



## Comments on: Proposed Greenbelt Plan

EBR Registry Number: PF04E0006

submitted to the  
Provincial Planning & Environmental Services Branch  
Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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By the

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December 20,2004

**Re. Comments of the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women on the Proposed Greenbelt Plan, EBR # PF04E0006**

Recognizing that the state of the environment in general, and of the immediate surroundings of our communities in particular, greatly influences the physical, mental, intellectual and economic health and well being of women and children and indeed of all citizens, the members of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Ontario Council have made good stewardship of the environment, land, air and water one of their priorities.

CFUW Ontario Council is made up of approximately 6000 women university graduates from all the regions of Ontario. We are totally member - funded. Our members live in 58 Ontario communities, in big urban areas as well as in rural and northern towns.(see Appendix B) We are non - partisan and non- sectarian. When voting on policy each of our clubs has one vote so that the voice of members from Thunder Bay and Renfrew and St. Thomas have the same weight as those from the Toronto and Ottawa areas. This results in well-balanced policies that may be embraced by most Ontarians.

We are business women, scientists, teachers, university professors, nurses and physicians, seed specialists and engineers, farm women, artists and accountants, wives, daughters, mothers and grandmothers. All put their skills and education at the service of their community, and are active

- in all public affairs
- for a high standard in public education,
- for the improvement of the Status of Women in Ontario, and
- to ensure Human Rights in the Province.

We are not a charitable fund raising organisation. Our clubs in Ontario, nevertheless, award more than \$200,000 annually in scholarships and bursaries to students in all the regions of our province as well as to charitable and cultural causes.

We are part of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and have links to the International Federation of University Women (IFUW)

Over the years, we have developed a body of policy which impacts on agriculture, conservation, and environment management addressing such issues as Public

Transportation, Canadian Water, Preservation of Wetlands, Endangered Ecosystems, Endangered Species, Sustainability, Sustainable Forestry, and Pollution. (see Appendix A) CFUW has established policy that urges the provincial government to:

- Mandate better co-ordination between land use planning and transportation planning to create more compact communities (1992);
- Acknowledge that the right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations (1992);
- Achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it (1992);
- Adopt and implement a sustainable and prudent water management policy to respond to long-term regional needs with due regard to the ecosystem and hydrogeological reality (2001);
- Pass legislation to protect and monitor those wetlands which have been identified as specially significant (1990);
- Be alert to any proposed development in areas where there are wetlands which might be degraded or lost; and urge the relevant planning boards, municipal councils and like authorities at the local level to have evaluations done in order to preserve significant wetlands (1990);
- Sustain our forest and wilderness areas by strengthening and enforcing the legislation establishing national, provincial and territorial parks and protected areas to prohibit extraction of timber, minerals and other resources and to limit construction of roads and hydro facilities (1997);
- Give priority, without delay, to the development of specific strategies and practical ecological measures to master the escalating pollution of metropolitan areas (1998);

CFUW/Ontario Council commends the Ontario Government on its Greenbelt initiative but we have some concerns with regard to the draft Greenbelt Plan October 2004:

**§ The variation of the objectives in Bill 135, the Greenbelt Act 2004, and the Vision and Goals as expressed in the proposed Greenbelt Plan**

The Objectives in Bill 135 are very specific. These should be retained and expressed within the proposed Greenbelt Plan.

We would also suggest that 5 (e) “to provide protection to the land base needed to maintain, restore and improve the ecological and hydrological functions of the Greenbelt Area” be placed as the third point within the Objectives. We need to emphasize the environment over the needs of the economy in statements such as these in both Bill 135 and the Greenbelt Plan. Our society will always look after economic priorities. We

need to be reminded of the overriding need to cherish and protect the environment, especially within vision, goals and objectives.

- **The real viability of agriculture:**

In Section **1.2 Vision and Goals**, one of the leading aspects of the Vision is to support “agriculture as the predominant land use”. Yet within Bill 135, the Greenbelt Act, there is specific mention under section 19(2) that there will be no compensation for any activities created by this Plan. For too long farmers have been using the potential sale of their lands to developers to create their retirement plans. It therefore becomes necessary to find ways to support the agricultural economy, especially those involved with market gardening.

