



YORK REGION FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

SERVING THE FARM COMMUNITY SINCE 1940

June 24, 2025

Mayor & Council
City of Richmond Hill
225 East Beaver Creek Road
Richmond Hill, Ontario

Dear Mayor West and Council

Re: Item 4.1 – Request for Comments – Comprehensive Zoning By-law Project

The York Region Federation appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Comprehensive Zoning By-law Project. It is important that this by-law be supportive of agricultural uses in the Provincial Plan areas to support the industry now and into the future. We feel there are updates on some definitions and permitted uses in relation to Agriculture in the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM).

The York Region Federation of Agriculture (YRFA) is a non-profit general farm organization representing over 600 registered farm business members in York Region. We are farmers working for farmers on issues, legislation and regulations affecting farms in the Region as well as decisions that will affect agriculture into the future. We are passionate and dedicated to ensuring the agriculture sector and our rural communities are included, consulted and considered in any new and changing legislation that impacts the sustainability and growth of the agriculture sector in the Region.

The definitions of Agricultural Uses and Agricultural Related Use are outdated and should use the definitions provided in the Provincial Guidelines on Permitted Uses in Prime Agricultural Areas as well as the PPS 2024.

The parking of farm equipment, especially large equipment out doors is a Normal Farm Practice. Normal Farm Practices are protected by the Farming and Food Production Protection Act. This definition should be updated.

On-Farm Diversified Uses should be defined and permitted in the Greenbelt and ORM.

Where ever possible agricultural uses, agricultural uses, and on-farm diversified uses should be permitted As Of Right.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Comprehensive Zoning By-law Project. We look forward to working with you on this and other agriculture related issues in the future.

Sincerely

Kim Empringham

BUY THE FOOD ONTARIO GROWS



Secretary/Treasurer/Director
York Region Federation of Agriculture

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