



Chamber of Commerce  
Brantford - Brant

## Boundary Adjustment

### Issue

The Corporation of the City of Brantford and the County of Brant have been involved in a lengthy discussion concerning Boundary Adjustment without a successful conclusion. The uncertainty surrounding the future growth capabilities of both communities represents an impediment to business investment and will negatively impact the future prosperity of both communities.

### Background

**1) Previous negotiations:** In 2013 and 2014, representatives of the City of Brantford and the County of Brant have met, with the help of a Provincial Development facilitator to consider the City's request for amendments to the City/County Boundary. A Letter of Intent regarding the boundary adjustment was the outcome but this process failed to be successfully ratified by both Councils.

**2) An area of growth:** Provincial legislation, such as the Planning Act and the Places to Grow Act, 2005, and Provincial policies, such as the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006 all acknowledge that our communities are poised for significant growth. Because of tremendous geography, both the City of Brantford and the County of Brant are expected to experience significant population growth in the coming decades. Forward looking leadership requires planning to accommodate that growth. In June of 2013, the Province updated their Population and Employment Projections to 2041 and the expectations are that the City of Brantford will grow to a population of 163,000 and the County of Brant will grow to a population of 57,000. That increase in population will require new homes and new and expanded businesses to create jobs. This residential and commercial growth will result in an increase in the assessment base for both municipalities

**3) A positive climate of investment:** There are many communities in southern Ontario that are competing to attract investments. Local business seeking to invest and expand, along with new businesses seeking to invest and locate in southern Ontario look at many factors that make up the business case to invest in any community. The shortage of serviced land for development along with the unresolved boundary negotiations create uncertainty in the minds of those considering investments in our area and that lack of clarity for potential investors will have a negative impact on the future prosperity of both communities.

### Our Position

The City of Brantford and the County of Brant need to foster a climate of certainty and stability to ready both communities for the population growth that lies ahead. To better position the City of Brantford and the County of Brant to achieve prosperity by growing together as independent municipalities, a negotiated settlement to the Boundary issue is required. In order to allow sufficient time for ratification by the Province, the settlement must be reached prior to the next Municipal Election and no later than December 31, 2016.