

Official Plan Chapter One Review

City Planning Division

- Strategic Initiatives, Policy & Analysis

May 2024



OPA 718 – Planning and Housing Committee

- Request the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to provide a presentation to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee by the Q2-2024 on OPA 718
- Request the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning apply additional considerations of increasing housing supply and choice.

OPA 718 - Council

Adopted the item on April 18th, 2024, with amendments

Amendments do not require any changes to draft OPA

- Include a greater focus on Black communities
- Engage with faith-based organizations
- Continue Community Leaders Circle
- Prioritize reducing fossil fuel consumption



Recommended Chapter 1 - Purpose and Intent

Why does Chapter 1 matter?

- Chapter 1 is a vision for the City
- Informs future policy reviews, practices and land use decisions
- Required by the *Planning Act*

Why are we doing this now?

- Previous Chapter 1 adopted in 2002
- First Official Plan post-amalgamation
- Update will reflect the changing vision for the City

How can Chapter 1 advance city building objectives?

- Citywide engagement held between 2020-2023
- Recommended Chapter 1 reflects Torontonians, businesses, and other stakeholder views on:
 - Lessons learned during the pandemic,
 - Visions and aspirations for what a “better” city looks like
 - Opportunities to address issues of systemic exclusion in planning policies &
 - Others

1. MAKING CHOICES

1.1 TORONTO OFFICIAL PLAN – INTRODUCTION

Toronto is a great city! It has evolved into a special place that people are about to design. It is a wonderful city in which to live, offering a diversity and richness of urban life that nurtures creativity, entrepreneurial spirit and a concern for each other and for future generations. Together, these characteristics have shaped a city that attracts people from every corner of the world.

What kind of city will Toronto be in the 21st century?

This is an important question affecting us all. Toronto faces a complex and challenging future and the decisions we make today will shape the kind of city we will live in tomorrow.

This Official Plan is about making the right choices and shaping Toronto's collective future. The Plan is about getting the fundamentals right. It is about having a clear vision for the City – grounded in durable principles that ensure a successful future.

Successful cities are key to a healthy future. They are the cities that will attract investment with their high quality of life. As Canada's largest city and Ontario's capital, Toronto's future prospects are of national and provincial significance.

Building a successful Toronto means that we have to make sustainable choices about how we grow. We have to see connections and understand the consequences of our choices. We have to integrate environmental, social and economic perspectives in our decision making. We have to meet the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

There is no such thing as an isolated or purely local decision. Each of us makes choices every day about where to live, work, play, shop and how to travel. They seem like small choices, but together and over time the consequences of these choices can affect everyone's quality of life. That's why planning matters.

Toronto will grow. Our choice is not whether we grow, but how well we grow. Making Toronto better should always come before making Toronto bigger, but we will get bigger.

This Plan sets its sights on building a consensus around change by painting a picture of the City's future. Building a future for Toronto does not mean changing everything. The Plan's land use designations covering about 75 per cent of the City's geographic area will strengthen the existing character of our neighbourhoods, ravines, valleys and our open space system. These areas are not expected to accommodate much growth, but they will mature and evolve. Most of the new growth



Council's Strategic Plan and the Official Plan

The vision and goal statements in Council's Strategic Plan are the broadest expression of the type of city we envision for the future. The Strategic Plan expresses sustainability as a central concept.

Sustainability is based on three pillars: economic, environmental protection, good governance and the building. The concept of sustainability helps us to broaden our vision by considering economic, environmental and social implications together, rather than seeing a single perspective. It encourages decision making that is long range, democratic, participatory and respectful of all stakeholders.

Sustainability means focusing on long term horizons (such as 30 years ahead) instead of the short term (such as the next term of Council).

Sustainability is not a new concept and in the context of city-building is recognized in the Planning Act, which requires that Official Plans contain "such objectives and policies as shall be necessary to ensure and give effect to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the City."

The Plan's Climate Change Action Plan (2007) outlines the City's response to climate change and sets out specific actions on climate change including reducing harmful emissions and building a clean, resilient, low-carbon future.

The weather is changing. The City expects hotter, drier summers, more heat waves, warmer and wilder winters, and fewer but more severe storms, summer rainfall events. These changes will impact how we design, build and live in the City. We must adapt to the weather to ensure the health and well-being of the City and its residents.

