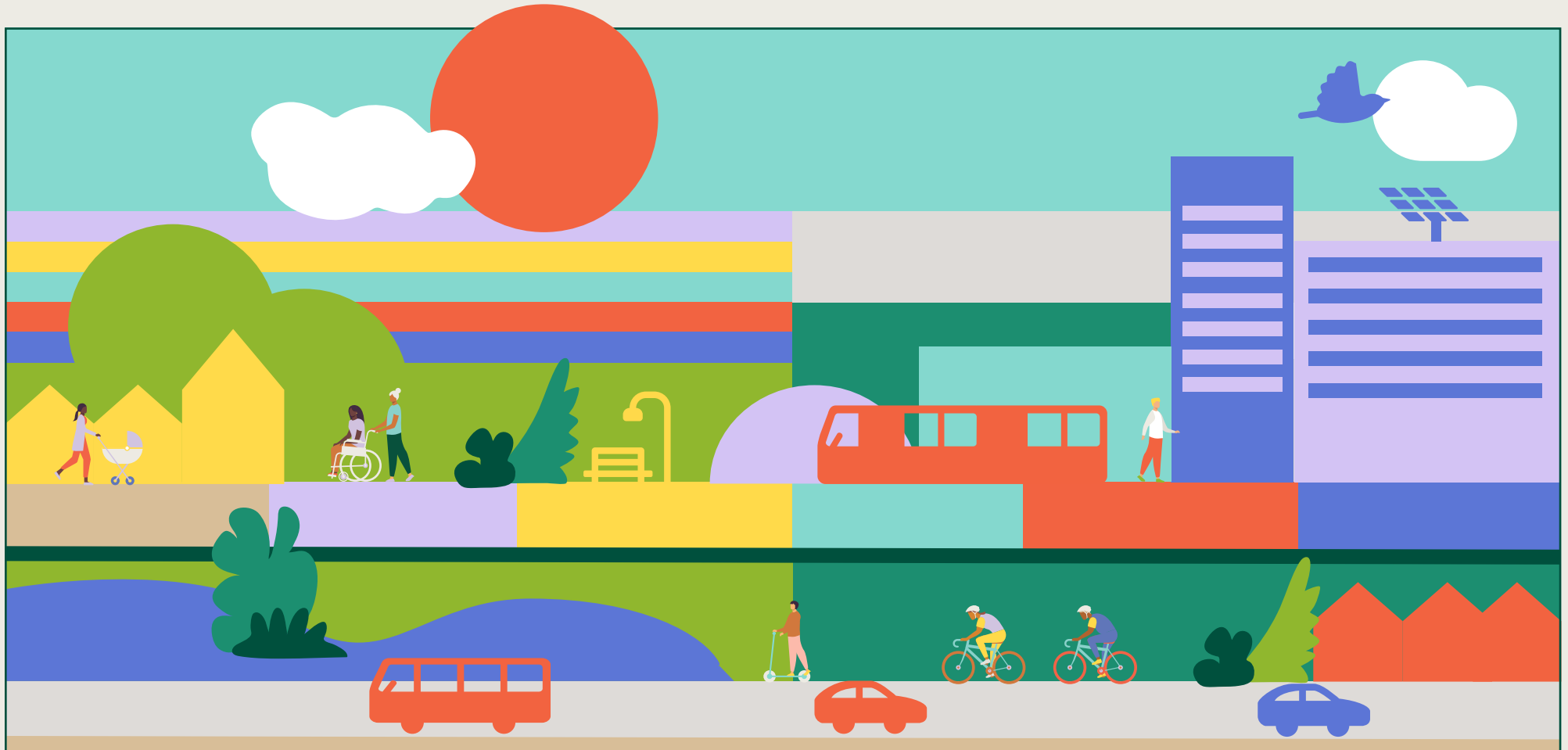


Our Plan Toronto

# Journey Map Towards an Inclusive City

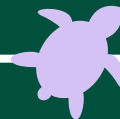
Briefing Summary – June 2023



**We are planning for a place where people have  
gathered for thousands of years.**

The City acknowledges that all facets of its work are carried out on the traditional territories of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. Toronto is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. These territories are currently covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands. We are eternally grateful for Indigenous stewardship of these lands and waters.

