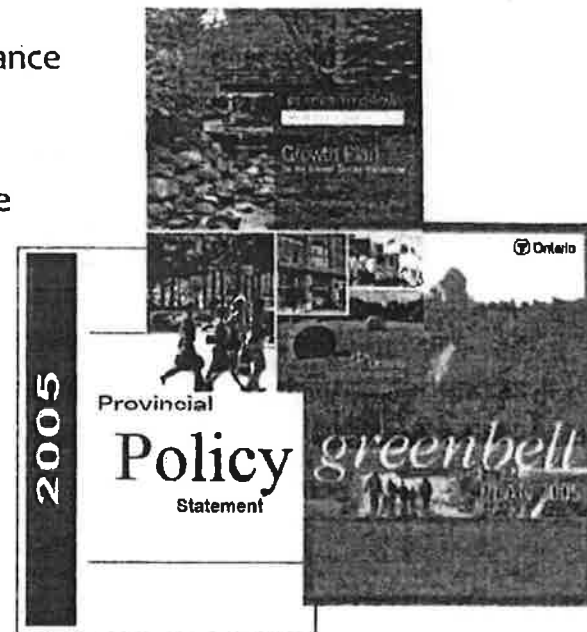


Role and Mandate of the Provincial Development Facilitator

Mandate

- The Office of the Provincial Development Facilitator was established in 2005 to help the Province, municipalities, landowners and community groups and other stakeholders resolve issues related to growth management, land use and infrastructure planning, and environmental protection.
- Any individual, municipality or business can request assistance from the Office of the Provincial Development Facilitator, which operates in an independent and impartial manner.
- The Minister of Infrastructure may identify projects for the attention of the PDF.
- Requests for the PDF's involvement on a project can be made to the PDF directly or to the Minister.
- Requests for assistance will be considered in the context of provincial objectives.



Mandate

- General criteria for Provincial Development Facilitator involvement include:
 - Willing parties that have agreed to negotiate in a constructive manner and on a confidential, without prejudice basis.
 - The facilitation request relates to ongoing, large-scale planning and/or long-standing matters with infrastructure and/or environmental issues that are overarching in nature and may cross municipal boundaries and/or watersheds;
 - The matter appears to fall under the mandate(s) of two or more provincial ministries and/or agencies, and it is unclear which ministry/agency may have the lead in terms of coordinating a provincial response; and,
 - The matter arises out of the implementation of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Provincial Policy Statement, the Greenbelt Act and Plan, or other relevant provincial legislation, plans and/or policies.
 - Any agreement achieved by the parties with the Provincial Development Facilitator will abide by the existing provincial and federal legislative framework.

PDF Role

- At the direction of the Minister, the PDF will provide impartial mediation and facilitation services to help the parties identify common ground and if possible, find a mutually acceptable agreement.
- The PDF can only provide advice and is not in a decision-making role. The PDF is operationally located in the Ministry of Infrastructure and reports to the Minister of Infrastructure.
- Where requested by the Government, the PDF may also provide advice to ministers on emerging policy issues.
- When prioritizing external requests for facilitation services, the Provincial Development Facilitator will have regard for time constraints, the interests of the various parties, and any outstanding legal matters, including tribunal hearings and/or active litigation.

Why engage the OPDF?

- There is limited capacity in the Province to address complex, cross-cutting, multi-jurisdictional issues in a timely manner.
- The OPDF focuses efforts on large, multi-faceted issues that involve numerous parties. Affected ministries may not have the staff resources, expertise, and time to oversee and coordinate an expedient and timely strategy to resolve such matters.
- The PDF process enhances the Province's capacity to integrate and coordinate decision-making within and between ministries as well as between different levels of government.
- Through MOI, the OPDF can draw upon technical, legal, and professional staff of other ministries in a way that reduces the impact on ministry resources.
- In the case of Ontario Municipal Board referrals, the PDF works with various parties to resolve issues up-front, thus avoiding lengthy and costly hearings before the Ontario Municipal Board.
- The PDF process provides a "third-party" perspective, while protecting the Provincial Interests.

Paula Dill, Provincial Development Facilitator

Telephone: 416-325-9764

Email: Paula.Dill@ontario.ca