

From: Lingard, Norman [mailto:norman.lingard@bell.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 11:16 AM
To: Clerk <clerk@HaldimandCounty.on.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Haldimand County Official Plan Review - Phase 2

Caution

This email is NOT from a Haldimand County Employee

Good morning,

Bell Canada thanks you for the opportunity to participate in Haldimand County's Official Plan review process. It is our understanding that the revisions being considered by Council will guide growth and land use decisions within the County to ensure that future planning and development will meet the needs of the community.

About Bell Canada

Bell Canada is Ontario's principal telecommunications infrastructure provider, developing and maintaining an essential public service. The *Bell Canada Act*, a federal statute, requires that Bell supply, manage and operate most of the trunk telecommunications system in Ontario. Bell is therefore also responsible for the infrastructure that supports most 911 emergency services in the Province. The critical nature of Bell's services is declared in the *Bell Canada Act* to be "for the general advantage of Canada" and the *Telecommunications Act* affirms that the services of telecommunications providers are "essential in the maintenance of Canada's identity and sovereignty."

Provincial policy further indicates the economic and social functions of telecommunications systems and emphasizes the importance of delivering cost-effective and efficient services:

- The 2020 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) requires the development of coordinated, efficient and cost-effective infrastructure, including telecommunications systems (Section 1.6.1).
- Section 1.7.1 l) of the 2020 PPS recognizes that "efficient and coordinated telecommunications infrastructure" is a component of supporting long-term economic prosperity.
- We note that the definition of infrastructure in the 2020 PPS is inclusive of communications / telecommunications, which is indicative of the importance in providing efficient telecommunications services to support current needs and future growth (Section 1.6.1).
- Furthermore, the 2020 PPS states that infrastructure should be "strategically located to support the effective and efficient delivery of emergency management services" (Section 1.6.4), which is relevant to telecommunications since it is an integral component of the 911 emergency service.

To support the intent of the *Bell Canada Act* and *Telecommunications Act* and ensure consistency with Provincial policy, Bell Canada has become increasingly involved in municipal policy and infrastructure initiatives. We strive to ensure that a partnership be established which allows for a solid understanding of the parameters of Bell's infrastructure and provisioning needs and the goals and objectives of the municipality related to utilities. For example, balancing the technical demands of providing reliable service to the public with the desire to create an aesthetically pleasing environment.

Comments on the Haldimand County Official Plan Review - Phase 2

Bell Canada is most interested in changes to the transportation network and/or policies and regulations relating to the direction of growth and public infrastructure investments, heritage character, urban design, broadband and economic growth related objectives and how Bell can assist Haldimand County to be a connected community. We have reviewed the Official Plan Draft, and although we have no specific comments or concerns at this time we would like to commend the community for their support and permissive land use policies to enable the deployment of telecommunications and broadband infrastructure.

Future Involvement

We would like to thank you again for the opportunity to comment, and would request that Bell continue to be circulated on any future materials and/or decisions released by the Town in relation to this initiative. Please forward all future documents to circulations@wsp.com and should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

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**We note that WSP operates Bell Canada's development, infrastructure and policy tracking systems, which includes the intake and processing of municipal circulations. However, all responses to circulations and requests for information will come directly from Bell Canada, and not from WSP. WSP is not responsible for the provision of comments or other responses.*