We invite everyone to reflect on our city's past and present as we plan together for our shared future. We envision that Toronto's Official Plan and its policies will aspire to move beyond land acknowledgements and towards tangible and meaningful action.



# Introduction to the Official Plan

The following Our Plan Toronto Journey Map provides a visual summary of the collaborative and iterative process that the City Planning Division has undertaken to review and update the City's Official Plan.

The Official Plan is a City Council-adopted planning document that acts as Toronto's road map for land use matters. It sets out our long-term vision, shared values, and policies that help guide decision-making on land development, economic growth, the environment, and more. It's an important plan that directs where different types of development should and should *not* go.

Land use planning in Ontario occurs in a “policy-led” system that consists of a series of nested documents that are intended to inform one another. Toronto's Official Plan is nestled somewhere in the middle since it is informed by province-wide direction found in the *Planning Act*, *Provincial Policy Statement* and regional plans, like the *Growth Plan* and *Greenbelt Plan*.

Toronto's city-wide vision in our Official Plan contains area-based priorities, sometimes called Secondary Plans. This vision further informs and is implemented through zoning by-laws that provide a level of precision, for example—how tall a building is, or how many bicycle parking spaces should be included.

## Policy-led planning system — Nested planning documents



\*The Province is proposing to changes to the Provincial Policy Statement and Growth Plan.

# Introduction to Our Plan Toronto

Over the past few years, the City has been reviewing our Official Plan so that it can set the policy direction on how the city should grow between now and the year 2051. This review process is named “Our Plan Toronto”.

Through Our Plan Toronto, the City Planning team has discussed a number of challenges we are facing as our city grows—from climate change to traffic congestion, from housing affordability to unequal access to opportunities, and more.

But there’s good news.

These challenges are all connected, and the Official Plan is a path forward to addressing all this. Think of it as a guide—a road map—to becoming the best version of Toronto and the most inclusive city in the world.



# Our Journey Map

*Here is an overview of our journey—  
where we have been and where we are going.*

Winter 2021

KICK-OFF

## Our Plan Toronto Kick-off

- Redesigned work plan for remote work and engagement
- Virtual engagement meetings focused on identifying City priorities for 2051
- Established the Community Leaders Circle (CLC)

The **Community Leaders Circle (CLC)** is a group of 30-40 individuals who work with or represent community organizations across the city. The CLC participated in several workshops and meaningful conversations that were fundamental components to reach marginalized communities and equity-deserving groups. CLC members mobilized additional outreach and engagement in their respective communities, resulting in additional focused consultations co-designed and/or led by CLC members.



Spring 2021

**MILESTONE** (June 2021) – Gregg Lintern (Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning) appeared on The Agenda (TVO).



**Youth engagement** included a Youth Consultation Toolkit developed for students in Grades 6 through 12. The interactive toolkit was developed to gain input from young people on environmental priorities while also helping youth better understand climate change and identify adaptation measures found within their respective communities.



## Phase 1: Envision a Future-Ready Toronto

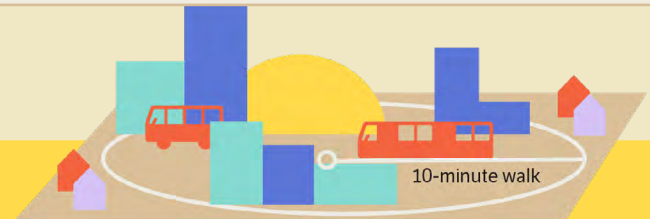
- Launched the project
- Our Plan Toronto introductory meetings
- Initiated Indigenous outreach and engagement
- Over **475** participants



## Phase 2: The Big Questions: Housing, Employment and Sustainability

- Stakeholder-focused meetings to help set policy directions (Environment and Climate Change; Housing and Intensification; Future of Work and Employment; Neighbourhoods and Complete Communities)
- Urban Land Institute Panel: Future of Employment Areas in the Greater Toronto Area
- Continued Indigenous outreach and engagement
- Almost **900** participants

**Major Transit Station Areas (MTSAs)** are the areas within 500 to 800 metres of a transit station, or about a 10-minute walk. Through Our Plan Toronto, the City identified over 140 MTSAs. The City can require affordable housing units within new developments (known as “Inclusionary Zoning”) within Protected-MTSAs (PMTSAs), upon receiving approval from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. See a [map](#) of these areas in Toronto.



