



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

1. **C-2023-377**
Correspondence dated October 27, 2023 from the Town of Lincoln respecting a resolution declaring Intimate Partner Violence as an Epidemic.
2. **C-2023-378**
Correspondence dated October 26, 2023 from the City of Welland to the Regional Clerk respecting a motion of support for the Niagara Region correspondence regarding Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the Damaging Impacts of Hate and Intolerance.
3. **C-2023-379**
Correspondence dated October 26, 2023 from the City of Welland to the Town of Fort Erie respecting a motion of support for the Fort Erie correspondence regarding Region's 2024 Operating Budget Levy Approval.
4. **C-2023-380**
Correspondence dated October 30, 2023 from the Town of Aurora to the The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a motion regarding Cannabis Retail Applications for the Town of Aurora.
5. **C-2023-381**
Correspondence dated October 27, 2023 from the Town of Huntsville to the Minister of Transport Canada respecting a resolution of support for the Lake of Bays and Georgian Bay correspondence items regarding Floating Accommodations.
6. **C-2023-382**
Correspondence dated October 30, 2023 from the Niagara Transit Commission respecting 2024 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget Submission and Requisition.
7. **C-2023-383**
Correspondence dated November 2, 2023 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing respecting Announcement Impacting Provincial Decisions on Municipal Official Plans/ Official Plan Amendments.
8. **C-2023-384**
Correspondence dated November 3, 2023 from the CFUW Welland and District respecting a request for permission to hang REDresses in Wainfleet to raise awareness of the Gender-Based Violence to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2 Spirited+ during the UN Declaration of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD
BEAMSVILLE, ON L0R 1B1

905-563-8205

October 27, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL: ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca

Region of Niagara
Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Declaration of Intimate Partner Violence as an Epidemic

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on October 23, 2023, passed the following motion regarding Declaration of Intimate Partner Violence as an Epidemic:

Resolution No.: RC-2023-134

Moved by Mayor Easton; Seconded by Deputy Mayor/Councillor JD Pachereva

WHEREAS Town of Lincoln, along with all of Niagara, mourns the recent tragedy and femicide that occurred in our community on October 11, 2023;

WHEREAS the municipal governments can no longer remain silent and on the sidelines to those affected in their communities regarding intimate partner violence;

WHEREAS numerous municipalities and regions across Ontario have declared a gender-based violence and/or intimate partner violence epidemic;

WHEREAS Town of Lincoln Council also endorses the recommendation from Niagara Region, at its Regional Council held on September 21, 2023 as attached as "Appendix A";

WHEREAS County of Renfrew passed a resolution declaring intimate partner violence and violence against women an epidemic following the jury recommendations resulting from the inquest into the murders of several women and

following that issued 86 recommendations to the Province of Ontario to declare intimate partner violence an epidemic as attached as “Appendix B”;

WHEREAS on August 16, 2023, Justice Minister Arif Virani described gender-based violence as an epidemic and will work to address any gaps in the Criminal Code and ensure a robust justice system response;

WHEREAS on August 20, 2023, Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM) and Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO) passed a motion declaring intimate partner violence and gender-based violence an epidemic; called on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities and regions in Ontario and Canada to do the same; and called for changes to the Criminal Code;

WHEREAS intimate partner violence and violence against Indigenous women is a national crisis, as evidenced by the findings of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, with Indigenous women (61%) experiencing some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime compared with non-Indigenous women (44%);

WHEREAS gender and sexually-diverse Indigenous women are particularly at risk, being five times more likely than non-Indigenous gender and sexually-diverse women to experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime;

WHEREAS one in four women experience some form of abuse in their intimate relationship;

WHEREAS the majority of victims of spousal abuse are female, accounting for 83% of all victims;

WHEREAS every six days in Canada, a woman is killed by their intimate partner;

WHEREAS in Canada, a woman lost her life to femicide every 48 hours;

WHEREAS this past year in Ontario, 52 women or one every week, were victims of femicide;

WHEREAS each year, over 40,000 arrests result from domestic violence, about 12% of all violent crime in Canada;

WHEREAS on any given night in Canada, more than 6,000 women and children sleep in shelters because it is not safe for them at home;

WHEREAS in Niagara Region in 2022, there were 5,160 intimate partner violence calls for service made to Niagara Regional Police Service and 1,143 of those calls involved criminal investigations;

WHEREAS for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Victim Services Niagara provided services to 749 victims of intimate partner violence, including 31 children; developed 91 safety plans for victims and had to revise 55 of those safety plans due to breaches;

WHEREAS for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Victim Services Niagara provided services to 227 victims of sexual violence;

WHEREAS two Lincoln residents are currently using the Mobile Tracking Emergency Response System (“MTERS”), which is a program that offers a GPS tracking system as part of an enhanced safety plan to those who are at high risk of being re-victimized by their abuser, and since September 2022, Victim Services Niagara have applied the MTERS Program for 29 individuals, with 3 more that are being held pending the release of the accused;

WHEREAS violence against women costs the national justice system, health care systems, social service agencies, and municipalities nearly \$10 billion dollars per year; and municipalities are on the front lines in addressing gender-based violence;

WHEREAS for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Birchway Niagara received 2,571 crisis calls; supported 575 women through outreach services; 233 women and children stayed in shelter; and 278 women were turned away due to a lack of space;

WHEREAS for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Gillian’s Place received 10,383 crisis calls; supported 2,017 people through outreach services; 166 adults and 127 children lived in shelter; and 431 people were turned away due to lack of space;

WHEREAS in West Niagara, there are currently five women and three children living in Gillian’s Place second-stage homes, and their Transitional Housing Support Worker is working with an active caseload of 68 clients escaping abuse, with 137 being served since the start of the year;

WHEREAS Gillian's Place is currently supporting 36 West Niagara Residents and their children who have experienced abuse through Outreach Support at their Beamsville location;

WHEREAS locally the rural West Niagara and rural communities experience disproportionately high rates of violence and abuse as well as face complex challenges and barriers when accessing vital safety supports;

WHEREAS rates of police reported intimate partner violence experienced by rural women in Canada are 3.5 times higher than for rural men, and 75% higher than those for urban women;

WHEREAS rates of police reported violent crime are 56% higher for rural women than the national rate;

WHEREAS unique social and geographical contexts of rural communities, such as traditional values and strong community connections, geographical coverage as a barrier to accessing service, and different economic and environmental factors than those of urban centers help fuel gender-based violence;

WHEREAS service providers in rural areas are challenged to effectively respond to the needs of rural communities;

WHEREAS locally, Gillian's Place is struggling to meet these needs in both North and West Niagara. The counselling and support services provided at 5032 King Street in Beamsville act as a life-saving referral source to the 34-bed emergency shelter in St. Catharines;

WHEREAS in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, 431 survivors were redirected to other services due to Shelter capacity limitations. In response to better serve Niagara, Gillian's Place has launched their *Build a Safer Future Capital Campaign*, an \$8 million project that will bring a further 5 private bedrooms and 10 beds to Niagara, as well as 9,000 square foot addition that will house expanded outreach and violence prevention programs that, once completed, will allow Gillian's Place to provide the level of care and support that survivors need and deserve; and

WHEREAS the issues of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence are matters of local importance, including public health, EMS, community services, and community safety, in all our communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Lincoln:

1. Recognize the serious issues of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence that affect the health and wellness of local residents and their families through offerings of education and prevention programs and public service campaigns;
2. Endorse and support in accordance with Recommendation #1 of the Renfrew County Inquest, that intimate partner violence and gender-based violence are reaching and considered epidemics;
3. Call upon every level of government and agencies for their commitment to end gender-based violence and intimate partner violence with actionable intent and purpose and not symbolically in accordance with all Recommendations of the Renfrew County Inquest;
4. Request that the Town of Lincoln Mayor and Council advocate to all levels of government for funding to help municipalities contribute to housing-enabling infrastructure and related costs that support community growth which is desperately needed for access to affordable housing seeking emergency housing for victims of abuse and violence;
5. Support Niagara Regional Chair to advocate to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, requesting the Government of Canada reconsider their previous decision and officially declare intimate partner violence and gender-based violence as an epidemic despite being a recommendation in the Renfrew County Inquest;
6. That a copy of this motion be circulated to each of the 12 Local Area Municipalities in Niagara; and
7. That a copy of this motion be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Justice; Premier of Ontario; Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity; Minister of Red Tape Reduction; Niagara four MPs; Niagara's four MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO); and Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM).

CARRIED

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,

Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk
jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dp

C.c. Prime Minister of Canada
Minister of Justice
Premier of Ontario
Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity
Minister of Red Tape Reduction
Niagara Area MPs and MPPs
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO)
Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM)
All Local Area Municipalities
Gillian's Place



Administration

Office of the Regional Clerk

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Telephone: 905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977

www.niagararegion.ca

October 5, 2023

CL 13- 2023, September 21, 2023

DISTRIBUTION LIST

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Motion - Recommendations from the Renfrew County Inquest and Declaration of Intimate Partner Violence as an Epidemic and Declaration of Intimate Partner Violence as an Epidemic

Regional Council, at its meeting held on September 21, 2023, passed the following recommendation:

WHEREAS the jury that adjudicated the Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam Inquest (The Renfrew County Inquest) issued 86 recommendations to the Province of Ontario on Intimate Partner Violence;

WHEREAS Recommendation #1 of the Inquest is for the Province of Ontario to declare Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic;

WHEREAS every six days in Canada a woman is killed by her intimate partner;

WHEREAS on any given night in Canada, more than 6,000 women and children sleep in shelters because it is not safe for them at home;

WHEREAS this past year in Ontario, 52 women or one every week, were victims of femicide;

WHEREAS violence against Indigenous women (including but not restricted to intimate partner violence) is a national crisis, as evidenced by the findings of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, with Indigenous women (61%) experiencing some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime compared with non-Indigenous women (44%);

WHEREAS gender- and sexually-diverse Indigenous women are particularly at risk, being five times more likely than non-Indigenous gender- and sexually-diverse women to experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime;

WHEREAS in Niagara Region in 2022, there were 5,160 Intimate Partner Violence calls for service made to Niagara Regional Police Service and 1,143 of those calls involved criminal investigations;

WHEREAS for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Victim Services Niagara provided service to 749 victims of intimate partner violence, including 31 children; developed 91 safety plans for victims and had to revise 55 of those safety plans due to breaches;

WHEREAS for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Victim Services Niagara provided service to 227 victims of sexual violence;

WHEREAS for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Birchway Niagara received 2,571 crisis calls; supported 575 women through outreach services; 233 women and children stayed in shelter; and 278 women were turned away due to a lack of space;

WHEREAS for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Gillian's Place received 10,383 crisis calls; supported 2,017 people through outreach services; 166 adults and 127 children lived in shelter; and 431 people were turned away due to lack of space;

WHEREAS violence against women costs the national justice system, health care systems, social service agencies, and municipalities nearly \$10 billion dollars per year; and municipalities are on the front lines in addressing gender-based violence;

WHEREAS more than 40 municipalities and regions across Ontario have declared a gender-based violence and/or intimate partner violence epidemic;

WHEREAS on August 16, 2023, Justice Minister Arif Virani described gender-based violence as an epidemic and stated this his government is committed to ending the gender-based violence epidemic "in all its forms, and is working to address any gaps in the Criminal Code to ensure a robust justice system response;"

WHEREAS on August 20, 2023, Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM) and Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO) passed a motion declaring intimate partner violence and gender-based violence epidemic; called on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities and regions in Ontario and Canada to do the same; and called for changes to the Criminal Code; and

WHEREAS Niagara Regional Council recognizes that issues of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence are matters of local importance, including public health, EMS, community services, and community safety, in all of our communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Region **RECOGNIZE** the issues of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence in Niagara as serious to the health and wellness of local residents and their families;
2. That Niagara Region **COMMIT** to engaging with community partners to educate and support our residents about the seriousness and long-term danger of violence in our communities;
3. That Niagara Regional Council **DECLARE**, in accordance with Recommendation #1 of the Renfrew County Inquest, that intimate partner violence and gender-based violence are an epidemic;

4. That the Regional Chair **WRITE** a letter to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, requesting that the Province of Ontario re-consider their previous decision and declare intimate partner violence and gender-based violence as epidemic and act on all of 86 Recommendations from The Renfrew County Inquest;
5. That a copy of this motion **BE SENT** to each of Niagara's 12 Local Area Municipalities requesting they endorse the declaration of intimate partner violence and gender-based violence as an epidemic; and
6. That a copy of this motion **BE SENT** to The Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Charmaine A. Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity; The Honourable Parm Gill, Minister of Red Tape Reduction; Niagara four MPs; Niagara's four MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO); and Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM).

