

Delegation February 27 2018

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor, Councilors, staff, fellow citizens, I would like to base my comment today on some of the reasons that were given by council prior to their votes on the Official Plan changes, that took place during the council meeting of January 29 ,2018. As a matter of context, I appeared before you on the matter of the Official Plan on January 23,2018. I then attended the council meeting of January 29, 2018. What I heard on January 29th was a mixture of rationalizations, opinions, historical anecdotes, and some data. For the record, I do not live in downtown Burlington.

The first comment has to do with Immigration and the statement that, **"The federal government is letting in 300,000 new immigrants and half of them are coming to southern Ontario"**.

Population Growth is something our country desperately needs, and immigration is one component of Population Growth. The Stats Canada formula for Population Growth = (natural increase where NI =births-deaths) + (migratory increase where MI =immigration-emigration).

Immigration is not news, according to Statistic Canada our normal immigration since the 90's has been in the order of 235,000 per year. The Canadian immigration plan going forward sees that going as high as 340,000 by 2020. Compare that to the fact that in 1913, 400,000 immigrants came to Canada at a time when our population was a mere 7 million.

So, while immigration is important to us as a country, Stats Canada states the "observed" growth from 2001 to 2011 was 1.11%, with the "projected" growth for 2011 to 2021 to be in the area of 1.07 %, dropping thereafter to .72% by 2061. That is a serious problem. (Source: Stats Canada Chart 1)

Why? If we compare those projections to the period between 1951 to 1961, population growth during that decade was far greater at 2.67 %, where natural growth was 1.87% and migratory growth was .79%. So, while we seem to be experiencing population growth in this area, the reasons for that have little to do with immigration alone.

The real problem this country and this province will face as we approach 2061 is that the natural increase (births minus deaths) component of population growth will drop to .42 % with the migratory component dropping to .64%. So, Canada is struggling to replace itself and I think we are pinning a lot of hope on a balloon that may burst and that would have dire consequences for Canada, Ontario and Burlington. With that in mind I would like to suggest we take a more conservative approach to our OP and our downtown which includes taking a step back for a few months.

The second comment was ***"we need assessment now"***. The member did not elaborate on what that entailed. Did that mean Burlington will struggle going forward to contain tax increases? Or, did that mean that units that sell at \$2 million each, is an easier way to meet our future assessment/spending needs? An answer to that question would be helpful.

Here is what I do know, both the developers and city win under a scenario where 20 plus storeys developments are built and where penthouse floors sell for between \$4 and \$8 million per storey. But who and what we lose is the question that is not answered under the OP. For example, under this plan, do we stand to lose the "no frills" grocery store, or Centro for example? No-frills" is more than a grocery store, it is a meeting place, it is a place where locals meet and chat and laugh in the aisles, it has energy and vitality, something that you will not find in the two other grocery stores that people will be forced to shop at if it disappears and no words contained in the OP, such as there will be a grocery presence, will replace what is lost.

The third comment was, ***"downtown has to take its share too"***. The downtown in recent years has shouldered its share of density and when asked the downtown residents and opponents of the OP seem willing to continue take its fair share of growth. Perhaps what is at issue then, is the definition of "its share"? It seems that what that means under the proposed OP, is we will have 23 and 24 storey buildings across from city hall and 17 storey buildings sprinkled elsewhere.

I don't live in the downtown, but I do believe the pushback you are getting is genuine, grassroots and is not about to go away anytime soon, and not because people are angry, but because the stakes are too high to be ignored.

What I also heard was this plan means ***"100-170 people will be coming into the downtown on annual basis"***. I don't believe the increase in population growth is the issue, the change in height permissions and the number of tall building is the issue.

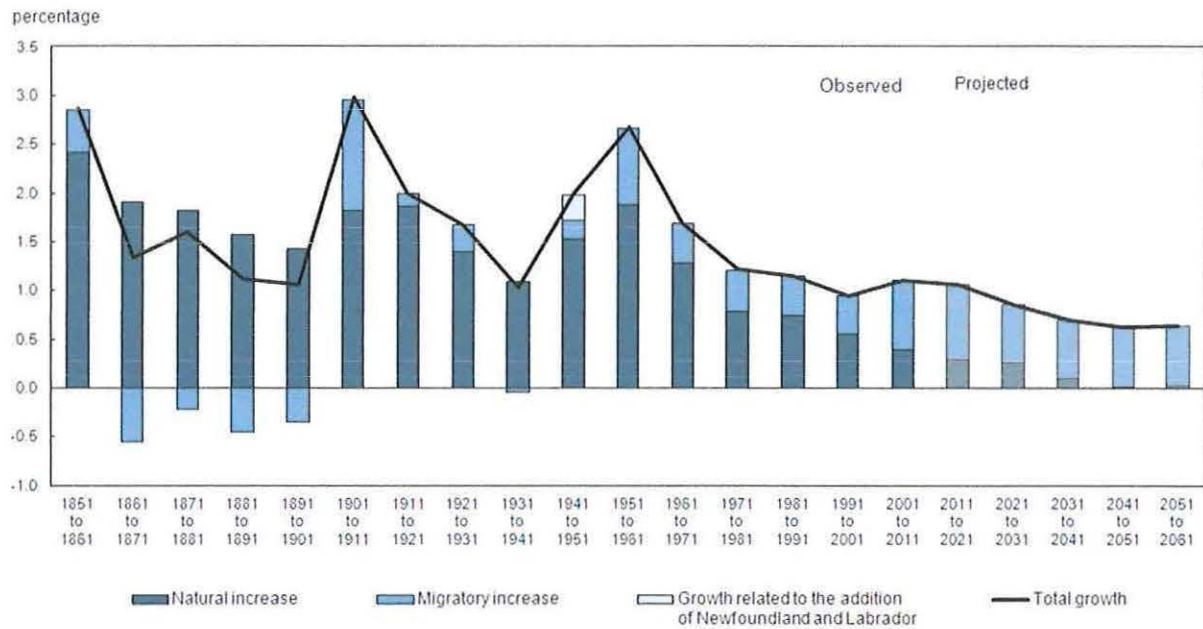
I would like to finish with a statement that we can all agree upon and that is ***"we have to make this decision based on 195,000"***. I am here as one of the 195,000 and I would like to see the OP delayed in order to remove the Mobility Hub designation and what that means to the future of Burlington. Finally I heard ***"deferring challenging and contentious issue is not leadership"*** and that may be the case, but leadership is also having the willingness to taking a second look at an issue and then having the fortitude to change your mind.

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Chart 1
Annual average growth rate, natural increase and migratory increase per intercensal period,
Canada, 1851 to 2061



Note: Data from 1851 to 2011 is observed and data from 2011 to 2061 is projected.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2012, "Population growth in Canada: From 1851 to 2061," *Census in Brief*, Census of Population 2011, Catalogue no. 98-310-x.