Winter – Summer 2022

**MILESTONE** (July 2022) – Council adopted: Official Plan updates to Employment policies; 30 employment conversion requests; 115 MTSAs and Protected-MTSAs.

### Employment Areas

The Official Plan identifies about 13% of the city as either Core Employment Areas or General Employment Areas. These lands are home to 25% of all the jobs across the city. Residential uses are not permitted on these lands to avoid conflicts with manufacturing, warehousing, and other employment uses. Through Our Plan Toronto, the City is considering over 150 requests to convert Employment Areas to permit residential uses.

## Phase 3: A Plan for 2051: Draft Policies

- Discussed draft policies with various groups: Accessibility advocates, various employment sectors (Fashion, Film, Biotechnology, Food and Beverage, others), Neighbourhood Improvement Areas, and others
- Town Hall events across the city, including presentations and reports considered at Planning and Housing Committee and City Council
- Continued Indigenous outreach and engagement
- **1,200+** participants

### Phase 4: 2051 Vision, Principles and Indigenous Planning Perspectives

- Focused discussions on Official Plan Chapter 1 and getting the 2051 vision right
- Indigenous outreach and engagement on Indigenous Planning Perspectives to be included in Chapter 1
- **250+** participants

#### Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods (EHON)

is an initiative to help facilitate more low-rise housing in residential neighbourhoods to meet the needs of our growing city. Throughout Our Plan Toronto, participants discussed expanding opportunities for “missing middle” housing or duplexes to low-rise walk-up apartments across the city.

Spring 2023 – Onward

### Next Steps

- Taking stock of all the important input into the City’s future and re-writing Chapter 1 of the Official (final report targeted to Fall 2023 Planning and Housing Committee meeting)
- Final recommendations for 100+ Employment Area conversion requests (final reports targeted to the June and July 2023 Planning and Housing Committee meetings)

**2,800+**  
total people  
engaged  
through Our  
Plan Toronto

# 2051 Draft Vision Statement and Principles

Throughout Our Plan Toronto, participants shared their thoughts and aspirations for Toronto's future. Chapter 1 of the Official Plan will set the course for the City we want in 2051. The 2051 Vision Statement and Principles for a Successful and Inclusive City will help shape and inform future decision-making on land use matters.

## 2051 Vision Statement

The Official Plan should:

- achieve **complete communities** and all its requisite components;
- prioritize **climate change action** and sustainability towards net zero by 2040;
- be the road map for Toronto to become the **most inclusive city** in the world; and
- **contribute to a just future** for Indigenous Peoples.

## Principles for a Successful and Inclusive City:

- **Access:** Successful city-building requires improving access to many facets of daily life;
- **Equity:** Successful city-building requires centering equity as an organizing principle of this Official Plan. The Plan's policies should remove barriers for the City's most marginalized and vulnerable communities;
- **Inclusion:** Successful city-building requires creating a safe and inclusive city for all Torontonians and for those yet to arrive; and
- **Reconciliation:** we must create and repair meaningful, ongoing relationships with Indigenous Peoples.



# Indigenous Planning Perspectives



In recognizing that Indigenous communities have an important outlook and role in land use planning, Our Plan Toronto used a relationship-based approach when communicating and engaging with Indigenous Rights Holders, businesses, organizations and individuals. This approach included:

- Outreach to determine best approach for the engagement
- Meetings with Rights Holders and urban Indigenous organizations
- One-on-one phone interviews
- Focus group meetings
- Presentations to: Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee, Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council, and Community Leaders Circle (CLC)
- Coordination with Indigenous Affairs Office
- Project updates

The City of Toronto saw Our Plan Toronto as an opportunity to support Indigenous self-determination through inclusion and reflection. To help advance the City's Reconciliation Action Plan and acknowledge First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples worldviews, the Official Plan should:

- Respect the rights of Indigenous communities to land stewardship and access to both land and water.
- Recognize the importance and purpose of land acknowledgements, however go beyond land acknowledgements and aim for tangible and meaningful action.
- Seek to amplify Indigenous voices in the planning process through consistent and respectful approaches to communication and decision-making.
- Explicitly seek to deepen understanding of contemporary urban Indigenous realities and experiences.
- Continue to identify opportunities for Indigenous placemaking and placekeeping initiatives in new development.

