EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

OFFICIAL PLAN COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP

Are you interested in sharing your opinion on how the Town should consider growing to 2051?

The Town of Fort Erie is reviewing and updating its Official Plan! An Official Plan is a strategic land use planning policy document that addresses a range of topics, including housing, employment, agriculture, natural heritage, and economic development, among others. The Official Plan Conformity and 10-Year Review is to address the current and future changes in provincial policy and legislation, to guide future growth and development, and address emerging opportunities and issues in the Town.

More specifically the Official Plans update will review:

- creating a vision for guiding growth within the Town to 2051;
- policy direction on different forms of housing that support age-in-place and affordable housing opportunities;
- residential densities and location - where singles, semis, townhomes or apartment buildings are best situated;
- how to address the economic vitality of commercial and employment areas;
- promote an enhance natural areas and open spaces;
- reinforce appropriate protection of environmental or natural feature areas;
- servicing considerations for water supply, sanitary and stormwater management; and
- transportation considerations, such as roads, sidewalks and trail network and connectivity.

The Town is inviting interested persons who wish to participate as a voluntary member of a Community Focus Group to submit an Expression of Interest. This group will provide input to professional and/or consultant staff at several points over the course of the Official Plan's development. The Town wishes to assemble a representative cross-section of persons including:

- **residents**
- **business owners**
- **community organizations**
- **land developers**

The Community Focus Group will participate in an initial facilitated strategic exercise, providing input into the vision statement, goals, objectives and priorities for the future development of the Town. At this time, the Town is seeking to establish the Community Focus Group, which is expected to be between 8-10 persons. Town staff will provide a recommended list of names to Council for their consideration and endorsement.

Interested persons are advised their participation should be open-minded, and receptive, focusing on not only their interests, but the interests of the community at large with all aspects of the community development being discussed. If you are interested in contributing your thoughts and opinion towards creating a long-term vision for the community and wish to be considered for participation, kindly go to https://letstalk.forterie.ca/official-plan-review-and-update, no later than **February 15, 2024** and complete the online application. Applications after this date will not be accepted.

Persons submitting their expression of interest and those selected to participate are advised their names will become part of public record and may be published in relation to this planning exercise. We thank all persons for their interest; however only those selected will be contacted.

Accessibility Accommodation

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to participate or attend meetings, kindly advise in your response so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Not interested in being part of the Focus Group but still want to voice your opinion? For those not selected or not interested in participating on the Community Focus Group, there will be a variety of opportunities to offer feedback throughout the secondary plan process including Public Open Houses, written submissions, and online engagement on Let's Talk Fort Erie (letstalk.forterie.ca).

The names of those submitting their expression of interest and those selected to participate will become part of public record and may be published in relation to this planning exercise.