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Don Scott, Chair  
Niagara Escarpment Commission  
232 Guelph Street  
Georgetown, Ontario  
L7G 4B1

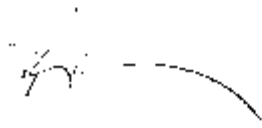
Dear Mr. Scott:

In response to your submission of November 24, 2000 containing the Niagara Escarpment Commission's recommendation for the Niagara Escarpment Plan Review Terms of Reference, let me thank you for your timely response.

Based on the results of the consultation, and the Commission's recommendation, please find attached the final Terms of Reference for the Plan Review established under the authority of Section 17(2) of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act. Section 17(2) of the Act requires the Review be conducted in accordance with the attached Terms of Reference.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment of the Commission to conducting this Review and look forward to supporting the work of the Commission to complete this important task.

Sincerely,



Hon. John C. Snobelen  
Minister

## **Niagara Escarpment Plan Review TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act* (NEPDA) requires the Minister to establish a Terms of Reference for the Review. The Act further provides that the Review shall be conducted in accordance with those Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference describe how the Review will be conducted in terms of both the items to be reviewed and the conduct of the Review, subject to the provisions of the NEPDA.

The Terms of Reference have been established after consideration of the Niagara Escarpment Commission's (NEC) recommendation on the Terms of Reference that was based on public consultation in October and November 2000.

### **(1) Review Topics**

The following items are matters to be considered in the Review:

- Estate Wineries
- Rural Tourism
- Signage
- Environmental Monitoring
- Intensive Recreational Development in Escarpment Parks and the Status of Land Trusts

The following items are either to include changes to the Plan maps and text that are factually in error or to update the Plan or maps to reflect changes that have occurred subsequent to approval of the current Niagara Escarpment Plan.

- Production of new Plan maps (reprint GIS 1:50,000 Plan maps only)
- Plan Errata
- Plan Text

### **(2) Consultation**

The Commission shall make every effort to ensure the Review incorporates an open and inclusive consultation process.

The Commission should pursue opportunities to use facilitation and consultative dispute resolution to resolve as many matters as possible early in the Plan Review process.

### **(3) Period for Conducting the Review**

The Commission shall provide the Minister with a recommended, revised Niagara Escarpment Plan no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The hearing officer(s) shall conduct the hearing process in a manner that will allow the Commission to recommend a new Niagara Escarpment Plan to the Minister by November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

### **(4) Conduct of the Review**

The NEPDA requires that a public hearing be conducted. In order to ensure an open and fair hearing process, the hearing officer(s), in adopting rules of procedure shall endeavour to:

- make the Review as non-adversarial as possible
- provide for the submission and evaluation of written submissions prior to the hearing
- increase to the degree possible the early resolution of issues

The direction in items (1) to (4) is subject to the relevant provisions of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.

December 5, 2000