Learn more about the City of Toronto's 2022–2032 [Reconciliation Action Plan](#).



# Protecting Employment Lands

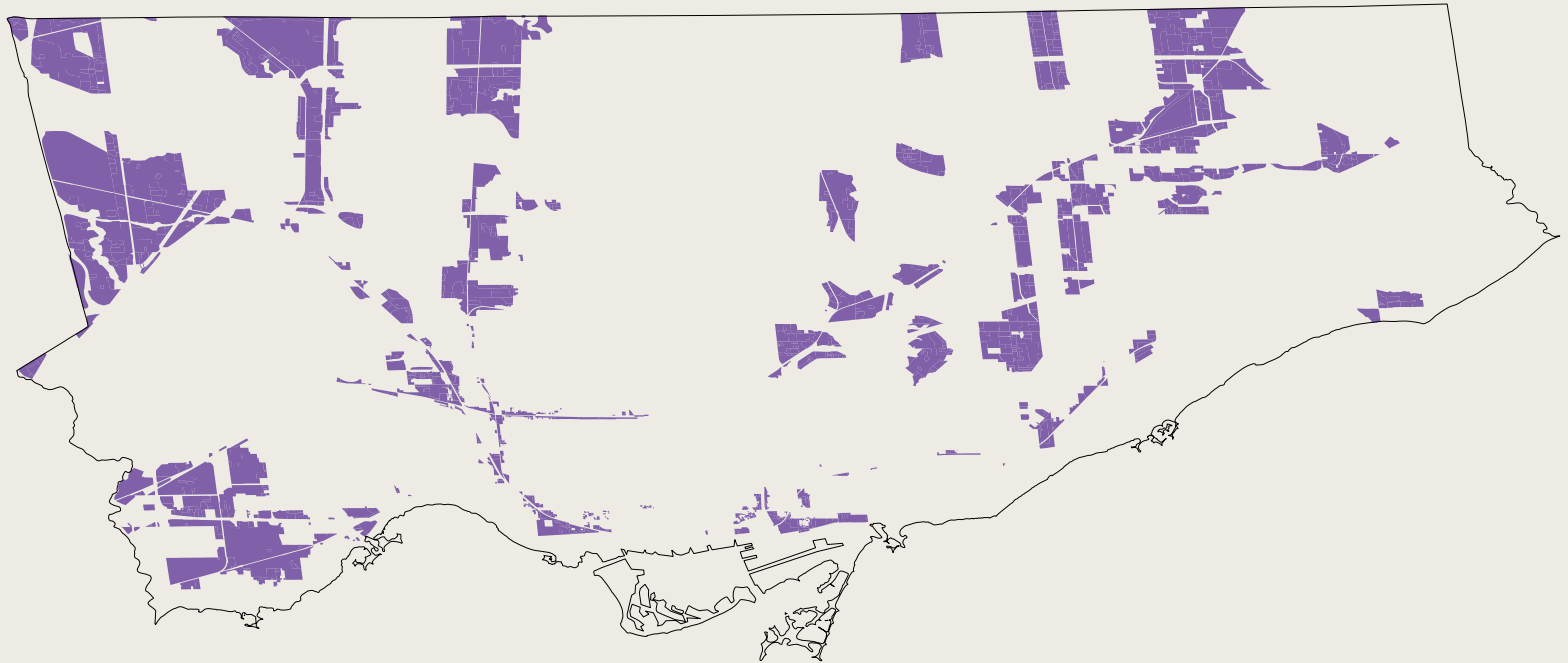
The City has over 8,000 hectares of land set aside to accommodate essential businesses that a growing city requires—think of recycling depots, food terminals or wastewater treatment plants. The Official Plan designates these lands as “Employment Areas”.

Employment areas cover **13% of all lands** in the city, and contain **25% of all jobs** across Toronto. You might not visit them much, but they play an essential role in supporting our economy.