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

:kl

CLK-C 2023-117

Distribution List:

Local Area Municipalities
Premier of Ontario
Minister of Justice
Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity
Minister of Red Tape Reduction
Local Members of Parliament
Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO)
Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM)



Office of the
Chief Coroner
Bureau du
coroner en chef

Verdict of Coroner’s Jury
Verdict du jury du coroner

The *Coroners Act* – Province of Ontario
Loi sur les coroners – Province de l’Ontario

Inquest into the death of:
Enquête sur le décès de :

Carol CULLETON, Anastasia KUZYK and Nathalie WARMERDAM

JURY RECOMMENDATIONS
RECOMMANDATIONS DU JURY

(see attached recommendations)

Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the *Coroners Act*, R.S.O. 1990, C. C.37, as amended. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Chief Coroner, 25 Morton Shulman Avenue, Toronto ON M3M 0B1, Tel.: 416 314-4000 or Toll Free: 1 877 991-9959.
Les renseignements personnels contenus dans cette formule sont recueillis en vertu de la *Loi sur les coroners*, L.R.O. 1990, chap. C.37, telle que modifiée. Si vous avez des questions sur la collecte de ces renseignements, veuillez les adresser au coroner en chef, 25, avenue Morton Shulman, Toronto ON M3M 0B1, tél. : 416 314-4000 ou, sans frais : 1 877 991-9959.

Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest
JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Government of Ontario:

The Government of Ontario should:

Oversight and Accountability

1. Formally declare intimate partner violence as an epidemic.
2. Establish an independent Intimate Partner Violence Commission dedicated to eradicating intimate partner violence (IPV) and acting as a voice that speaks on behalf of survivors and victims' families, raising public awareness, and ensuring the transparency and accountability of government and other organizations in addressing IPV in all its forms. The Commissioner should have sufficient authority to ensure meaningful access to any person, document or information required to accomplish the Commission's mandate. The Commission should be provided with adequate and stable funding to ensure effectiveness.
3. Engage in meaningful consultation with IPV stakeholders and experts in the field, to determine the mandate and responsibilities of the IPV Commission, which may include:
 - a. Driving change towards the goal of eradicating IPV in Ontario,
 - b. Evaluating the effectiveness of existing IPV programs and strategies, including the adequacy of existing funding,
 - c. Analyzing and reporting on all IPV-related issues with a view to improving awareness of IPV issues and potential solutions,
 - d. Advocating for survivors and their families having regard to addressing the systemic concerns of survivors navigating the legal system.

Consideration should be given to the United Kingdom's Domestic Abuse Commissioner model in developing the mandate of the Commission.

4. Create the role of a Survivor Advocate to advocate on behalf of survivors regarding their experience in the justice system.
5. Immediately institute a provincial implementation committee dedicated to ensuring that the recommendations from this Inquest are comprehensively considered, and any responses are fully reported and published. The committee should include senior members of relevant ministries central to IPV and an equal number of community IPV experts. It should be chaired by an independent IPV expert who could speak freely on progress made on implementation.

Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest
JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Amend the *Coroners Act* to require the recipient of an inquest recommendation to advise the Office of the Chief Coroner if a recommendation is complied with or to provide an explanation if it is not implemented.

System Approaches, Collaboration and Communication

7. Ensure that IPV issues are addressed using an all-of-government approach across ministries, and cooperate and coordinate with federal, provincial, and territorial partners in seeking to end IPV.
8. Require that all justice system participants who work with IPV survivors and perpetrators are trained and engage in a trauma-informed approach to interacting and dealing with survivors and perpetrators.
9. Explore incorporating restorative justice and community-based approaches in dealing with appropriate IPV cases to ensure safety and best outcomes for survivors.
10. Encourage that IPV be integrated into every municipality's community safety and well-being plan.
11. Study the feasibility of, and implement if feasible, justice sector participants having access to relevant findings made in family and civil law proceedings for use in criminal proceedings, including at bail and sentencing stages. The study would, in part, inquire into the following:
 - a. The process to identify relevant findings and for sharing those findings with other justice participants,
 - b. Which justice participants should have access to the findings made by a civil or family court,
 - c. What documents from civil and family law proceedings should be shared with justice sector participants, and how to facilitate sharing of such documents,
 - d. What permissible uses could be made of the documents and findings in a criminal proceeding,
 - e. Models in other jurisdictions that identify relevant IPV cases in different courts.
12. Ensure that survivors and those assisting survivors have direct and timely communication with probation officers to assist in safety planning.
13. Require all police services to immediately inform the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) of IPV-related charges after they are laid, and provide any relevant records, including Firearms Interest Police information.

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14. Create a “Universal RMS” records management system accessible by all police services (including federal, provincial, municipal, military and First Nations) in Ontario, with appropriate read/write access to all IPV stakeholders, including Probation, CFO, Crown’s offices, Ontario Court of Justice, Superior Court of Justice, correctional institutions and parole boards. Police services that wish to use their own RMS are to update IPV information into the Universal RMS.
15. Require primary actors involved in a major incident to conduct a formal de-brief and write a report identifying lessons learned and recommendations for improvement, if appropriate.
16. Review policies to ensure the timely, reliable, consistent, and accurate dissemination of information, including the use of emergency alerts and media releases, where the police are aware of circumstances that could put the public in danger, and that the focus is on safety when developing policies regarding what information to share with whom and when. Consideration should be given to disseminating information through alternative methods where cellular service is not consistently available.
17. Establish clear guidelines regarding the flagging of perpetrators or potential IPV victims in police databases, immediate dispatch and police access to the identities and contact information of potential targets, and how to notify those targets.

Funding

18. Recognize that the implementation of the recommendations from this Inquest, including the need for adequate and stable funding for all organizations providing IPV support services, will require a significant financial investment and commit to provide such funding.
19. Create an emergency fund, such as the “She C.A.N Fund”, in honour of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam to support women living with IPV who are taking steps to seek safety. This fund should include the following:
 - a. Easy, low-barrier access for IPV survivors seeking to improve their safety,
 - b. Referral to the fund through IPV service providers,
 - c. Small grants of up to \$7000,
 - d. It should have no impact on Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Plan payments,
 - e. Consideration for the needs of rural and geographically remote survivors of IPV,

Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest
JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

- f. Funding to be provided on an annualized basis, with adequacy assessed and considered after the first three years,
 - g. Inject a significant one-time investment into IPV related support services.
20. Realign the approach to public funding provided to IPV service providers with a view to removing unnecessary reporting obligations with a focus on service. Draw on best practices in Canada and internationally, and adopt and implement improved, adequate, stable, and recurring funding that incorporates the following:
- a. IPV services are core programming and should receive annualized funding like other public services,
 - b. Service providers provide one annual report for all funders across government to account for the funds received, articulate results and highlight key challenges, learnings, and accomplishments,
 - c. Recognition that, in remote and rural areas, funding cannot be the per-capita equivalent to funding in urban settings as this does not take into account rural realities, including that:
 - i. IPV is more prominent in rural areas,
 - ii. Economies of scale for urban settings supporting larger numbers of survivors,
 - iii. The need to travel to access and provide services where telephone and internet coverage is not available,
 - iv. The lack of public transit,
 - v. The cost of transportation for survivors and service providers.
 - d. Consideration of the remoteness quotient used to calculate funding in other social services, such as education and policing,
 - e. Enhanced funding for IPV service providers, including shelters, sexual assault support centres, victim services, and counselling services, considering urban and rural realities,
 - f. Designated funding for transportation for those receiving IPV-related support services where public transportation is inadequate or unavailable, such as in Renfrew County,
 - g. Funding to ensure mental health supports for IPV service providers, as well as timely access to trauma supports immediately following a traumatic event,
 - h. Funding for services provided to survivors that allows for the hiring and retention of skilled and experienced staff so that they are not required to rely on volunteers and fundraisers in order to provide services to survivors,
 - i. Funding for mobile tracking system alarms and other security supports for survivors of IPV,
 - j. Funding for counselling for IPV survivors,

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JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

k. Funding for services dedicated to perpetrators of IPV.

21. Develop a plan for enhanced second-stage housing for IPV survivors.

22. Fund for “safe rooms” to be installed in survivors’ homes in high-risk cases.

Education and Training

23. Develop and implement a new approach to public education campaigns to promote awareness about IPV, including finding opportunities to reach a wider audience in rural communities. These messages should promote broad recognition of how to seek support, risk factors, and warning signs of IPV, community and bystander engagement, be accessible in multiple languages and in multiple formats, and ensure that rural residents can identify themselves in the messaging and materials.

24. Complete a yearly annual review of public attitudes through public opinion research, and revise and strengthen public education material based on these reviews, feedback from communities and experts, international best practices, and recommendations from the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee (DVDRC) and other IPV experts.

25. Use and build on existing age-appropriate education programs for primary and secondary schools, and universities and colleges. Such programs should include: violence prevention, recognizing healthy and abusive relationships, identifying subtle indicators of coercive control, understanding risk factors (such as stalking, fear caused by IPV, strangulation, threats to kill), managing and processing feelings, dispute resolution, community and bystander obligations, the need for safety planning and risk management, and the unique experiences in rural and urban settings.

26. Ensure teachers are trained to deliver the IPV-related curriculum and utilize IPV professionals regularly to provide support for the delivery of primary, secondary, and post-secondary programming.

27. Develop a roster of resources available to support classroom teachers in the delivery of primary, secondary, and post-secondary programming where local IPV professionals are not available.

28. Review existing training for justice system personnel who are within the purview of the provincial government or police services.

Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest
JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

29. Provide professional education and training for justice system personnel on IPV-related issues, which should include:
- a. Annual refresher courses,
 - b. Risk assessment training with the most up-to-date research on tools and risk factors,
 - c. Trauma-informed practices, including an understanding of why survivors may recant or may not cooperate with a criminal investigation, best practices for managing this reality, and investigation and prosecution of perpetrators,
 - d. Crisis management training,
 - e. The availability and use of weapons prohibition orders in IPV cases,
 - f. Meaningful screening of sureties,
 - g. Greater use of court-ordered language ensuring alleged and convicted offenders will not reside in homes that have firearms,
 - h. Indicators of IPV including coercive control, and awareness of risk factors for lethality (including destruction of property, especially by fire, harm to pets, strangulation, criminal harassment, stalking, sexual violence, and threatening police),
 - i. Unique rural factors,
 - j. Firearm risks, including the links between firearm ownership and IPV,
 - k. Opportunities for communities, friends, and families to play a role in the prevention and reporting of IPV.
30. Provide specialized and enhanced training of police officers with a goal of developing an IPV specialist in each police detachment.
31. Track whether mandated IPV-related professional education and training is completed by all justice system personnel.

