



BRYAN W. TUCKEY

Commissioner

Planning and Development Services Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Councillor Frank Scarpitti, Committee Chair
Members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Bryan W. Tuckey, Commissioner of Planning and Development Services

DATE: March 15, 2005

RE: GTA Agricultural Action Plan

I am pleased to present the final GTA Agriculture Action Plan for the Committee's information.

The GTA Agriculture Action Plan has been developed through a partnership among the Regions of Halton, Peel, Durham and York together with the GTA Federations of Agriculture. The Province, through Municipal Affairs and Housing and Agriculture and Food have also contributed to the initiative.

The Plan now has the endorsement from the GTA Regions and the GTA Federations of Agriculture and are committed to participating in the implementation of the 37 action items contained in the Plan. The Province and the Federal Minister of Agriculture have also indicated an eagerness to participate.

The key next step is the formation of a GTA Agriculture Action Committee (Action Item No. 7) that will oversee the implementation of the Plan and hold the lead agencies accountable for carrying out the specific tasks. The formation of the GTA Agriculture Action Committee involves the appointment of representatives from the various stakeholder groups. York Region will have one representative. At the time that York Region endorsed the Action Plan in January 2004, Regional Council gave authority to Regional Chair Fisch to appoint York's member to the Committee.

The priority tasks for the Committee will be to establish the short and medium term workplan and to seek a stable source of funding. Securing stable funding will determine the extent to which the Committee will have an influence on the agriculture agenda in the

Province. A working group has already been established to investigate funding options including direct financial contributions from stakeholders (especially the Provincial and Federal Ministries) to secondment of existing staff, housed in space managed by one of the stakeholders.

This has been an exciting, collaborative process. The continued participation of all the stakeholders is critical to the ongoing success of the initiative.

Please contact Neil Garbe, Director, Community Planning at (905)830-4444 ext. 1502 if you require additional information.



For Brian Tuckey

NG/jr

March 15, 2005

Attachment: GTA Agricultural Action Plan