



# STOP SPRAWL DURHAM

## THE FORD GOVERNMENT MUST RESTORE THE GREENBELT CARVE-OUTS AND RETURN ALL PROTECTIONS TO THE DUFFINS ROUGE AGRICULTURAL PRESERVE

*September 5, 2023*

The resignation of Minister Clark, a cabinet shuffle, and a new review of the Greenbelt parcels are all a distraction from the ongoing demand from Ontarians: **It's long past time for Premier Ford to recall the legislature and take action to return the carve-outs to the Greenbelt and to restore all protections to the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve.**

The recommendations of both the Provincial Auditor General's [Special Report on Changes to the Greenbelt](#) and the [Integrity Commissioner's Report](#) are clear and indisputable. The Greenbelt carve-out exercise was flawed, hasty, opaque and deceptive. None of the Greenbelt lands are required to meet the provincial target of building 1.5 million houses.

In 2005, the Ontario government introduced the [Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Act](#) to ensure that the agricultural and conservation easements in the DRAP could not be released (see [Backgrounder](#)) while simultaneously determining that future development would proceed only east of West Duffins Creek in a new community called Seaton. This decision and the preservation of lands west of Duffins Creek were reinforced through the passing of the [Central Pickering Development Plan](#) (also repealed in 2022 by the Ford government).

Pickering staff have [documented](#) that the provincial housing target for Pickering can be met through housing development in Seaton and in the Pickering City Centre neighbourhood. Both the [Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario](#) and the [Housing Affordability Task Force](#) have reinforced to the government that the Greenbelt is not needed to reach housing targets, and is not constraining supply.

**Premier Doug Ford and his government must immediately restore the Greenbelt lands that were removed in 2022, as well as return all the necessary protections to ensure the agricultural easements in the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve (DRAP) are kept on these lands *in perpetuity*.**

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