

Ontario Farmland Trust

*Agriculture and farmland
preservation as a provincial priority*

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CFFO

Preserving Farmland

☼ Charles De Gaulle – “*A Nation that cannot feed itself is not a Great Nation*”

CFFO context – why preserve farmland?

- ✿ The CFFO focuses on the long-term impacts of economic and policy decisions
- ✿ Food is essential for human existence
- ✿ Foodland is essential for Food Production
- ✿ Ontario is blessed with tremendous food potential
- ✿ In the long-term, it would be wrong not to preserve and enhance those resources for our grand children and their grandchildren after them

Why Policy Intervention?

- ⊗ Short Term Economics Vs Long Term Sustainability
- ⊗ Two Key Drivers from a development perspective that result in the need for policy:
 - ⊗ Building outwards is more profitable than building upward
 - ⊗ The value of developed land seems greater than the value as farmland

Why Policy Intervention?

- ⊗ But it is not just Developers; there are drivers for Farmers as well
- ⊗ Farmers are often rich in assets, but poor in cash; selling a part or the whole farm for development can provide an infusion or a comfortable retirement
- ⊗ Therefore the long-term good of the land and the people falls to the wayside for the short to medium term good of the farmer and the developer

Policy Decisions and Implications

- ⊗ Issue: fragmentation of farm land
 - ⊗ The Problem: Fewer large blocks of land for efficient production;
 - ⊗ Non-urban sprawl – severances create tensions over time; even retirement lots become an issue over time
 - ⊗ Most municipalities today are extremely strict when it comes to allowing them, if at all
 - ⊗ The downside – the possibility of a cash infusion is gone. A retirement place near the farm can't happen.

Policy Decisions and Implications

- ⊗ Greenbelt – good goals, time will tell about its effectiveness:
 - ⊗ The good – it protects agriculture and environmental land for the future.
 - ⊗ Impact on Farmers: Speculative Land Value Vs Productive Land Value.
 - ⊗ Leap Frogging

Thank You

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