## Friday June 24th 2016,

## To City of Peterborough Councillors,

## I am writing to you as a citizen of Peterborough that believes that the proposed by-law banning backyard chickens should be voted against.

## Urban small-scale chicken farming is a way to enhance urban agriculture, increase food security and provide greater access to local food. Keeping backyard chickens gives residents increased options for sustainably producing their own food at reduced costs, and provides additional benefits such as pest control, waste reduction, and opportunities for education, increased food literacy and community building.

## The Urban Agriculture Task Force, a sub-group of Sustainable Peterborough’s Future of Food and Farming Task Force works towards: Feeding ourselves sustainably with local, healthy foods. Their report: *Encouraging Urban Agriculture in Greater Peterborough: Priorities for the Near Future* to be released this fall outlines clear and simple recommendations related to Urban Chickens:

## Allow raising of hens within the City of Peterborough and urban settlements in the County of Peterborough.

## To create reasonable restrictions on the raising of chickens.

Several municipalities across Canada including Guelph and [Vancouver](http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/backyard-chickens.aspx) have successful by-laws that support and allow for backyard chickens. Many agree that with reasonable restrictions and regulations to be adhered to backyard chickens can be a part of healthy urban environments. To ensure success, considerations for the following should be discussed and addressed.

* Number of hens permitted (no roosters)
* Education and Training (Chicken 101) for those interested and delivery costs for programs
* Waste management/animal husbandry requirements/best practices;
* Predation issues; and space requirements;
* Licensing
* Budget to support the development, implementation and evaluation of the by-law.

Instead of banning backyard chickens, Peterborough area municipalities should consider reviewing existing regulations to determine the best way to meet community members' interest in backyard chickens and personal egg production while also supporting the education and information needs of people interested in keeping urban hens.  
  
Sincerely,

Signature   
Name   
Address  
Contact