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by the choices of others. Everything is connected to everything in some way. Toronto's future is one where connections are understood and where:

- we meet the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs;
- people understand the environmental, social and economic consequences of their individual choices;
- the City's natural features and watersheds are protected and regenerated, forming a vital and integral part of the urban landscape;
- a connected green space system links our parks and open spaces;
- there is a fast, convenient and high-quality transit system linking areas of housing and employment and also providing access to goods and services, health care, education and recreation;
- mixed use is seen as the best way to "move less";
- City services are delivered efficiently through a growth-supportive infrastructure system; and
- we each think globally and act locally.

A City of Leaders and Stewards

A city of leaders and stewards is fundamental to success. Leadership and stewardship in the successful city are not confined to elected officials, but include everyone, from the volunteer in a grassroots community organization to the CEO of our largest corporation.

Implementation of this Plan needs the participation of all segments and sectors of the City. The City of Toronto cannot do it alone. We need leaders in the public and private sectors with the courage to take risks, develop proactive solutions and then follow through. Great leadership makes it safe to do the right thing – make the hard choices and reap the quality of life rewards. Toronto's future as a city of leaders and stewards is one where:

- individuals and communities actively participate in decisions affecting them;
- communities share responsibility for their children and youth;
- innovative implementation solutions are embraced;
- everyone takes responsibility for the natural environment;
- the volunteer sector is thriving;
- people are inspired to become involved in affecting positive change;
- all levels of government recognize their mutual dependence and work together;
- people are engaged and invested in city living and civic life;
- the private sector marshals its resources to help implement public objectives;

A City of Connections

A connected city recognizes that all aspects of our daily lives are linked and that we have to understand relationships and interdependencies to ensure future success. The choices we make about where we live, how we travel, where we work, shop and play all impact on and are affected



Recommended Chapter One Components

Today's Ch. 1 (Making Choices)

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Principles for a Successful Toronto**
- 3. Implementing the Plan
- 4. Organization of the Plan
- 5. How to Read the Plan



Toward Reconciliation

The Official Plan can help to repair our relationship with Indigenous Peoples

- Opportunity to move toward a future where worldviews, cultures and ways of life are respected, celebrated and prominent in Toronto
- Commit to listening and learning from Indigenous Torontonians
- “Nothing about us, without us”



NEW SIDE BAR

*“**Toronto**” originates from the Mohawk word “Tkaronto,” meaning “the place in the water where the trees are standing.”*

It is said to refer to the wooden stakes that were used by the Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat as fishing weirs in the narrows of local river systems.

Planning for Toronto's Future

This Plan is *our* Plan

- OPA 718 reflects the collective input of thousands of Torontonians who contributed:
 - how Toronto should grow and evolve
 - what makes Toronto unique
 - why Toronto matters to them



NEW SIDE BAR

Corporate Strategic Plan and the Official Plan

Toronto's Corporate Strategic Plan is one part of the City's strategic planning framework, which integrates City Council's vision, the Official Plan, the City's service-focused strategies, service plans, initiatives, emerging priorities, and multi-year budgeting.

Our City's Priorities

Setting our priorities helps focus effort and resources, guiding our actions to achieve meaningful progress

- Advancing reconciliation
- Taking action on climate change and its impacts
- Addressing housing demand
- Removing barriers



NEW SIDE BAR

Reconciliation Action Plan

Toronto's first Reconciliation Action Plan will guide its actions to advance truth, justice and reconciliation from 2022 to 2032. It builds on the City's existing commitments through 28 meaningful actions across five themes: Actions to restore truth; Actions to right relations and share power; Actions for justice; Actions to make financial reparations; Actions for the Indigenous Affairs Office.

Vision to 2051

Four bold, actionable goals to guide decisions on growth and development to 2051

1. A City of Complete Communities
2. A Sustainable and Resilient City
3. The Most Inclusive City in the World
4. A City that Contributes to a Just Future for Indigenous Peoples



NEW SIDE BAR

Inclusive planning is an approach that recognizes and accommodates the differences among individuals' circumstances and backgrounds.