Measures Addressing Perpetrators of IPV

32. Establish a province-wide 24/7 hotline for men who need support to prevent them from engaging in IPV.
33. Provide services aimed at addressing perpetrators of IPV that should include:
- a. An approach that is not one-size-fits-all,
 - b. A variety of group-based interventions augmented with individual counseling and case management sessions to assess and manage risk and to supplement services, as needed, to address individual needs,
 - c. Peer support and appropriate circles of support,

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JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

- d. Prioritizing the development of cross-agency and cross-system collaborative services,
 - e. Service models in the areas of substance use and abuse, general criminal behaviour, mental health, fathering, and culturally specific services,
 - f. The ability to respond immediately with risk management services in collaboration with IPV service providers,
 - g. Being accessible by clients voluntarily and via referral, and not just through the criminal justice system,
 - h. Programs are funded at a level that anticipates an increased stream of referrals,
 - i. Make in-custody IPV programs available in the community as well so that offenders can complete programs started in custody,
 - j. Conducting audits of PARs and other perpetrator intervention programs for efficacy, consistency, and currency,
 - k. Increasing program availability and develop flexible options for IPV perpetrators on remand, serving sentences, and in the community.
34. Recognize the specialized knowledge and expertise of IPV service providers involved in perpetrator intervention and support the development of workforce capacity within the sector by developing and providing competency-based training opportunities. Service contracts should include funding for supervision and ongoing professional development, and mental health support.
35. Address barriers and create opportunities and pathways to services for IPV perpetrators that can be accessed in the community. Referrals to service providers should be made as early as possible and should be repeatedly and persistently offered to both engage perpetrators and reinforce the need for perpetrators to be accountable for their abusive behaviours.
36. Improve the coordination of services addressing substance use, mental health, child protection, and IPV perpetration, and encourage cross-agency service provision and case management.
37. As new services are funded, include aims and outcomes associated with building an underlying network of specialized services to address IPV perpetration and developing messaging around its availability.
38. Ensure that IPV-related public education campaigns address IPV perpetration and should include men's voices, represent men's experiences, and prompt men to seek

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JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

help to address their own abusive behaviours. They should highlight opening the door to conversations about concerning behaviours.

39. Endeavour to minimize destabilizing factors for perpetrators of IPV that increase risk, correlates of IPV, and barriers for survivors to leave violence. Specific consideration should be given to financial instability, housing insecurity, and mental health issues, including addictions treatment options, and how these factors and potential solutions are affected by rural contexts.

Intervention

40. Explore amending the *Family Law Act*, following meaningful consultation with stakeholders, including survivors and IPV service providers, to provide authority to order counselling for the perpetrator where IPV findings are made by the family court.
41. Investigate and develop a common framework for risk assessment in IPV cases, which includes a common understanding of IPV risk factors and lethality. This should be done in meaningful consultation and collaboration with those impacted by and assisting survivors of IPV, and consider key IPV principles, including victim-centred, intersectional, gender-specific, trauma-informed, anti-oppressive, and evidence-based approaches.
42. Co-train justice system personnel and IPV service providers on the risk assessment framework and tools so that there is a common understanding of the framework and tools for those who support or deal with survivors.
43. Ensure that survivor-informed risk assessments are incorporated into the decisions and positions taken by Crowns relating to bail, pleas, sentencing, and eligibility for Early Intervention Programs.
44. Clarify and enhance the use of high-risk committees by:
- a. Strengthening provincial guidelines by identifying high-risk cases that should be referred to committee,
 - b. Identifying and including local IPV service providers that are in a position to assist with case identification, safety planning, and risk management. Consideration should be given to including IPV service providers supporting perpetrators,

Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest
JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

- c. Ensuring that involved IPV service providers at high-risk committees are given the necessary information to facilitate their active participation, subject to victim consent where applicable.
45. Establish policies making clear that, absent exceptional circumstances, those assessed as high risk or where the allegations involve strangulation should not qualify for early intervention. Crowns should also consider a history of IPV whether or not convictions resulted when determining whether early intervention is appropriate.

Safety

46. Study the best approach for permitting disclosure of information about a perpetrator's history of IPV and the potential risk to new and future partners who request such information, with a view to developing and implementing legislation. In doing so, study Clare's law in the United Kingdom and similar legislation in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba, Bill 274 (*Intimate Partner Violence Disclosure Act, 2021*), and any other relevant legislation and policy. In the interim, develop a draft policy that can address this issue.
47. Set up IPV Registry for repeat IPV offenders similar to the *Sex Offender Information Registry Act* registry.
48. Explore the implementation of electronic monitoring to enable the tracking of those charged or found guilty of an IPV-related offence and enable the notification of authorities and survivors if the individual enters a prohibited area relating to a survivor. In determining the appropriateness of such a tool in Ontario, monitor the development of programs utilizing such technology in other provinces, with specific consideration given to:
- a. Coverage of cellular networks, particularly in remote and rural regions,
 - b. Storage rules and protocols for tracking data,
 - c. Appropriate perpetrator programs and supports needed to accompany electronic monitoring,
 - d. Whether the tool exacerbates risk factors and contributes to recidivism,
 - e. Understanding any impacts after an order for such technology expires,
 - f. Frequency and impact of false alarms,
 - g. The appropriateness of essential services being provided by private, for-profit partners.

Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest
JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

49. Start grassroots “Safe Spaces” program that businesses can participate in where survivors can feel safe and ask for information (i.e. pamphlets and handouts from women’s shelters, VWAP and men’s programs).
50. In referrals made by the OPP to Victim Services, ensure adequate information is provided, including relevant history, safety concerns and known risk factors.
51. Ensure that OPP conduct a study on improving tactical response timelines as it applies to rural environments generally and in IPV cases in particular.
52. Expand cell service and high-speed internet in rural and remote areas of Ontario to improve safety and access to services.
53. Set up satellite offices for police officers to work safely and comfortably to spread police resources more evenly over wide rural areas (i.e. consider asking schools and municipal governments to provide office space).
54. Enhance court supports for IPV survivors and develop an IPV-focused model for criminal courts similar to the Family Court Support Worker Program. Consideration should be given to the independent legal advice program for survivors of sexual violence as a model for IPV survivors.
55. Encourage Crowns to consult with the Regional Designated High-Risk Offender Crown for any case of IPV involving a high-risk offender that may meet the criteria for Dangerous or Long-term Offender designations.
56. Crowns should actively oppose variation requests to have firearms returned for any purpose, such as hunting.
57. Strengthen annual education for Crowns regarding applications for Dangerous and Long-term Offender designations in high-risk IPV cases.
58. Commission a comprehensive, independent, and evidence-based review of the mandatory charging framework employed in Ontario, with a view to assessing its effect on IPV rates and recidivism, with particular attention to any unintended negative consequences.
59. Conduct study of judges’ decisions in IPV cases and track in longitudinal studies for recidivism, violence escalation, and future victims.

Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest
JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

60. Review and amend, where appropriate, standard language templates for bail and probation conditions in IPV cases, and develop a framework for identifying the appropriate conditions based on level of risk in collaboration with stakeholders, including judges, justices of the peace, police, probation, crown attorneys, the CFO, and community providers with subject matter expertise in IPV risk management. The following factors should be considered:
- a. Enforceability,
 - b. Plan for removal or surrender of firearms and the Possession and Acquisition License (PAL),
 - c. Residence distance from victims,
 - d. Keeping probation aware,
 - e. Safety of current and previous victims,
 - f. Possibility of a "firearm free home" condition,
 - g. Past disregard for conditions as a risk factor.
61. Require that primary actors advise the CFO in a timely manner of expected and changed residential addresses of individuals who have been placed under weapons conditions.
62. When evaluating the suitability of a prospective surety in IPV cases, Crowns should make inquiries as to whether residential sureties have firearms in their home or a PAL.
63. Develop a process, in consultation with the judiciary, to confirm that release conditions are properly documented.
64. Ensure that Probation Services reviews and, if necessary, develops standardized protocols and policies for probation officers with respect to intake of IPV offenders and with respect to victim safety.
65. Review the mandate of Probation Services to prioritize:
- a. Condition compliance,
 - b. Victim safety,
 - c. Offender rehabilitation.
66. Require that probation officers, in a timely manner, ensure:
- a. There is an up-to-date risk assessment in the file,

Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest
JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

- b. Probation conditions are appropriate for the level of risk of the client and written in a way they can enforce, and, if not, request a variation,
- c. They contact the survivor to inform her of the offender's living situation, any conditions or limitations on his movement or activities, and what she should do in the event of a possible breach by the offender,
- d. Regular contact with survivors to receive updates, provide information regarding the offender's residence and locations frequented, and any changes to such circumstances, and seek input from survivors and justice system personnel before making decisions that may impact her safety,
- e. Improved supervision of high-risk perpetrators released on probation, including informed decision-making when applying or seeking to modify conditions that impact the survivor's needs and safety,
- f. Risk assessments and risks of lethality are taken into account when making enforcement decisions.

67. Ensure existing policy and guidelines require probation officers to follow through on enforcement of non-compliance by requiring delivery and documentation of clear instructions regarding expectations to supervised offenders in a way that allows for direct and progressive enforcement decisions. This should be a focus for performance management and quality assurance processes.

68. Ensure collaboration between corrections and probation staff to improve rehabilitation and risk management services. Consideration should be given to two-way information sharing including of case notes, and opportunities to order treatment in institutions for those with existing probation orders who are on remand.

To the Chief Firearms Officer:

The Chief Firearms Officer should work with appropriate decision-makers to:

69. Review the mandate and approach of the CFO's Spousal Support line to:

- a. Change its name to one that better reflects its purpose. It should be clear that it is broadly accessible and not limited to a particular kind of relationship,
- b. Be staffed 24 hours a day and 7 days a week,
- c. Be publicized to enhance public awareness, and become better known among policing partners possibly through All Chiefs' bulletins.

70. Create guidelines for staff in making decisions regarding whether to issue, review, revoke, or add conditions to PALs to ensure consistency among staff and through

Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest
JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

time. Particular attention should be paid to red flags and risk factors around IPV, including where there is no conviction.

- 71. Require that a PAL is automatically reviewed when someone is charged with an IPV-related offence.
- 72. Require PAL applicants and holders to report to the CFO in a timely manner any change in information provided in application and renewal forms submitted to the CFO, including when an individual with weapons restrictions comes to reside in their home.
- 73. Amend PAL application and renewal forms to require identification as a surety.

To the Office of the Chief Coroner

The Office of the Chief Coroner should:

- 74. Ensure that the DVDRC reviews its mandate with a view to enhancing its impact on IPV and provide the DVDRC with improved supports.
- 75. Ensure DVDRC annual reports are published online in a timely manner.
- 76. Ensure that DVDRC reports and responses to recommendations are publicly available and will continue to be available without charge.
- 77. Consider adopting Femicide as one of the categories for manner of death.

To the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario

The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario should:

- 78. Working together with the DVDRC, justice partners and IPV service providers, develop a plain language tool to empower IPV professionals to make informed decisions about privacy, confidentiality, and public safety.