Under **Goals, Agricultural Protection**, the Plan states “Creating certainty for the agricultural sector to foster long-term investment in, improvement to, and management of the land.” It would seem from the reaction of agricultural landowners, as expressed in the Town Hall meetings, that certainty for long-term investment is one of their most serious concerns. It goes without saying that a viable local farming industry is fundamental to our food supply.

- **The impact of the recreation on the Greenbelt:**

Under **Goals, Culture, Recreation and Tourism Opportunities**, and under **Section 4.1 Non-Agricultural Uses** within **General Policies for the Protected Countryside**, there is the potential of conflict between these recreational sectors and their land uses and the environmental protection of the Natural Heritage System. While the proposed limitations of sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 are to be commended, there should be no major recreational use, such as golf courses or ski hills, within the Natural Heritage System. These types of activities are best left within the lands designated as Rural Areas.

- **The impact of the infrastructure on the Greenbelt:**

Under **Section 1.2 Goals, Infrastructure and Natural Resources**, it states that the Plan supports “infrastructure which achieves the social and economic aims of the Greenbelt and the proposed Growth Plan while seeking to minimize environmental impacts”.

This wording still allows for major highway construction. We would recommend that stronger language should be used here that will emphasize the environment over the economic aims.

This environmental priority is reflected within the policies listed in **4.2.1 General Infrastructure Policies**, and while it is specifically noted “that new urban development is not encouraged within the Protected Countryside”, there is the possibility of new highway construction and with it pressure to create larger communities within the Rural Areas.

Of concern also is allowance of the “expansion of existing infrastructure” (**Section 4.5 Existing Uses**). Will this encourage the expansion of current roads into highways, rather than the use of public transportation, such as trains?

- **The potential of “leapfrogging”:**

“Leapfrogging” is a corollary to the previous concern. With extensions of highways, it will become desirable to simply push suburban style development to lands beyond the proposed Greenbelt. We would recommend that serious consideration be given to extend the Greenbelt Plan to encompass the province.

- **Cultural Heritage Resources**

The Government is to be commended for including **Cultural Heritage Resources. (Section 4.4 )**

While many municipalities include provisions for cultural heritage within their municipal plan, recognizing the cultural environment can be as important as the physical and hydrological functions of the Greenbelt .

It is hoped that either with this Plan when it is fully developed, or with later proposed amendments, more specific guidelines will be added to assist municipalities to include these features.

- **The possibility of changes in the boundaries of the proposed Greenbelt:**

While it is stated in **Section 5.6 Plan Amendments**, “amendments to the Plan shall not have the effect of reducing the total land area of the Greenbelt Plan”, there is no guarantee that the boundaries of the Greenbelt shall stay the same. This section concerning amendments needs to be strengthened so that undesirable land swaps will not occur in future.

CFUW Ontario Council understands the constant pressures on land use and the difficult balancing act provincial governments have to perform in order to satisfy the aspirations of the various sectors that are depending on Ontario land. CFUW Ontario Council hopes that our Ontario Government will be able to make decisions and develop a Greenbelt plan that respects and preserves the cultural and natural heritage landscape, as well as ensures economic prospects and quality of life for our children and generations of Ontario citizens to come.

Submitted by

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## Canadian Federation of University Women – Resolutions relevant to the Proposed Greenbelt Plan

Ag. 1 Agriculture  
2000 **Grain Production**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments to develop and implement both short-term and long-term strategies to sustain grain production in Canada, with particular emphasis on those strategies that will ensure a measure of self-sufficiency in food production in Canada, and **the maintenance of a viable family farm sector**, and will alleviate the differences in international subsidies; and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments to support and assist with diversification in farming and the development of value added industries which can process locally produced grains.

Co.3 Conservation  
1992 **Public Transportation**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada and provincial, territorial and municipal governments to:

1. Invest in public transportation to ensure frequent, reliable, convenient, affordable and universally accessible service;
2. Create incentives to encourage greater use of mass transit and discourage the use of private vehicles;
3. **Mandate better co-ordination between land use planning and transportation planning to create more compact communities;** and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge its members to drive less and whenever possible to walk, bike, car pool or take public transit.

