

# A Playbook for Voluntary Regional Governance in Greater Toronto

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The coronavirus pandemic has thrown into relief a range of health, social, and economic challenges for municipalities in the Greater Toronto region. These challenges – such as lack of affordable housing, income inequality, the need to spur economic development, and the impact of climate change – all need to be addressed at the regional scale. The authors have put forward six considerations for officials to keep in mind while developing a voluntary, bottom-up approach to regional governance

Read the full report: [bit.ly/GTAplaybook](https://bit.ly/GTAplaybook)

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## FOCUS ON REGIONAL ISSUES

Concentrate on policy issues that demand improved regional coordination, rather than worrying about shifting regional boundaries.

## RESPECT LOCAL CONTEXT

Learn from effective models around the world, but recognize that the most appropriate model for Greater Toronto is not necessarily what works elsewhere.

## BRING OTHER REGIONAL LEADERS TO THE TABLE

Engage business leaders and civil society partners in the region.

## DON'T GET BOGGED DOWN BY REPRESENTATION AND GOVERNANCE

Let partners opt in, and propose a 'minimum viable process' to move projects forward.

## "BUILD THE MUSCLE" FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

Start with projects that aren't too controversial, binding, politicized, or costly.

## DON'T EXPECT TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OVERNIGHT

Voluntary governance arrangements are built on relationships and trust. Patience, discipline, and incrementalism are required.