To the Government of Canada

The Government of Canada should:

- 79. Explore adding the term “Femicide” and its definition to the *Criminal Code* to be used where appropriate in the context of relevant crimes.
- 80. Consider amendments to the Dangerous Offender provisions of the *Criminal Code*, or the inclusion of a new classification of Offender under the *Criminal Code*, that

Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest
JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

better reflects the realities of IPV charges and takes into account risk factors for serious violence and lethality in an IPV context.

81. Undertake an analysis of the application of s. 264 of the *Criminal Code* with a view to evaluating whether the existing factors adequately capture the impact on survivors. Consider the removal of the subjective requirement that the action causes the victim to fear for their safety.
82. Consider finding alternate means for survivors to attend and testify in court, such as by video conferencing.
83. Implement the National Action Plan on Gender-based Violence in a timely manner.
84. Establish a Royal Commission to review and recommend changes to the Criminal Justice system to make it more victim-centric, more responsive to root causes of crime and more adaptable as society evolves.
85. Include “coercive control”, as defined in the *Divorce Act*, as a criminal offence on its own or as a type of assault under s. 265 of the *Criminal Code*.

To the Parties to this Inquest

The Parties to this Inquest should:

86. Reconvene one year following the Verdict to discuss the progress in implementing these recommendations.



Clerks Division
Tara Stephens
City Clerk
905-735-1700 x2159
tara.stephens@welland.ca

Received October 30, 2023
C-2023-378

October 26, 2023

File No. 23-126

SENT VIA EMAIL

Niagara Region
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Attention: Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Dear Ann-Marie:

Re: October 24, 2023 – WELLAND CITY COUNCIL

At its meeting of October 24, 2023, Welland City Council passed the following motion:

"THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives for information and supports the correspondence from the Region of Niagara dated September 25, 2023 regarding Motion - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the Damaging Impacts of Hate and Intolerance."

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'TStephens'.

Tara Stephens
City Clerk

TS:cap

c.c.: - Local Area Municipalities, sent via email



Clerks Division
Tara Stephens
City Clerk
905-735-1700 x2159
tara.stephens@welland.ca

Received October 30, 2023
C-2023-379

October 26, 2023

File No. 23-127

SENT VIA EMAIL

Town of Fort Erie
1 Municipal Centre Drive
Fort Erie, Ontario
L2A 2S6

Attention: Peter Todd, Manager, Legislative Services/Town Clerk

Dear Peter:

Re: October 24, 2023 – WELLAND CITY SPECIAL COUNCIL

At its meeting of October 24, 2023, Welland City Council passed the following motion:

“THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives for information and supports the correspondence from the Town of Fort Erie dated September 26, 2023 regarding Region's 2024 Operating Budget Levy Approval.”

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'TStephens'.

Tara Stephens
City Clerk

TS:cap

c.c.: - Local Municipalities, sent via email



Legislative Services
Michael de Rond
905-726-4771
clerks@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

October 30, 2023

Received October 30, 2023
C-2023-380

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Delivered by email
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier:

Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of October 24, 2023

Motion 10.1 – Councillor Kim; Re: Cannabis Retail Applications for the Town of Aurora

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on October 24, 2023, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

Whereas in January 2019, Council voted in favour of retail Cannabis in the Town of Aurora; and

Whereas the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) is the legal body overseeing Cannabis Retail; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora with geography of 7 km x 7 km and population of 64,000 currently has 13 Cannabis retail stores and 1 authorized at the AGCO; and

Whereas the long-term vision of the Town's Official Plan supports active and healthy lifestyle choices to complement a complete community; and

Whereas many cannabis stores are within close proximity to schools and daycares which are inhabited by society's most vulnerable; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019 (LLCA) in its regulation already has a precedent by limiting the number of grocery stores licensed to sell beer, wine, and cider to 450 and is currently not accepting any more applications;

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora requests that the Government of Ontario through its Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) no longer accepts any further cannabis retail applications for the Town of Aurora; and**

- 2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora requests that the Government of Ontario re-evaluate its “formula” on how many cannabis stores are permissible within the boundaries of a municipality, including but not limited to:**
 - a. Utilizing a cap or upper limit;**
 - b. Utilizing a population per capita formula;**
 - c. Utilizing a distance to the next cannabis retail store formula; and**
- 3. Be It Further Resolved That should the Government of Ontario revisit the retail Cannabis formula guiding the number of cannabis retail stores permissible in a municipality, that it would extend to all existing municipalities; and**
- 4. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario; Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora; and the Honourable Michael Parsa, MPP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill; and**
- 5. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration.**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Yours sincerely,



Michael de Rond
Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

MdR/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario
Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora
Hon. Michael Parsa, MPP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



10. Motions

10.1 Councillor Kim; Re: Cannabis Retail Applications for the Town of Aurora

Moved by Councillor Kim

Seconded by Councillor Gilliland

Whereas in January 2019, Council voted in favour of retail Cannabis in the Town of Aurora; and

Whereas the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) is the legal body overseeing Cannabis Retail; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora with geography of 7 km x 7 km and population of 64,000 currently has 13 Cannabis retail stores and 1 authorized at the AGCO; and

Whereas the long-term vision of the Town's Official Plan supports active and healthy lifestyle choices to complement a complete community; and

Whereas many cannabis stores are within close proximity to schools and daycares which are inhabited by society's most vulnerable; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019 (LLCA) in its regulation already has a precedent by limiting the number of grocery stores licensed to sell beer, wine, and cider to 450 and is currently not accepting any more applications;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora requests that the Government of Ontario through its Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) no longer accepts any further cannabis retail applications for the Town of Aurora; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora requests that the Government of Ontario re-evaluate its "formula" on how many cannabis stores are permissible within the boundaries of a municipality, including but not limited to:
 - a. Utilizing a cap or upper limit;
 - b. Utilizing a population per capita formula;
 - c. Utilizing a distance to the next cannabis retail store formula; and

3. Be It Further Resolved That should the Government of Ontario revisit the retail Cannabis formula guiding the number of cannabis retail stores permissible in a municipality, that it would extend to all existing municipalities; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario; Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora; and the Honourable Michael Parsa, MPP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill; and
5. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried



Received October 31, 2023
C-2023-381

October 27, 2023

Via email: TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca

Minister of Transport Canada
5th Floor 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Hon. Pablo Rodriguez,

Re: Floating Accommodations

At the meeting of October 23, 2023, the Council of the Town of Huntsville adopted the following resolution in support of the Township of Lake of Bays Resolution #B(a)/04-12-22 and Township of Georgian Bay Motion C-2022-164 and C-2023-157 on Floating Accommodations:

Motion 222-23

Moved by Monty Clouthier, seconded by Helena Renwick

WHEREAS: the Township of Georgian Bay and the Township of Lake of Bays has identified concerns with Floating Accommodations.

AND WHEREAS: the Township of Georgian Bay and the Township of Lake of Bays has requested that Transport Canada address the issue;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Town of Huntsville supports Township of Lake of Bays Resolution #B(a)/04-12-22 and Township of Georgian Bay Motion C-2022-164 and C-2023-157;

AND FURTHER THAT: Council hereby directs staff to forward this Resolution to the Minister of Transport, the Premier of Ontario, Scott Aitchison - MP, Graydon Smith - MPP, Associations of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all municipalities in Ontario (Township of Lake of Bays Resolution to be included in this correspondence).

In accordance with Council's direction, I am forwarding you a copy of the Lake of Bays resolution for your reference as well.

Yours truly,


Jessica Boyes
Deputy Clerk

Copy to: Premier of Ontario
Scott Aitchison – MP
Graydon Smith – MPP
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Municipalities in Ontario

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS
Council Meeting

RESOLUTION #8(a)/04/12/22
NO.:

MOVED
BY:



DATE: April 12, 2022

SECONDED
BY:



WHEREAS floating accommodations have become a growing concern in that they will affect the environment, character, tranquillity and the overall enjoyment of Lake of Bays and regulating these floating accommodations is a top priority for the Township of Lake of Bays;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays hereby requests that Transport Canada amend the Canada Shipping Act 2001 by adding the following to the Act:

- All vessel greywater be discharged into a holding tank and disposed of as per Provincial regulations for new vessels; and
- All floating accommodations are required to conform to all Provincial and municipal regulations and by-laws.

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays hereby requests that Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR) amend Ontario Regulation 161/17 to include the following:

- Post signs to restrict floating accommodation/camping on the water in southern Ontario (Muskoka ~~south~~) and that a permit from the NDMNR is required and a permit will not be granted without the consent of the local municipality;
- Camping is reduced from 21 days to 7 days;
- Not permit any camping on the water within 300m of a developed lot or within a narrow water body of 150m; and
- Should a municipality have more restrictive by-laws related to camping, these by-laws would apply.

AND FURTHER, THAT Council hereby directs the Clerk to forward this resolution to the Minister of Transport Canada, the Premier of Ontario, Scott Aitchison, MP, Norm Miller, MPP, Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR), Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all municipalities in Ontario.

| RECORDED VOTE | Yeas | Nays |
|------------------------------|------|------|
| | | |
| Councillor Mike Peppard | | |
| Councillor Robert Lacroix | | |
| Councillor Nancy Tapley | | |
| Councillor Rick Brooks | | |
| Councillor George Anderson | | |
| Councillor Jacqueline Godard | | |
| Mayor Terry Glover | | |

☒ Carried

☐ Defeated

☐ Postponed to:

☐ Lost

MAYOR



Terry Glover

October 30, 2023

LOCAL AREA CLERKS

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

**RE: 2024 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget Submission and
Requisition - Niagara Transit Commission**

Please be advised that its meeting of October 24, 2023, the Niagara Transit Commission passed the following motion:

That Report NTC 17-2023, dated October 24, 2023, respecting 2024 Proposed Operating & Capital Budget Submission and Requisition – Niagara Transit Commission, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Niagara Transit Commission (NTC) Board **APPROVE** the proposed 2024 gross operating budget submission of \$83,234,433 and net base Special Levy of \$59,348,376 for a net increase of \$4,295,426 or 7.8%;
2. That the net Special Levy of \$59,348,376 **BE APPORTIONED** between the local municipalities as per Appendix 2 of Report NTC 17-2023, determined in accordance with the methodology approved in PW 55-2021 and based on final 2023 current value assessment;
3. That the NTC Board **APPROVE** the addition of 10.11 permanent Full-time Equivalents (FTE) as per Appendix 4 of Report NTC 17-2023, totaling \$953,609 gross included in the Special Levy;
4. That the NTC Board **APPROVE** the proposed NTC 2024 gross capital budget of \$23,018,750 as presented in Table 4 of Report NTC 17-2023;
5. That financing in the amount of \$5,507,900 gross and \$1,650,000 net of the 2024 capital budget **BE INITIATED** upon approval of the 2024 Capital Budget and **BE ALLOCATED** to the projects as summarized in Table 4 of Report NTC 17-2023;

-
6. That financing in the amount of \$17,510,850 gross and \$445,276 net of the 2024 capital budget **BE INITIATED** and **BE ALLOCATED** to the projects upon approval confirmation of Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding as summarized in Table 4 of Report NTC 17-2023;
7. That this report **BE FORWARDED** to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole (BRCOTW) meeting on November 9, 2023, for approval and subsequent calculation of the Special Levy tax rates for each municipality following Regional Council tax policy decisions; and
8. That a copy of this Report **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities.

A copy of Report NTC 17-2023 is attached for your reference.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann-Marie' followed by a stylized flourish.