Ec.1 Economics  
1992 **Equitable Policies**

RESOLVED, That IFUW, to further the Study and Action Program, encourage national and international federations to promote programs to inform members and their communities of the urgency for supporting national and international action:

1. to alleviate national debt;
2. to promote productivity and equitable international marketing policies; and
3. **conserve natural resources.**

En.1 Environment – Elements  
2001 **Canadian Water**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments of Canada **to protect our water resources** and specifically to declare that water, being a non-renewable natural resource of paramount importance, belongs to the Canadian public and its use must be regulated in the long-term public interest;

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments **to adopt and implement a sustainable and prudent water management policy to respond to long-term regional needs with due regard to the ecosystem and hydrogeological reality;** and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to promote conservation and more efficient use of surface water and groundwater at individual, local, provincial, territorial, national and international levels.

En.2.5 Environment - Land  
1990 **Preservation of Wetlands**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada to:

1. establish a standard system of evaluation of wetlands, in co-operation with the provincial and territorial governments in order to identify wetlands which it is agreed are worthy of preservation and statutory protection. (specially significant);
2. increase its support of research on wetlands;
3. increase its efforts to make the Canadian public aware of the vital importance of wetlands; and

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge their provincial and territorial governments to:

1.
  - a. establish a system of evaluation for wetlands consistent with the national system, and **to pass legislation to protect and monitor those wetlands which have been identified as specially significant;**
  - b. increase their support of research on wetlands;
  - c. increase their efforts to make the public aware of the vital importance of wetlands; and to
2.
  - a. **be alert to any proposed development in areas where there are wetlands which might be degraded or lost;** and
  - b. **urge the relevant planning boards, municipal councils and like authorities at the local level to have evaluations done in order to preserve significant wetlands.**

En.2.5 Environment - Land  
1992 **Endangered Ecosystems**

RESOLVED, To encourage the national federations and associations to urge their respective governments to:

1. educate the public about the biological (preserving biological diversity), ecological, economic, educational, recreational and spiritual importance of wilderness areas and the need to protect endangered ecosystems;
2. establish a system of parks and/or reserves of diverse and representative wilderness areas, free from industrial and resource development, in accordance with the recommendation of the World Commission on Environment and Development (The Brundtland Commission);
3. set a timetable within the next ten years for the implementation of this system before further destruction of natural habitats and the animal life dependent upon them occurs; and
4. make available adequate resources to implement this system in the allotted time.

En.2.6 Environment - Management  
1991 **Endangered Spaces**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women support the concepts articulated in the Endangered Spaces Campaign of World Wildlife Fund Canada by urging:

1. The provincial and territorial governments to set a timetable for protecting Canada's endangered spaces (and to adhere to it if they have already done so), so that by the year 2000 there will be adequate protection of each of the approximately 350 natural regions and the total area protected will amount to at least 12% of the lands and waters of Canada in accordance with the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development for all nations (The Brundtland Commission);
2. The Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments that have already made a commitment to the protection of Canada's endangered spaces to adhere to it by making adequate resources to implement their plans by the year 2000.

En.2.6 Environment - Management  
1992 **UNCED Implementation**

RESOLVED, To urge national federations and associations to study the final document of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development 1992 (UNCED/Earth Summit) and to work on the implementation of its recommendations in co-operation with other NGOs and national and local government, making sure that women are placed in full partnership to achieve sustainability.

**For more information, see <http://www.ciesin.org/TG/PI/TREATY/unced.html> or [http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/UNCED\\_Docs.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/UNCED_Docs.htm)**

En.2.6 Environment - Management  
1995 **Sustainability**

RESOLVED, That national federations and associations should:

1. urge their respective legislative bodies to incorporate the protection of the environment as an overall goal into their basic laws;
2. help raise a general awareness of the necessity of protecting the environment, in particular by expounding the consequences of resource depletion, the degradation of natural systems, the dangers of pollution and the destruction of fragile ecosystems;
3. promote the education of girls and boys of all ages in science, technology and disciplines relating to the natural environment; and
4. encourage governments to promote the development of sustainable and ecologically sound consumption and production patterns including ecologically safe waste disposal, the re-use and recycling of resources, the reduction of air pollutants, the careful management of energy sources and the use of environmentally sound technologies.

