperative

The economic imperative is to promote a strong, vibrant and prosperous economy by encouraging environmentally friendly businesses and business practices, providing for an adequate supply of future employment lands, convenient, safe and efficient transportation network, sustainable infrastructure and services to support a diverse and growing economy including local employment and financial sustainability. Draft policies ensure that the Region can maintain a healthy economy and accommodate future jobs and economic opportunities to meet the Regions employment forecast. Employment land planning will remain important for the Region to maintain a healthy and diverse economy, by ensuring strong transit connectivity to a qualified labour force and affordable symmetrical broadband internet is required, while changes

in technology will enable employment across a wider variety of land uses and building spaces than ever before, particularly with the challenges of a changing economy.

Sustainable Development

This sustainable development framework enables integration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural imperatives throughout the Plan. Viewed together, the imperatives provide an integrated and flexible basis for the formulation of policy and decision-making.

With anticipated growth of population, household and employment in Peel, draft policies ensure that existing and future finances and services to accommodate this growth are provided in an effective and efficient manner. To respond to these pressures of growth, a rapidly changing global economy, ongoing government financial restraint and potential effects on the natural environment, resources, residents, workers and communities in Peel, draft policies are designed to support the development of complete communities and respond to these matters. This means the development of land use patterns must protect natural heritage, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support transit and consider the impacts of a changing climate aligned with provincial policies.

For those living and working in Peel, draft policies aim to offer a wide range and mix of housing, employment, and recreational and cultural activities in communities well served and connected by a multi-modal transportation system. For this vision to be sustainable in the long term, the planning for new communities aims to provide an efficient use of land, public services, finances and infrastructure, while respecting the natural environment, hazards and resources, and the characteristics of existing communities in Peel. In planning to 2051, communities will be complete, coordinated, healthy, high quality and sustainable. This work is supported by an updated Land Needs Assessment, and various detailed technical studies.

These four imperatives contribute towards the “Community for Life” vision in the Council adopted Region of Peel Corporate Strategic Plan and Mission to create a healthy, safe and connected community: Peel will be a healthy, vibrant and safe community.