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

Subject: 2024 Proposed Operating & Capital Budget Submission and Requisition –
Niagara Transit Commission

Report to: Niagara Transit Commission Board

Report date: **Tuesday, October 24, 2023**

Recommendations

1. That the Niagara Transit Commission (NTC) Board **APPROVE** the proposed 2024 gross operating budget submission of \$83,234,433 and net base Special Levy of \$59,348,376 for a net increase of \$4,295,426 or 7.8%.
2. That the net Special Levy of \$59,348,376 **BE APPORTIONED** between the local municipalities as per Appendix 2 determined in accordance with the methodology approved in PW 55-2021 and based on final 2023 current value assessment.
3. That the NTC Board **APPROVE** the addition of 10.11 permanent Full-time Equivalents (FTE) as per Appendix 4 totaling \$953,609 gross included in the Special Levy.
4. That the NTC Board **APPROVE** the proposed NTC 2024 gross capital budget of \$23,018,750 as presented in Table 4.
5. That financing in the amount of \$5,507,900 gross and \$1,650,000 net of the 2024 capital budget **BE INITIATED** upon approval of the 2024 Capital Budget and **BE ALLOCATED** to the projects as summarized in Table 4 of this report.
6. That financing in the amount of \$17,510,850 gross and \$445,276 net of the 2024 capital budget **BE INITIATED** and **BE ALLOCATED** to the projects upon approval confirmation of Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding as summarized in Table 4 of this report.
7. That this report **BE REFERRED** to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole (BRCOTW) meeting on November 9, 2023, for approval and subsequent calculation of the Special Levy tax rates for each municipality following Regional Council tax policy decisions.

8. That a copy of this Report **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the proposed 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets for NTC.
- At Niagara Region's BRCOTW meeting on July 27, 2023, the budget planning strategy presented for 2024 included a focus on aligning with the Budget Planning By-law's principles and priorities of sustainability and affordability. The strategy used was to maintain delivery of base services in light of considerable inflationary pressures, support the capital funding gap and address the operating budget in 2022 that was funded with reserves.
- As the NTC has only been operational since January 1, 2023, the 2024 budget is based on June year-to-date actuals pro-rated annually, a current understanding of key contracts and inflationary increases.
- The budget increase is driven by increases in fuel costs, inflationary pressures for repairs and maintenance costs, snow removal contracts and labour negotiations and incremental staff as per recommendations. Cost pressures have been partially offset by increased fare revenues resulting from new UPASS contracts.
- The Capital budget being proposed includes 8 new projects which are fully funded through ICIP, Provincial Gas Tax (PGT), Development Charges (DC's) and transfer from capital reserves. Two of these projects were initiated and will be managed by Niagara Region Facility staff.
- The NTC budget will be presented to Regional Council on November 9, 2023, for consideration and approval in accordance with the Council approved timetable and Article 7.3 of the Municipal Service By-law (MSB).

Financial Considerations

The 2024 NTC operating budget includes a base increase of 7.8% or \$4,295,426 to maintain current service standards, including base program changes for labour related costs in order to true up actual full-time equivalent staff that were transferred from the local area municipalities to the 2023 budgeted number of FTE's. No additional service levels were considered in the 2024 budget in order to stabilize the budget and staff.

The 2024 proposed operating budget is provided in Table 1 below, with further details by object of expenditure and comparison to 2023 included in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Proposed NTC 2024 Operating Budget (in thousands)

| Item | 2023 | 2024 | \$ Change | % Change |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Gross Expenditure | \$75,896 | \$83,234 | \$7,339 | 9.7% |
| Gross Revenue (excluding taxation) | (20,843) | (23,886) | (3,043) | 14.6% |
| Net Base Budget after Indirect Allocations | \$55,053 | \$59,348 | \$4,295 | 7.8% |

The capital budget has been developed consistent with the Region's risk evaluation methodology developed by the Asset Management Office (AMO). The 2024 NTC capital budget includes eight projects for a gross request of \$23,018,750 and a net request of \$2,095,276. The 2024 proposed projects are mainly externally funded (Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) of \$15,085,910; Provincial Gas Tax of \$5,352,130 and Development Charges of \$485,434) resulting in a net transfer from NTC capital reserves of \$2,095,276.

Analysis

The 2023 budget was based on the uploaded 2022 budgets from Local Area Municipalities and Niagara Region Transit. As a result, the 2024 budget for NTC was prepared to right size the NTC budget based on June actuals, pro-rated annually and inflationary increases.

The pressures specific to the 2024 operating budget by object of expenditure are as follows:

Labour Related Costs – Labour related costs have increased by \$3.45 million due to the following:

- Through the transition, the NTC received staff within multiple union and non-union groups. Some of these groups have not received wage increases since 2021 pending a single Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The budget was developed based on the CBA Guidance previously approved by the Commission. The 2024 budget also includes an adjustment for benefits to align with actual benefit expenses being incurred. This reflects \$2.6 million or 6.6% of the overall labour related increase. A summary of FTE requests for 2024 can be found in Appendix 4.

-
- An increase of \$0.6 million relates to approximately 6.86 FTE's identified during 2023 that were not calculated or transitioned correctly through the amalgamation and the 2024 budget is correcting this error.
 - During the first year of operations there were 2.25 new FTE's identified that are needed in order to maintain service delivery and to support a safe working environment. These FTE's are being requested to be added to the permanent staff complement in 2024 at a cost of \$0.2 million.
 - A business case for a growth position is being recommended in 2024 as the position was temporary in 2023 but identified as a position that should be made permanent in 2024. The position is half funded through a transfer from encumbrance reserve available for 2024 as it was planned in the Region's budget for 2022 and due to late requirement is extended into 2024. The net increase is \$0.05 million.

Operational & Supply - The increase of \$0.27 million relates to On-Demand/Specialized contracts. These increases relate to inflationary increases expected on external contracts related to staffing, repairs, and maintenance, etc. in order to maintain service hours required.

Occupancy & Infrastructure – The \$0.76 million increase in budget over 2023 relates primarily to the expected snow removal contract needed for bus stops and shelters. There was limited budget uploaded from the LAM's for the 2023 snow removal at bus stops and shelters. As it is the requirement of the NTC to ensure proper snow removal at bus stops and shelters, a Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued with estimates of approximately \$750,000 to fulfil this contract across Niagara. The 2024 budget reflects this estimate.

Equipment, Vehicles, Technology – The increase in equipment, vehicles, technology of \$2.7 million is mainly related to the gross volatility in fuel prices. The 2024 budget estimate was prepared based on current fuel usage and the Niagara Region corporate fuel price budget assumptions which highlighted estimated costs for fuel and gasoline to be used in the 2024 estimates. The increase in fuel of \$2.9 million is partially offset by an increase in fuel chargebacks of \$1.3 million that is shown in revenue. The increase is consistent with the 2023 forecast as the 2023 budget was prepared based on municipal budgets with 2022 fuel costs.

Transfer to Capital Reserves - The capital needs of the NTC are significant, which requires a balance between operational budget affordability and capital sustainability.

Included in the triple majority strategy was the strategy to build up capital reserves. The strategy included phasing in \$6.5 million of required annual transfers to capital reserve over 3 years (\$2.17 million in 2023; \$4.33 million in 2024 and \$6.5 million in 2025 and ongoing). In order to mitigate the pressures in the 2024 budget only \$2.3 million is included as the transfer to capital (an increase of only \$0.15 million instead of \$2.16 million). Of this transfer, \$2.1 million is required in order to fund the 2024 capital projects.

Allocation between departments – The \$10 thousand in 2024 relates to the audit fees allocated from the Region which were formerly part of administrative costs in 2023.

Shared Services – There is a decrease in shared service related costs in 2024 of \$87 thousand. This is due to the reduction to the legal claim budget of \$292 thousand offset by an increase of \$205 thousand in labour and other costs related to the shared services provided by 12 permanent and 1 temporary FTE of the Niagara Region.

Revenues

- Contract Revenue –The City of Niagara Falls previously delivered the WEGO Visitor Transportation System (VTS) Blueline and Redline service and is now post-amalgamation contracting that service from the NTC. The City also provided a service referred to herein as “cityred” which is dedicated local public transit service hours that supplement and connect to the WEGO VTS services. Due to the City allocation of “cityred” wholly into the WEGO VTS budget for 2022 the NTC budget reflected the same treatment of including “cityred” in the WEGO contract revenue. The NTC was not aware that the municipal transit share of their budget assigned to the NTC should have been increased to include \$800,000 for “cityred”. Therefore, the NTC approved budget for Niagara Falls municipal service did not include the conventional service and was understated. As the MTA precludes the reduction of services to municipalities and the “cityred” service is considered local conventional service, the reduction in contract revenues of \$800,000 is a pressure for 2024 to be included the service hour-based allocation portion of the budget.
- WEGO Transition- The WEGO contract will end in August 2024. This will put an increased pressure of \$570,000 on costs for 2024 in order to separate and deliver service in Niagara Falls on these service lines. The pressure was mitigated through the reduction of transfer to capital reserves. The WEGO Red Line bus is the only bus providing local and visitor transportation services on Lundy’s Lane between Main Street and Garner Road. The Commission is

committed to maintaining and obligated legislatively to deliver the same level of service for the residents of the City of Niagara Falls along Lundy's Lane. The service transition will be delivered in two phases. The period of May 6, 2024, to August 12, 2024, and August 13, 2024, onward.

- Phase One will see the introduction of local routes 116 & 216 maintaining base (visitor transportation system) VTS service on the Red Line. The new route will run on 30-minute headway and the Red line will run on 30-minute headway. This is a same level of service (15 minute) as what is delivered in peak season by the WEGO VTS system in summer.
 - Phase Two will see the removal of the WEGO Red line VTS service levels on Lundy's Lane, as well as the Blue Line. With the service provided by route 116/216, the service will remain at 30-minute headway along Lundy's Lane.
- Fare Revenues – There is a \$3.36 million increase to 2024 budgeted fare revenue as a result of the two UPASS contracts executed with Niagara College and Brock University. The increase in revenues is mitigating the overall pressures noted above.
- Provincial Gas Tax (PGT) Revenue - Also included in the triple majority strategy was the strategy to reserve PGT entirely for capital for long-term asset sustainability, however as a 2023 budget mitigation strategy \$1.6 million of PGT was used in the operating budget. The 2024 budget includes the reduction of PGT by \$0.3 million down to \$0 over 5 years in order to reduce the use of PGT to fund operations thus removing an unsustainable source of funding from operating and ensuring capital needs are met.

As with any budget, the following are additional risks identified:

- Fuel prices continue to increase, which we will report through our quarterly reviews to the Board.
- Provincial legislation requirements for services to meet the Accessibility for Ontario Disability Act (AODA) are still being reviewed.
- 2024 budget does not take into consideration the phased-in service hour alignment based on the triple majority strategy to increase services by 2025 as follows:
 - Phase 1 – Standardized Operating Hours Across Niagara – a move to one set of consistent operating hours to ensure all residents in Niagara have the same level of availability of transit in their community and the ability to make consistent connections across Niagara. Proposed hours are 6 a.m. to midnight (Monday to Saturday), and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Sundays and

Holidays). This would represent over 45,000 new annual service hours across Niagara to create this equity and availability in each municipality.