Watch a 1-minute explainer video on Toronto’s Employment Areas on [YouTube](#).



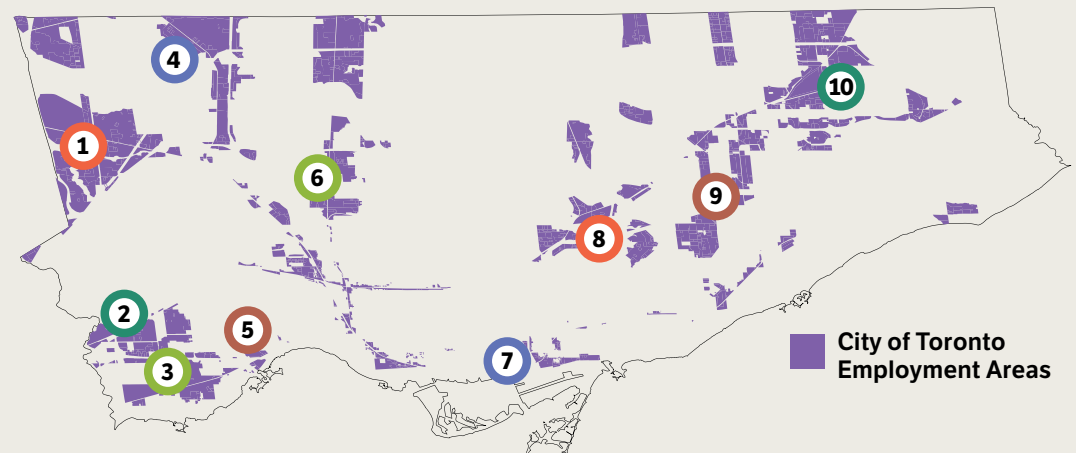
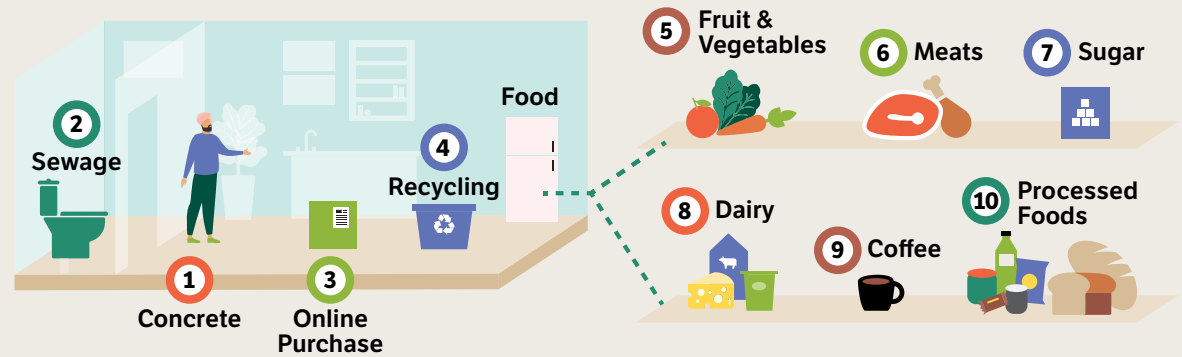
City of Toronto  
Employment Areas



# Your Essentials, Brought to You by Employment Areas

Not everyone is going to work in an office. Our Employment Areas help us maintain a diversity of jobs across the city to provide work for all Torontonians, including low-barrier entry jobs for those whose first language is not English, for example. You can see in the graphic here some examples of everyday essentials and the location of the employment area where those essentials were made.

Learn more about some Toronto businesses and their stories: [PDF](#)



# Questions for Discussion

The Official Plan requires frequent reviews and changes to address future challenges we face. Please consider staying involved.

What are the best ways to track our progress towards achieving the stated vision and principles for a successful city?

As the city continues to grow, what is the right balance we need to achieve based on the varying needs and perspectives of Torontonians, businesses, and those yet to arrive?



Want to stay involved?  
Feel free to reach out  
by email:

**[opreview@toronto.ca](mailto:opreview@toronto.ca)**

Learn more:  
**[toronto.ca/ourplan](https://toronto.ca/ourplan)**

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[Facebook](#).