

A Critical Evaluation of the Conformity of Kingston's *Community Strategic Plan* to Ontario's Smart Growth Strategy

By

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A Report submitted in conformity with the requirements for the degree of Master's of Urban and Regional Planning

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Kingston, Ontario, Canada
August 2002

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Executive Summary

Ontario's recent Smart Growth strategy aims to promote an approach to economic, social and environmental issues that recognizes the province's interests in urban regions, commercial trade areas, watersheds, commuter-sheds, ecological systems, natural resources, academic institutions, and health care districts.

This report determines the degree to which Ontario's Smart Growth Initiatives are being incorporated into the development of the City of Kingston's new *Community Strategic Plan*. The City of Kingston was chosen as a case study for several reasons: i) it is currently developing a new official plan, ii) it recently underwent large-scale amalgamation, and iii) the city is a manageable size to study and the method may be applicable to other medium sized municipalities. Good growth management practices require that provincial standards, *i.e.*, smart growth initiatives are applied and incorporated at the local (municipal) level. Overall, this study provides a vehicle to a better understanding of growth management practices in Ontario, in particular, and Canada, in general.

This report developed a set of criteria that formed a comparative framework. This framework was then applied to the comparative assessment of the City of Kingston's *Community Strategic Plan* to Ontario's Smart Growth Initiatives. Furthermore, gaps between Ontario's vision of Smart Growth and the *Strategic Plan* that were identified represent the policy recommendations of this report.