The budget includes labour related costs that accommodate the organization chart and corporate and administrative services supported by Regional shared services as approved in 2022. In accordance with the Budget Planning By-law the staff complement in Table 2 is provided for in the recommended NTC budget as full-time equivalents (FTE) which converts headcount based on full time hours for each position as per the Budget Planning By-law. In 2024, there are proposed increases of 10.1 FTE's (6.86 in an FTE error correction from 2023, 2.25 net new to the Maintenance department to ensure service and a 1.0 subsidized growth FTE in community communications and service support) as discussed previously. Any increases to the staff complement will be considered through the budget process in accordance with Budget Planning By-law Section 4.8. A summary of 2024 FTE requests can be found in Appendix 4.

In 2024 there is a 3.33 reduction in temporary FTE's. There is a reduction of 1 FTE in NTC due to the request to make that position permanent in 2024 as discussed above. The other 2.33 reduction in FTE's relates to positions provided in 2023 through shared services to support the transition of NTC.

Table 2: 2024 proposed NTC permanent Staff Compliment compared to 2023

| Full-Time Equivalents by Division | 2024 Permanent | 2023 Permanent | Variance |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Corporate | 3.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 |
| Fleet & Facilities | 69.0 | 62.9 | 6.1 |
| Operations | 327.3 | 324.3 | 3.0 |
| Planning & Performance | 30.0 | 30.0 | - |
| Total NTC FTEs | 429.3 | 419.2 | 10.1 |
| Shared Services | 12.0 | 12.0 | - |
| TOTAL FTE | 441.3 | 431.2 | 10.1 |

Table 3: 2024 proposed NTC temporary Staff Compliment compared to 2023

| Full-Time Equivalents by Division | 2024 Temporary | 2023 Temporary | Variance |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Planning & Performance | 1.0 | 2.0 | (1.0) |
| Total NTC FTEs | 1.0 | 2.0 | (1.0) |
| Shared Services | 1.0 | 3.3 | (2.3) |
| TOTAL FTE | 2.0 | 5.3 | (3.3) |

Capital Budget:

The Capital budget proposed for 2024 includes 6 projects managed by NTC and 2 managed by Niagara Region Facilities. These projects are fully funded through ICIP, PGT, DC's and transfer from capital reserves. The following is a summary of the proposed 2024 capital budget and corresponding funding. A summary of the 2024 Capital budget and 9-year forecast can be found in Appendix 5.

Table 4: 2024 Capital Budget Summary (in thousands)

| Operating Expenditure | Gross 2024 | ICIP Funding | PGT Funding | DC Funding | Capital Reserves | Project Managed |
|--|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Branding | 788 | - | (302) | (486) | - | NTC |
| Scheduling Software | 1,000 | - | - | - | (1,000) | NTC |
| Replacement of nineteen 40' Conventional Buses | 15,843 | (11,613)* | (4,230) | - | - | NTC |
| Refurbishment of 40' Conventional Buses | 1,071 | (785) | (286) | - | - | NTC |
| Replacement of Specialized / Para Transit Buses | 1,999 | (1,465) | (534) | - | - | NTC |
| Replacement of two 40' | 1,668 | (1,223)* | - | - | (445) | NTC |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Conventional Buses | | | | | | |
| 24-NTC-Building Equip | 250 | - | - | - | (250) | Niagara Region Facilities |
| 24-NTC StCath-Overhead Door | 400 | - | - | - | (400) | Niagara Region Facilities |
| TOTAL | 23,019 | (15,086) | (5,352) | (486) | (2,095) | - |

*The ICIP funding assigned to this project has been approved provincially but is pending federal approval. Project to be initiated once funding is fully approved.

NTC is forecasting a 2023 year-end balance in the reserves of \$0.4 million. The revised 2024 contribution to the capital reserve of only \$2.3 million will be enough to fund the 2024 capital requests.

2024 Transit Requisition

The net requisition amount will be allocated to the LAMs in accordance with the methodology approved in PW 55-2021. As such, costs will be apportioned on the following basis:

- Municipal service cost of \$39.3 million is apportioned based on proportionate share of service hours. This methodology recognized that the cost for each municipality would not reflect the actual cost of services delivered in the municipality but reflects the triple majority approved methodology that best aligned with the Transit financial model evaluation criteria.
- Regional transit transferred to NTC of \$17.2 million and is apportioned based on the proportionate share of Regional assessment. The 2024 value is based on the 2023 transferred amount adjusted for an estimated increase for inflation of 3%.
- 2022 Revenue shortfalls that were funded with one time funding of \$5.7 million were directly levied on the previous conventional transit providers (Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Welland). The amount has been reduced by \$2.8 million or 50% in 2024 proportionately and the remaining balance will be reduced by 50% again in 2025 and 2026. This strategy was determined as the 2024 budget includes an increase in expected fare revenues of \$3.36 million. These three municipalities make up approximately 83% of the total service hour allocation or \$2.8 million of the incremental fare revenues expected for 2024.

-
- There is no longer a one-time allocation for transferred employee costs.

Appendix 2 presents the results of this methodology by municipality with Appendix 3 providing a further year over year comparison both by municipality and by average household in each municipality.

The net requisition changes by municipality after estimated assessment growth ranges from -16.4% to 19.7%. These requisition changes are the result of the differences in local service hours, 2023 assessment changes and budget increase. The large differences in range is mainly driven by service hours. The cost per household at this time is an estimate only as the actual special levy tax rate will be calculated based on final 2024 tax roll assessment to be delivered in December and subject to Regional tax policy decisions in the first quarter of 2024. The actual cost per household at that time will also reflect actual municipal assessment growth which can only be estimated at this time at the average of 1.5% for all of the Region.

As noted above the 2023 budget included \$0.8 million of municipal service costs in the WEGO contract revenue budget in error, however the service hours related to this cost were included in the service hours allocated to the City of Niagara Falls. Appendix 7 is provided with a comparison of the municipal portion of the requisition that would have occurred had the error been corrected in 2023. Table 1 in Appendix 7 shows first the approved 2023 budget with the \$3.36 million increase in the municipal service share of the budget and the resulting redistribution of costs across all municipalities with only St. Catharines resulting in a decrease. The 'corrected' version in Table 2 shows that all municipalities would have seen an increase in the municipal service distribution had the error not occurred. This is provided as a reference for the rationale of including the correction of the municipal service share of the budget with the service hour based allocation of the requisition in 2024.

Alternatives Reviewed

The recommended budget is in alignment with the budget strategy received by Regional Council to maintain delivery of base services. Considering the significant inflationary pressures seen in the 2024 budget, several budget mitigation options were investigated through the line-by-line analysis described in the Financial Implications and Analysis sections of this report. At the discretion of the Board, programs can be identified for elimination from or addition to the budget. The Board can recommend that the transfer to capital amount be further reduced in order to mitigate budget pressures in 2024 however this will put an increased pressure in future budget preparations as capital

costs continue to increase. The Board could also recommend that the full transfer to capital of \$4.3 million instead of only the \$2.3 million included in the 2024 proposal which would increase the year over year budget increase to \$5.7 million or 10.4%.

NTC is engaged in the corporate CAMRA prioritization process to establish the budget request. NTC also relies heavily on the Niagara Region's capital financing policy that establishes the principles Niagara Region will undertake to ensure financial sustainability, flexibility, transparency, and legislative compliance of its capital funding program. As a result, no alternatives to the capital budget request have been presented.

Other Pertinent Reports

CSD 38-2023 2024 Budget Planning and Timetable

Prepared by:
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Appendices

| | |
|------------|--|
| Appendix 1 | 2024 vs 2023 NTC Operating Budget by Operating Expenditure |
| Appendix 2 | 2024 NTC Requisition Summary by Municipality |
| Appendix 3 | 2024 vs 2023 Requisition by Municipality & Cost by Household |
| Appendix 4 | 2024 FTE Request Summary |
| Appendix 5 | 2024 Capital Summary & 9-year Forecast |
| Appendix 6 | 2024 Capital Program Summary |
| Appendix 7 | WEGO Requisition Comparison |

Appendix 1 - 2024 vs 2023 NTC Operating Budget by Operating Expenditure

| Operating Expenditure | 2024 | 2023 | Variance |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Labour Related Costs | 41,483,360 | 38,028,865 | 3,454,495 |
| Administrative | 2,948,800 | 2,858,216 | 90,584 |
| Operational and Supply | 11,480,606 | 11,215,446 | 265,160 |
| Occupancy & Infrastructure | 1,239,000 | 481,000 | 758,000 |
| Equipment, Vehicles, Technology | 15,554,484 | 12,853,841 | 2,700,643 |
| Transfers to Capital Reserve | 2,313,333 | 2,166,667 | 146,666 |
| Allocation Between Departments | 10,000 | - | 10,000 |
| Debt | 2,192,199 | 2,197,145 | (4,946) |
| Shared Services | 6,012,651 | 6,094,695 | (82,044) |
| Total Gross Expenses | 83,234,433 | 75,895,875 | 7,338,558 |
| Revenues | (23,784,338) | (20,663,924) | (3,120,414) |
| Transfers from Encumbrance Reserve | (101,719) | (179,000) | 77,281 |
| Total Net Special Levy | 59,348,376 | 55,052,951 | 4,295,425 |
| One-Time Levy - EFB | - | 1,508,400 | - |
| Total Special Levy | 59,348,376 | 56,561,351 | 2,787,025 |

Appendix 2 - 2024 Requisition Summary by Local Area Municipality

| Municipality | 2023 Service Hours | 2023 Service Hours Allocation % | 2024 Service Hours | 2024 Service Hour allocation % | 2024 Service Hour Allocation | 2024 Regional Assessment Allocation ¹ | 2024 Direct Municipal Allocation ² | 2024 Special Levy Requisition | 2023 Special Levy Requisition (Including One-Time Costs) | Change |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|--|-----------|
| St. Catharines | 193,499 | 42.6% | 193,924 | 42.6% | 16,748,116 | 4,355,013 | 1,185,000 | 22,288,129 | 21,770,905 | 517,224 |
| Niagara Falls | 125,048 | 27.5% | 130,411 | 28.6% | 11,262,859 | 3,590,133 | 1,027,487 | 15,880,479 | 14,561,963 | 1,318,516 |
| Welland | 57,031 | 12.6% | 52,565 | 11.5% | 4,539,741 | 1,435,356 | 637,500 | 6,612,597 | 7,048,866 | (436,269) |
| Niagara-on-the-lake | 15,912 | 3.5% | 15,912 | 3.5% | 1,374,229 | 1,475,794 | 0 | 2,850,023 | 2,585,009 | 265,014 |
| Port Colborne | 5,655 | 1.2% | 5,655 | 1.2% | 488,390 | 543,056 | 0 | 1,031,446 | 938,038 | 93,408 |
| Pelham | 5,655 | 1.2% | 2,545 | 0.6% | 219,797 | 732,308 | 0 | 952,105 | 1,118,510 | (166,405) |
| Thorold | 14,751 | 3.2% | 14,647 | 3.2% | 1,264,978 | 771,672 | 0 | 2,036,650 | 1,775,411 | 261,239 |
| Fort Erie | 25,444 | 5.6% | 25,444 | 5.6% | 2,197,454 | 1,074,482 | 0 | 3,271,936 | 2,875,904 | 396,032 |
| Grimsby | 5,655 | 1.2% | 8,483 | 1.9% | 732,629 | 1,303,875 | 0 | 2,036,504 | 1,679,779 | 356,725 |
| Lincoln | 5,655 | 1.2% | 5,980 | 1.3% | 516,459 | 1,067,030 | 0 | 1,583,489 | 1,427,442 | 156,047 |
| West Lincoln | - | 0.0% | - | 0.0% | 0 | 548,338 | 0 | 548,338 | 530,128 | 18,210 |
| Wainfleet | - | 0.0% | - | 0.0% | 0 | 256,677 | 0 | 256,677 | 249,394 | 7,283 |
| Total | 454,305 | 100.0% | 455,566 | 100.0% | 39,344,655 | 17,153,734 | 2,849,987 | 59,348,373 | 56,561,350 | 2,787,023 |

¹ 2023 Total Regional Allocation adjusted for 3% CPI allocated based on the 2023 Municipal current value assessment.

