

Municipality of East Ferris Report to Council

Report No.: COMM-2024-03

Date: September 24, 2024

Originator: Greg Kirton, Director of Community Services

Subject: Provincial Planning Statement 2024 Overview – Information Report

BACKGROUND

Land use planning in Ontario is broadly governed by the *Planning Act* and a series of other plans that lay the framework for municipal planning documents. Historically, one of the most important provincial plans has been the Provincial Policy Statement.

On October 20, 2024, the newest version of this provincial plan will come into effect under the name of the “Provincial Planning Statement 2024” (PPS 2024). The 2024 plan incorporates major changes, including the replacement of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and the addition of new definitions and policies surrounding “Large and Fast-Growing Municipalities”. Other changes in the new PPS 2024 are similarly aimed at large municipalities, primarily in Southern Ontario.

From the perspective of East Ferris, there are significantly fewer changes in the new PPS 2024. It is important to note that the Growth Plan that governs Northern Ontario, the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario 2011, was left intact and not merged into the new PPS 2024. Policies about rural areas were largely unchanged as well, which are primarily the policies that would be applicable for East Ferris.

Most rural policies in section 2.5 of the PPS 2024 are word for word identical to their 2020 counterparts with the exception of minor wording tweaks around the character of rural development. The changes in wording reflect an approach that is more permissive towards development in rural areas, provided that planning authorities “give consideration to locally appropriate rural characteristics, the scale of development and the provision of appropriate service levels”.

Although the PPS 2024 changes are significant province wide, it will have limited direct impact on the way in which planning is done in East Ferris and other rural northern communities.

Respectfully Submitted,



Greg Kirton, RPP, MCIP
Director of Community Services

I concur with this report and recommendation,



Jason Trottier, HBBA, MPA, CPA, CMA
CAO/Treasurer