En.2.6 Environment - Management  
1997 **Sustainable Forestry**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada to uphold its commitment to the United Nations *Convention of Biological Diversity*, *Framework Convention on Climate Change*, and *Statement of Forest Principles* by:

1. supporting programs in reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forest lands that are relevant, environmentally sound, and culturally acceptable; and
2. pursuing through the "Global Forest Dialogue" the successful negotiation and implementation of a global forest convention whose goal is the protection and sustainable development of the world's forests.

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada and the provincial, and territorial governments to sustain our forest and wilderness areas by:

1. requiring and enforcing the use of appropriate, environmentally sound, sustainable methods of harvesting wood while maintaining our forest base;
2. requiring and enforcing the use of effective, sustainable methods of reforestation and rehabilitation of forest land which have been harvested or damaged by fire, insects, or disease;
3. **strengthening and enforcing the legislation establishing national, provincial and territorial parks and protected areas to prohibit extraction of timber, minerals and other resources and to limit construction of roads and hydro facilities; and**
4. supporting the initiatives of communities, companies, indigenous peoples and individuals to promote the long-term sustainable development of timber and nontimber products within our forests in an ecologically sound manner.

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada to re-establish and retain jurisdiction in environmental matters within the forest industry, including the setting, implementing, and enforcing of national standards, and environmental assessment and monitoring.

En.2.6 Environment – Management  
1999 **Endangered Species**

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments to pass and enforce legislation which will;

1. recognize our global responsibility in respect to the critical importance of **protecting wildlife species at risk**;
2. protect the critical habitat of all species at risk, as well as suitable buffer zones surrounding critical habitats;
3. protect all species of indigenous plants and animals that are at risk in Canada;
4. use principles of sustainability when managing species, habitats and ecosystems
5. ensure that independent and government scientists play a vital role in the progress of identifying and protecting the species at risk;

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments provide sufficient funding to:

1. implement an action plan with sufficient funding, which provides the best options for preventing further decline and improves conditions for vulnerable species.
2. implement recovery programs for all extirpated, endangered and threatened species including recovery plans for all taxonomic groups of indigenous wildlife and develop a timetable for implementation
3. encourage stewardship for indigenous wildlife through education; and

RESOLVED, That the CFUW urge the Government of Canada to negotiate agreements with the provincial and territorial governments to harmonize such protective legislation.

He.1.6 Health - Environment  
1998 **Pollution Problems - Solution Strategies**

RESOLVED, That national federations and associations urge their respective governments without delay to give priority to the development of:

1. **a campaign together with other governments to counter pollution problems**;
2. **specific strategies and practical ecological measures to master the escalating pollution of metropolitan areas**;
3. environmental education programs that will create awareness among both adults and children of the gravity of these problems so that responsibility for environmental improvement is accepted at both personal and government levels; and
4. specific strategies to involve women at every stage of environmental interaction, including international meetings.



## Ontario Council of The Canadian Federation of University Women Club Locations

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Ajax - Pickering	London	Sarnia Lambton
Aurora - Newmarket	Markham- Unionville	Saugeen
Barrie & District	Milton & District	Scarborough
Belleville & District	Mississauga	Southport
Brampton	Muskoka	St. Catharines
Brantford	Nepean	St. Thomas
Brockville & District	Niagara Falls	Stratford
Burlington	Norfolk	Sudbury
Cambridge	North Bay	Thunder Bay
Chatham -Kent	North Toronto	Toronto
Cornwall & District	North York	Vaughan
Etobicoke	Northumberland	Welland & District
Georgetown	Oakville	Weston & District
Grimsby	Orangeville & District	Windsor
Guelph	Orillia	
Haliburton Highlands	Orleans	
Hamilton	Oshawa & District	
Kanata	Ottawa	
Kincardine	Owen Sound & Area	
Kingston	Perth	
Kitchener - Waterloo	Peterborough	
Leaside - East York	Renfrew & District	