² Based on a 50% reduction from 2023.

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|------------|
| TOTAL Gross Budget | - | - | 59,348,376 |
| Regional Assessment | - | - | 17,153,734 |
| Direct Revenue | - | - | 2,849,987 |
| Net Service Charge | - | - | 39,344,655 |

| Municipality | Direct Municipal Allocation 2023 | Reduction for fare revenues 50% | Direct Revenue Charge | 2025 Reduction | 2026 Reduction | Variance |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| St. Catharines | 2,370,000 | (1,185,000) | 1,185,000 | (592,500) | (592,500) | - |
| Niagara Falls | 2,054,974 | (1,027,487) | 1,027,487 | (513,744) | (513,744) | - |
| Welland | 1,275,000 | (637,500) | 637,500 | (318,750) | (318,750) | - |
| TOTAL | 5,699,974 | (2,849,987) | 2,849,987 | (1,424,994) | (1,424,994) | |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fare Revenue Increase | - | (3,359,226) | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3 Site service allocation | - | 83% | Welland, St. Catharines & Niagara Falls make up 83% of total allocation | | | | |
| Total | - | (2,788,158) | Portion of increased fare revenue relative to 3 locations. | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 50% of 2023 Direct Portion | - | 2,849,987 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Variance NS | - | 61,829 | - | - | - | - | - |

2023 had \$5.7M allocated to 3 LAMS. Increase of fare revenues across systems \$3.36M. Pro-rated increased fare revenues based on service allocation of the three LAM's which is approximately 83%. Thus reduced the Direct Municipal portion related to unsustainable revenues sources in prior years to these 3 Lam's. Then will reduce remaining amount by 50% in 2025 and 2026 until no direct municipal portion.

Appendix 3 - 2024 vs 2023 Cost Per Local Area Municipality

| Municipality | 2023 Approved Budget | 2024 Approved Budget | Change in \$ | Change in % | Average assessment Growth | Change net of Assessment Growth |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| St. Catharines* | 21,770,905 | 22,288,129 | 517,224 | 2.4% | 1.5% | 0.9% |
| Niagara Falls | 14,561,963 | 15,880,479 | 1,318,516 | 9.1% | 1.5% | 7.6% |
| Welland* | 7,048,866 | 6,612,597 | (436,269) | -6.2% | 1.5% | -7.7% |
| NOTL | 2,585,009 | 2,850,023 | 265,014 | 10.3% | 1.5% | 8.8% |
| Port Colborne | 938,038 | 1,031,446 | 93,408 | 10.0% | 1.5% | 8.5% |
| Pelham | 1,118,510 | 952,105 | (166,405) | -14.9% | 1.5% | -16.4% |
| Thorold | 1,775,411 | 2,036,650 | 261,239 | 14.7% | 1.5% | 13.2% |
| Fort Erie | 2,875,904 | 3,271,936 | 396,032 | 13.8% | 1.5% | 12.3% |
| Grimsby | 1,679,779 | 2,036,504 | 356,725 | 21.2% | 1.5% | 19.7% |
| Lincoln | 1,427,442 | 1,583,489 | 156,047 | 10.9% | 1.5% | 9.4% |
| West Lincoln | 530,128 | 548,338 | 18,210 | 3.4% | 1.5% | 1.9% |
| Wainfleet | 249,394 | 256,677 | 7,283 | 2.9% | 1.5% | 1.4% |
| Total | 56,561,351 | 59,348,373 | 2,787,022 | 4.9% | 1.5% | 3.4% |
| One-time EFB Levy* | (1,508,400) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Base Budget | 55,052,951 | 59,348,373 | 4,295,422 | 7.8% | 1.5% | 6.3% |

*In 2023 an additional one-time special levy allocation for transferred costs from St. Catharines (\$1,220,633) and Welland (\$287,767).

Appendix 3 - 2024 vs 2023 Cost per Household (Net of Assessment Growth)

| Municipality | 2023 Household Current Value Assessment | 2023 Approved Budget ¹ | 2023 Cost per Household | 2024 Approved Budget | 2024 Cost per Household | Change in \$ | Change in % |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| St. Catharines | 259,643 | 21,770,905 | 312 | 22,288,129 | 315 | 3 | 0.9% |
| Niagara Falls | 262,988 | 14,561,963 | 257 | 15,880,479 | 276 | 19 | 7.6% |
| Welland | 214,079 | 7,048,866 | 253 | 6,612,597 | 234 | (19) | -7.7% |
| NOTL | 493,825 | 2,585,009 | 208 | 2,850,023 | 226 | 18 | 8.8% |
| Port Colborne | 207,501 | 938,038 | 86 | 1,031,446 | 94 | 7 | 8.5% |
| Pelham | 364,292 | 1,118,510 | 134 | 952,105 | 112 | (22) | -16.4% |
| Thorold | 228,358 | 1,775,411 | 126 | 2,036,650 | 143 | 17 | 13.2% |
| Fort Erie | 216,145 | 2,875,904 | 139 | 3,271,936 | 156 | 17 | 12.3% |
| Grimsby | 400,088 | 1,679,779 | 124 | 2,036,504 | 149 | 24 | 19.7% |
| Lincoln | 364,773 | 1,427,442 | 117 | 1,583,489 | 129 | 11 | 9.4% |
| West Lincoln | 323,030 | 530,128 | 75 | 548,338 | 77 | 1 | 1.9% |
| Wainfleet | 273,324 | 249,394 | 64 | 256,677 | 65 | 1 | 1.4% |
| Total | - | 56,561,351 | - | 59,348,373 | - | - | - |

¹ 2023 Approved budget includes the one-time EFB special levy payment.

2024 FTE Summary

| Position | # of FTE | Gross Annual Salary | Description |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---|
| Bus Cleaner | 1.00 | \$69,621 | Through the budget preparation for 2023, there were upload errors by way of omission. Prior to the upload date of January 1st, 2023, these positions existed on site and were staffed. The uploaded compensation budget, nor the total headcount, included the full complement of transferred staff at this site. |
| Mechanic | 0.86 | \$93,914 | Through the budget preparation for 2023, the uploaded hours did not accurately reflect the full-time component of the role. One of the two uploaded full-time staff, was calculated without the 40-hour, weekly guarantee. |
| Service Person | 2.00 | \$180,360 | Through the budget preparation for 2023, there were upload errors by way of omission. Prior to the upload date of January 1st, 2023, these positions existed on site and were staffed. The uploaded compensation budget, nor the total headcount, included the full complement of transferred staff at this site. |
| Operators | 3.00 | \$271,009 | Through the budget preparation for 2023, there were upload errors by way of omission. Prior to the upload date of January 1st, 2023, these positions existed on site and were staffed. The uploaded compensation budget, nor the total headcount, included the full complement of transferred staff at this site. |
| Total FTE Upload Errors | 6.86 | \$614,904 | - |
| Supervisor Fleet Maintenance | 1.00 | \$115,117 | While working through the transitional period since January 1st, 2023, staff have identified an operational gap in supervision within the fleet maintenance department. To date, approximately 57 per cent of working hours are not captured with supervisory coverage. Supervisory staff play a critical role in employee safety, service delivery, NTC derived initiatives, and assistance in project management. |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------------|---|
| Electrical/ITS Technician | 1.00 | \$107,848 | Currently, the NTC is managing a fleet of 235 Vehicles (revenue and non-revenue inclusive), along with 50, current partner/contractor vehicles (NRT On-demand, BTS, Fort Erie OnDemand, etc.) that currently have ITS Technology onboard. As it stands, the entirety of the network is supported by the ITS Specialist, one person. Between in-flight and future projects, more devices and connectivity to the buses will subsequently occur. |
| Service Person | 0.25 | \$19,024 | The increase of 0.25 of Service Person is to have the part-time Service Person position become full-time as this position is currently working full-time hours through overtime. This transition from part-time to full-time not only provides stability for our workforce but also enhances employee engagement, loyalty, and overall satisfaction. |
| Total NEW FTE | 2.25 | \$241,989 | - |
| Digital/Media Website Coordinator | 1.00 | \$93,914 | In light of the increasing reliance on digital media as a primary source for news, content consumption, and engagement, it has become imperative to allocate a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) to oversee the management of the NTC's digital presence. This position was a temporary position in the 2023 budget funded through a transfer of encumbrance reserve. The position was hired in July 2023 and this position will be funded by the encumbrance reserve for 50 per cent of the year in 2024. Not continuing the role of the Digital Media and Website Coordinator jeopardizes our ability to effectively communicate with our riders whom we know are moving to on-line or smart technologies for their information and to pay their fares or use their UPASS, maintain a positive brand image, seize opportunities for engagement, make data-driven decisions, and may have long-term financial implications. |
| Total GROWTH FTE | 1.00 | \$93,914 | - |
| TOTAL 2024 FTE Requests | 10.11 | \$950,807 | - |

2024 Capital Summary & 9-year forecast

| Annual Project | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031 | 2032 | 2033 | Total |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Branding | \$787,700 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Scheduling Software | 1,000,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,000,000 |
| Replace 40' Conventional Buses (Note 1) | 15,843,150 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15,843,150 |
| Refurbishment of 40' Conventional Buses | 1,071,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,071,000 |
| Replacement of Specialized / Para Transit Buses | 1,999,200 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,999,200 |
| Replace 2 x 40' Conventional Buses (Note 1) | 1,667,700 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,667,700 |
| 24-NTC-Building Equip | 250,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 250,000 |
| 24-NTC StCath-Overhead Door | 400,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 400,000 |
| Annual - Replace 40' Conventional Buses (Note 1) | - | 9,355,797 | 6,940,300 | 11,503,548 | 13,538,797 | 17,492,118 | 12,207,657 | 9,755,760 | 12,380,000 | 12,627,600 | 105,801,577 |
| Replacement of Specialized/Para Transit Buses | - | 1,274,490 | 779,988 | 1,325,979 | 811,499 | 551,820 | 281,428 | 579,411 | 608,381 | 638,800 | 6,851,796 |
| Replace 60' Conventional Buses (Note 1) | - | - | 1,272,388 | 1,297,836 | 1,323,793 | - | 4,131,822 | - | - | - | 8,025,839 |
| Facility Review&Captial Inv't (Note 1) | - | 3,345,120 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3,345,120 |
| On-Demand/Specialize d Vehicles (Note 1) | - | 1,250,000 | 1,250,000 | 1,250,000 | 1,250,000 | - | - | - | 1,464,574 | 1,464,574 | 7,929,148 |
| Other Transit Capital (Note 1) | - | 1,184,100 | 1,207,785 | 1,231,940 | 1,256,580 | 1,281,710 | 1,307,345 | 1,333,495 | 1,360,165 | 1,387,365 | 11,550,485 |
| Growth - Fleet Expansion (Note 1) | - | - | 4,960,040 | 4,960,040 | 4,960,040 | 4,960,040 | 4,960,040 | - | - | - | 24,800,200 |
| Growth - Facility Expansion | - | - | 14,217,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 14,217,000 |
| Total Gross Capital | \$23,018,750 | \$16,409,507 | \$30,627,501 | \$21,569,343 | \$23,140,709 | \$24,285,688 | \$22,888,292 | \$11,668,666 | \$15,813,120 | \$16,118,339 | \$205,539,915 |
| Capital Reserve Funding (Note 2) | (2,095,276) | (1,184,100) | (2,977,921) | (1,231,940) | (1,256,580) | (1,281,710) | (1,307,345) | (1,333,495) | (1,360,165) | (1,387,365) | (15,415,897) |
| Development Charges | (485,434) | - | (12,528,616) | (3,240,460) | (3,240,460) | (3,240,460) | (3,240,460) | - | - | - | (25,975,890) |
| ICIP Funding (Note 3) | (15,085,910) | (11,164,791) | (7,510,954) | (11,276,220) | (12,410,434) | (13,231,620) | (12,188,111) | (7,578,781) | (10,598,352) | (10,802,223) | (111,847,396) |
| Provincial Gas Tax Funding | (5,352,130) | (4,060,616) | (7,610,010) | (5,820,723) | (6,233,235) | (6,531,898) | (6,152,376) | (2,756,390) | (3,854,603) | (3,928,751) | (52,300,732) |
| Net Funding Gap | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Note 1 - ICIP Application has been approved Provincially but is pending federal approval.
Note 2 - Assumption includes approval of transfer to capital in operating budget.
Note 3 - Estimates include new funding opportunities past 2031 as ICIP ends 2031.

