



How to Create A One-Page Leave Behind

Protect Ontario's Greenbelt – Start In Your Community

Why? Elected officials respond to constituents who are organized, specific, and persistent. A good meeting coupled with strong communications materials builds relationships, shows local support, and moves the needle on Greenbelt protection.

Here's how to get started drafting an impactful letter:

1) State Your Ask:

Outline the primary ask that you want the official to commit to. It could be things along the lines of:

- Pass a resolution opposing changes to the Greenbelt.
- Support funding for farmland conservation in the next budget
- Attend a site visit/tour to see an at-risk site in your community

2) State Why It Matters Locally:

State why your concerns matter locally. For example in our area:

- Greenbelt expansion is needed to protect (X) acres of farmland which is enough to feed (X) families annually.
- Watersheds are at risk and need better protection since they provide clean drinking water to (X) residents.

3) Community Support:

Remind the reader about the meeting and everyone involved. Our meeting on (Date) included:

(X) residents from (neighbourhoods/towns)
List community groups who participated
Petition signatures from (X) constituents

4) Include Quotes From Residents:



GRAND RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

"[Personal story – e.g., 'My family has farmed this land for 4 generations. Without the Greenbelt means losing our livelihood.']"

— [Name], [Municipality] resident

"[Another story – e.g., 'We kayak the [River] every summer. Expanding the Greenbelt keeps our water clean.']"

— [Name], [Municipality] resident

5) Next Steps We Are Requesting:

To show leadership on this issues, we ask you to:

Action – Bring the resolution to the Council meeting on (Date).

Action – Write a letter to the province asking (X).

Action – Attend a site visit to see the issues firsthand at (Date), (Time), and (Location).

6) Contact Us

State what you are willing to do such as "We're happy to provide more information and connect you with experts and provide follow-up information including":

- Your name and contact information (E-mail, Phone)
- Your group/coalition name and any social media links.
- Your address and contact methods.

7) Follow-up Within 48 Hours

You can either leave this letter as part of your meeting or you can send this letter as part of a thank-you after a meeting. :

Need Help?

- Download more tools from the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance Toolkit and Resources:

<https://greenbeltalliance.ca/resources>

Contact Us At: <https://greenbeltalliance.ca/about>

A Proactive Voice For The Environment in The Grand River Watershed
www.gren.ca



GRAND RIVER
ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

Share Your Story: Tag us on social media @OntarioGreenbeltAlliance #ProtectTheGreenbelt