Our 2051 Vision

1. A City of Complete Communities

- Achieving complete communities will help eliminate disparities experienced across the city
- Toronto will have more safe, walkable, mixed income, complete communities that create:
 - a sense of place
 - reduced disparities and
 - enable all residents to conveniently access the necessities of daily life



NEW SIDE BAR

*A **complete community** has neighbourhoods where all residents can access all of the necessities for living. This includes places in close proximity to where people live, to be able to access jobs, shops and services –all without needing a vehicle.*

Our 2051 Vision

2. Sustainable and Resilient City

- Toronto will reach net zero and become more resilient to climate change through our:
 - land use planning decisions
 - infrastructure investments
 - extensive transit and cycling networks
 - restored biodiversity, and
 - integrated perspectives, including Indigenous views on land protection



NEW SIDE BAR

Read Toronto's TransformTO Climate Action Strategy and related initiatives.

Our 2051 Vision

3. Most Inclusive City in the World

- Toronto will continue to be a city that recognizes diversity as its strength
- Toronto will welcome people of all backgrounds through:
 - opportunities for a better life
 - pathways to prosperity, and
 - cultural diversity



NEW SIDE BAR

Universal accessibility is about creating an accessible city. It is an important consideration in all land use planning matters that ensures all persons – of all ages, sizes and abilities, to the greatest extent possible – can access daily needs safely with independence and spontaneity, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

Our 2051 Vision

4. A City that Contributes to a Just Future for Indigenous Peoples

- Toronto will:
 - work with honesty and integrity to create and repair relationships to restore truth, justice and reconciliation
 - become a city where Indigenous worldviews, cultures and ways of life are respected and celebrated



Principles

Four principles serve as the foundation for our decision-making, guiding us forward to address our priorities and pursue our vision as a city

1. Reconciliation
2. Access
3. Equity
4. Inclusion



NEW SIDE BAR

Removing Systemic Barriers for Black Torontonians

Not all populations experience inequality in the same way due to bias. Through this plan, communities should be designed to target removal of systemic barriers to improve the lives of Black people and benefiting all equity-deserving groups and Torontonians.

Principles

1. Reconciliation

- Create and repair meaningful, ongoing relationships with Indigenous Peoples
 - recognizing the importance of access to land and water and land stewardship to the Indigenous community
 - amplifying Indigenous voices
 - supporting opportunities for Indigenous prosperity, placemaking and placekeeping
 - Moving beyond land acknowledgments



Principles

2. Access

- Everyone should have access to what they need to flourish in their day-to-day lives
- Ensuring that land use and development decisions enable everyone to have convenient and safe access to:
 - affordable housing
 - walking, cycling and public transit to further enable mobility
 - amenities like libraries, public spaces, community centres



- connected natural and green spaces
- integrated and affordable high-speed broadband internet network; and
- a diverse array of employment, economic and educational opportunities

Principles

3. Equity

- Ensuring actions are taken to remove barriers for Toronto's most marginalized and vulnerable residents:
 - land use and climate change decisions are informed by equity considerations
 - public services are distributed
 - positive impacts of growth and development are shared
 - policies and actions are monitored and measured



- eliminate practices of systemic exclusion, discrimination and displacement of marginalized and racialized populations, including women and the 2SLGBTQ+ community are identified and eliminated

Principles

4. Inclusion

- Ensuring an inclusive city that is safe, caring, and provides equitable opportunities for all Torontonians and those yet to arrive, including residents of all ages, from children to seniors, by:
 - providing opportunities to engage in the planning and development process, both virtually and in-person
 - offering a range of housing forms, tenures and affordability, including dignified supportive housing in all neighbourhoods



- designing the public realm to foster civic inclusion and cohesion
- planning for universal accessibility and mobility; and
- making all areas of the city resilient to the impacts of climate change

Implementation

The Official Plan is about the big picture

- This Plan provides a general guide, but it cannot encompass or imagine every circumstance
- Further implementation plans and strategies are needed to bring the Plan to life, including:
 - secondary plans, area studies, infrastructure reviews, and urban design guidelines



Have Your Say

Building a successful city requires all of us

- The City of Toronto will support the everyone to get involved in the Official Plan through:
 - learning opportunities
 - virtual engagement and
 - continuous improvement in how the City listens to Torontonians
- Over the lifespan of this Plan (to 2051), the City of Toronto will periodically seek public perspectives on its policies – both virtually and in-person