2024 Capital Program Summary

| Project Name | 2024 Gross Capital Request | % of Budget | Description of Costs |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|--|
| Branding | \$787,700 | 4% | Consolidation of all local and regional transit requires rebranding on the fleet, stops and shelters to align with the new created NTC. NTC branding is required in the next 12 months in order to prevent confusion amongst the most vulnerable transit riders. <u>Funded by:</u> \$485,434 Development Charges \$302,266 Provincial Gas Tax |
| Scheduling Software | \$1,000,000 | 4% | This project includes the design and creation of new scheduling software for Niagara Regional Transit. This project involves the purchase of a single robust electronic scheduling software that will plan, optimize, and enhance transit resource scheduling operations across three geographic locations, based on the new rules of the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). <u>Funded by:</u> \$1,000,000 – Capital Reserves |
| Replace 40' Conventional Buses | \$15,843,150 | 71% | This project includes the replacement of vehicles required to meet committed service levels. Based on informal condition assessment (vehicle age, vehicle mileage, and historical maintenance costs), these vehicles have been identified as being 15 years old and in need of replacement in the next 12 months. 12 years is the optimal replacement age to minimize maintenance and in-service breakdowns. These vehicles are three years beyond the average useful life resulting in a high probability that these vehicles will fail during service over the next year. When failure occurs, these vehicles will be out of service between two weeks and three months, affecting 400 riders per day. <u>Funded by:</u> \$ 4,230,121 – Provincial Gas Tax \$11,613,029 – ICIP (pending federal approval) |
| Refurbishment of 40' Conventional Buses | \$1,071,000 | 5% | This project intends to refurbish 3 x 40' conventional diesel buses to prevent failure in 2024 and increase vehicle useful life from 12 years to 15 years. These vehicles were identified for refurbishment based on informal condition assessment, and optimal |

| Project Name | 2024 Gross Capital Request | % of Budget | Description of Costs |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|---|
| | | | refurbishment age of 7-8 years. These vehicles are required to meet committed service levels. <u>Funded by:</u> \$285,957 – Provincial Gas Tax \$785,043 - ICIP |
| Replacement of Specialized / Para Transit Buses | \$1,999,200 | 9% | This project is based on informal condition assessment identifying these vehicles as being nine years old, which is two years beyond industry standard of seven years (the optimal replacement age to minimize maintenance and in service breakdowns). These vehicles are required to meet committed service levels and are already two years beyond the average useful life resulting in a high probability that these vehicles will fail during service over the next 12 months. When failure occurs, these vehicles will be out of service between two weeks and three months, affecting 74 riders per day. <u>Funded by:</u> \$533,786 – Provincial Gas Tax \$1,465,414 – ICIP |
| Replacement of 2 x 40' Conventional Buses | \$1,667,700 | 7% | These vehicles are required to meet committed service levels. Based on informal condition assessment these vehicles have been identified as being 15 years old and in need of replacement in the next year. 12 years is the optimal replacement age to minimize maintenance in service breakdowns. These vehicles are three years beyond the average useful life and thus there is a very high probability that these vehicles will fail during service over the next year. When failure occurs, these vehicles will be out of service between two weeks and three months, affecting 400 riders per day. <u>Funded by:</u> \$ 445,276 – Capital Reserves \$1,222,424 – ICIP (pending Federal Approval) |

WEGO Requisition Comparison

Table 1 – Original Service Hour Allocation

| Local Area Municipality | Approved 2022 Municipal Budget | Approved NTC 2023 Budget | Difference | Service Hours |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| St. Catharines | 14,044,000 | 13,927,190 | 116,810) | 193,499 |
| Niagara Falls | 8,128,009 | 9,000,394 | 872,385 | 125,048 |
| Welland | 3,479,566 | 4,104,835 | 625,269 | 57,031 |
| Niagara-on-the-Lake | 982,900 | 1,145,274 | 162,374 | 15,912 |
| Port Colborne | 165,700 | 407,022 | 241,322 | 5,655 |
| Pelham | 182,000 | 407,022 | 225,022 | 5,655 |
| Thorold | 714,390 | 1,061,711 | 347,321 | 14,751 |
| Fort Erie | 1,253,176 | 1,831,377 | 578,201 | 25,444 |
| Grimsby | 250,000 | 407,022 | 157,022 | 5,655 |
| Lincoln | 135,340 | 407,022 | 271,682 | 5,655 |
| West Lincoln | - | - | - | - |
| Wainfleet | - | - | - | - |
| Total | \$ 29,335,081 | \$ 32,698,867 | \$ 3,363,786 | 454,305 |

Table 2 – Corrected Service Hour Allocation

| Local Area Municipality | Approved 2022 Municipal Budget | Approved NTC 2023 budget | Difference | Service Hours |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| St. Catharines | 14,044,000 | 14,267,928 | 223,928 | 193,499 |
| Niagara Falls | 8,928,009 | 9,220,595 | 292,586 | 125,048 |
| Welland | 3,479,566 | 4,205,263 | 725,697 | 57,031 |
| Niagara-on-the-Lake | 982,900 | 1,173,294 | 190,394 | 15,912 |
| Port Colborne | 165,700 | 416,980 | 251,280 | 5,655 |
| Pelham | 182,000 | 416,980 | 234,980 | 5,655 |
| Thorold | 714,390 | 1,087,686 | 373,296 | 14,751 |
| Fort Erie | 1,253,176 | 1,876,183 | 623,007 | 25,444 |
| Grimsby | 250,000 | 416,980 | 166,980 | 5,655 |
| Lincoln | 135,340 | 416,980 | 281,640 | 5,655 |
| West Lincoln | - | - | - | - |
| Wainfleet | - | - | - | - |
| Total | \$30,135,081 | \$33,498,867 | \$3,363,786 | 454,305 |

Increase for NF/CityRed Municipal Services \$800,000

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

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Tél. : 416 585-7000



Received November 2, 2023
C-2023-383

234-2023-5307

November 2, 2023

**Re: Announcement Impacting Provincial Decisions on Municipal Official Plans/
Official Plan Amendments**

Dear Sir, Madam:

Since becoming the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I have made it a priority to review past decisions related to land use planning, including official plans and minister's zoning orders, to ensure that these earlier decisions support our goal of building at least 1.5 million homes in a manner that maintains and reinforces public trust.

In November 2022 and April 2023, the ministry issued decisions on official plans impacting the cities of Barrie, Belleville, Guelph, Hamilton, Ottawa and Peterborough, the regional municipalities of Halton, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo and York, and Wellington County. As a result of my review of these decisions, on October 23, 2023, I announced my intent to introduce legislation as soon as possible that would reverse the province's changes to these plans.

For clarity, the proposed legislation will, if passed, bring into effect the official plans or official plan amendments as adopted by municipal council without provincial modifications, except for any modifications that are necessary to protect matters of public health and safety, or which are required to align with legislation or regulations.

The ministry appreciates that the decisions that were made in November 2022 and April 2023 are currently in effect, and I understand that many municipalities are working to actively implement the decisions. I also appreciate that productive collaboration and coordination between the ministry and your municipality is going to be needed to ensure clarity going forward.

As stated in my announcement on October 23, 2023, we are providing 45 days for municipalities to submit information about the modifications to the official plans that were originally submitted to the Ministry, including:

1. Circumstances or projects where construction has already begun in relation to the official plan or official plan amendment decisions, particularly those projects that are directly reliant on the modifications made to the plan through the ministry's decision; and

2. If there are changes that the municipality would like to see made to the official plan, based on the modifications that the province had previously made, and which you support. Lower-tier municipal feedback on the original official plan submitted to the province will be important to supporting its implementation.

We are asking mayors of impacted single and lower tier municipalities to submit this feedback, including proposed changes and updates to the official plans/official plan amendments, to ministry staff **by December 7, 2023**. Please submit feedback to the following email address: MMAHOfficialPlans@Ontario.ca.

To ensure the province receives the necessary feedback within the 45-day window, we will accept changes directly from heads of council of single and lower-tier municipalities, including to official plans that were originally submitted with council endorsements from upper-tier municipalities. Heads of council may choose to seek a council endorsement of their proposed changes, but that is not required.

While I intend to introduce legislation prior to the conclusion of the 45-day period, please rest assured that municipal feedback received during the 45-day window, and through consultation on the legislation, will be carefully considered to determine the best approach for moving forward, including if further legislative steps or the use of other provincial tools are required.

We are also interested in receiving information and supporting documentation that outlines related planning costs that may have been incurred by your municipality arising out of the provincial decisions. This information can be submitted to the ministry outside of the 45-day window through municipal staff.

Official plans are an important tool for addressing Ontario's shortage of housing. To that end, as you prepare your feedback, I encourage you to ensure your proposed approach to meet your housing targets is ambitious and reflective of the serious need to get more homes built quickly. In particular, I encourage you to look for opportunities to systematically increase density and align this density with existing and planned transit within your municipality. Getting more homes built faster will help more people in your municipality find a home that meets their needs and budget and help municipalities access funding under Ontario's all-new \$1.2 billion Building Faster Fund.

If your staff have questions or concerns, ministry staff are available to discuss this matter further. Please have municipal staff contact the ministry at the email address above and we will connect you with the relevant staff in my ministry.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Calandra', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

To: Meredith Kirkham
Subject: RE: Request to hang REDresses

-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@wainfleet.ca <noreply@wainfleet.ca> On Behalf Of Gwenn Alves CFUW Welland and District
Sent: November 3, 2023 10:17 AM
To: Meredith Kirkham <MKirkham@wainfleet.ca>
Subject: Request to hang REDresses

Again this year we request permission to hang REDresses in Wainfleet to raise awareness of the Gender-Based Violence to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2 Spirited+ during the UN Declaration of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence beginning Sat. Nov.25 International Day for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence and ending on Dec.10 Human Rights Day.

If there are questions please contact me at 905-708-5718. Thank you for your consideration.

Origin: <https://www.wainfleet.ca/Modules/contact/search.aspx?s=TKuD4yg4FrPIUsF46vrzpE5IA5HxQeQuAleQuAl>

This email was sent to you by Gwenn Alves CFUW Welland and District <gwennralves@gmail.com> through <https://www.wainfleet.ca>.