



Mayor and Members of London City Council
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON N6A 4L9

Subject: Preserving Agricultural Land in the Urban Growth Boundary Expansion

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

On behalf of the Middlesex London Food Policy Council, we are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed urban growth boundary expansion and the long-term implications for our region's agricultural land base. We recognize the need for thoughtful, sustainable development, but we urge the City of London to ensure protecting as much of Class 1 prime agricultural land as possible in the expansion.

The loss of agricultural land is irreversible, and every acre taken out of production represents a permanent reduction in our ability to grow local food, sustain farm economies, and contribute to regional food security. With food systems under increasing pressure due to climate change, global supply chain disruptions, and population growth, protecting our farmland is more crucial than ever.

It's our understanding that Council is using the 2024 MOF population projections for their Land Needs Assessment and Urban Growth Boundary expansion numbers, which are overly optimistic and provide the outcome of 1,476 hectares instead of the more realistic 1,130 hectares which would be based on Council's approved population projections. **We would recommend using Council approved population projections, given they are being used for all other Council master plans and budgets.**

In alignment with the Provincial Planning Statement (2024), which requires an Agricultural Impact Assessment (or equivalent analysis) as part of settlement area expansions, **we strongly recommend that the City reviews the AIA to ensure impacts on the agricultural system are appropriately avoided, minimized, or mitigated.**

We encourage Council to prioritize intensification and redevelopment within existing urban areas before expanding the boundary outward. London has opportunities to optimize land use through mixed-use development, higher densities, and innovative planning approaches that align with provincial growth targets while safeguarding agricultural lands.

We ask that City Council carefully consider the long-term consequences of converting farmland to urban use and take a measured approach that balances growth with food security and environmental sustainability. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and collaborate on strategies to support smart growth while protecting our agricultural resources.





While we would prefer less than the proposed planning horizon, we understand the strong desire from Council to achieve their housing targets. We believe this is possible while still protecting prime agricultural land. **Additionally we would encourage London to continue having regional land use planning discussions with rural partners and the province, as well as local Indigenous nations.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Keisha Joseph, Chair
Middlesex London Food Policy Council

CC Marci Ivanic, Middlesex County Clerk

Blaine Parkin, Elgin County CAO and County Clerk

