

1. **C-2026-145**
Correspondence received May 29, 2026 from Mark Tardif respecting the donation of a 2SLGBTQ+ Flag to be used for Township flag raisings.
2. **C-2026-146**
Correspondence dated May 29, 2026 from the Office of the Regional Clerk to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Local Area Municipalities respecting 2025 Reserve Water and Wastewater Treatment Capacities.
3. **C-2026-147**
Correspondence dated May 29, 2026 from the Office of the Regional Clerk to Local Area Municipalities respecting Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program – 2026 Funding Recommendations.
4. **C-2026-148**
Correspondence dated May 29, 2026 from the Office of the Regional Clerk to Local Area Municipalities respecting Debt Information Report – 2026 Debenture Issuance.
5. **C-2026-149**
Correspondence dated May 29, 2026 from the County of Prince Edward respecting a resolution of opposition to the *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026*.
6. **C-2026-150**
Correspondence dated May 29, 2026 from the County of Prince Edward respecting a resolution seeking support for sustainable funding for Public Health Units.
7. **C-2026-151**
Correspondence dated June 1, 2026 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing respecting an invitation for comments on the proposed *Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026*.
8. **C-2026-152**
Correspondence dated June 2, 2026 from the City of St. Catharines to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities respecting a request to Develop an Anniversary Tree Planting Program.
9. **C-2026-153**
Correspondence dated May 26, 2026 from the Village of Merrickville Wolford respecting a resolution of support for the Municipality of North Grenville correspondence regarding Traffic Calming & Speeding Mitigation Techniques.

10. **C-2026-154**

Correspondence dated June 3, 2026 from the City of Thorold to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a resolution of support for the Municipality of Stratford correspondence regarding Bill 21, *Protect Our Food Act, 2025*.

Received May 29, 2026
C-2026-145

Mayor and Council
Township of Wainfleet
31940 Highway 3
Wainfleet, On
L0S 1V0

May 29, 2026

Dear: Mayor and Council

Raising the Pride Flag publicly celebrates diversity, inclusion and acceptance and demonstrates solidarity against historical and ongoing discrimination. This shows residents and visitors that everyone is welcome.

From the council meeting held on May 26, 2026, there were issues that would possibly result in the Township not participating in a Pride Flag raising to support Pride Month.

The continued commitment to raising the Pride Flag remains, however the Township does not own such a flag.

As a family, we would like to donate the current 2SLGBTQ+ Flag to the Township to keep as their own for future flag raisings.

To provide some context as some of you might not know, my daughter struggled for few years before coming out as part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Once she told my wife and I, a huge weight was lifted from her. We once again started to see her fun, loving and vibrant personality. Attributes that faded during her struggles.

Pride Month holds different meanings for different people. For our family, Pride month is a celebration of our family overcoming these struggles, it's a reminder of the perseverance and courage within my child. Most importantly it now affords us the opportunity to promote this event and possibly help other people and families navigate the same struggles my family overcame.

Respectfully,

Mark Tardif, C.P.S.O, MLEO (C)
Senior By-law / Property Standards Officer
Septic Inspector
Township of Wainfleet
31940 Highway 3, P.O. Box 40
Wainfleet, ON L0S 1V0
905-899-3463 Ext. 247

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

May 29, 2026

CL 9-2025, May 28, 2026
PWC 5-2026, May 12, 2026
PW 15-2026, May 12, 2026

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Local Area Municipalities

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

2025 Reserve Water and Wastewater Treatment Capacities

PW 15-2026

Regional Council, at its meeting held on May 28, 2026, passed the following recommendation of its Public Works Committee:

That Report PW 15-2026, dated May 12, 2026, respecting 2025 Reserve Water and Wastewater Treatment Capacities, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Local Area Municipalities.

A copy of Report PW 15-2026 is enclosed for your reference.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk

rh

CLK-C 2025-052

cc: I. Stetic, Manager, W-WW Infrastructure Planning
L. De Angelis, Commissioner, Public Works
K. Ward, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Public Works

Subject: 2025 Reserve Water and Wastewater Treatment Capacities

Report to: Public Works Committee

Report date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026

1. That Report PW 15-2026 **BE RECEIVED** for information; and
2. That Report PW 15-2026 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Local Area Municipalities.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the reserve treatment capacities at Niagara's Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants. This reporting is required by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).
- The data contained in this report assists in commenting on new development proposals and related servicing as well as planning for future treatment capacity.
- All of Niagara Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) and Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) are positioned to accept growth beyond the minimum 10-year horizon.
- This conclusion is based on the Region's current infrastructure plan, which includes the construction of the new South Niagara Wastewater Treatment Plant to expand overall capacity.
- The assessment also assumes that existing treatment facilities will be maintained or refurbished as needed to remain fully operational.
- Additionally, the analysis is based on design capacity and does not account for the impact of wet weather flow. Peak wet weather conditions may limit sanitary sewer capacity. As such, on-going efforts to reduce wet weather flows are critical to supporting future development.

Financial Considerations

This report provides Council with historical and projected treatment capacity and flow data. There are no direct financial implications in receiving this report.

The reserve treatment capacities at the water and wastewater facilities are considered in commenting on new development proposals and related servicing.

Analysis

Annual Reporting Requirement

The Infrastructure Planning and Development section of Public Works Department annually reports on an assessment of the average daily water and wastewater (W-WW) flows based on the previous five years of data, as recorded at our various facilities compared to MECP rated capacities for the facilities. A key objective of this report is to highlight potential capacity constraints and allow sufficient lead-time to plan for future capacity increases through the W-WW capital programs so that anticipated development can be accommodated at the facilities.

This is a desktop exercise, which compares the five-year average flows to the respective MECP Environmental Compliance Approval(s), formerly known as Certificate of Approval(s), for each facility. Then, it incorporates 10-year growth forecasts into the calculation. Previous reports have used the 10-year growth forecasts from the 2021 Master Servicing Plan (MSP) in these calculations. The MSP is currently being updated, and the growth forecasts were updated to support that work. These new growth numbers have been used in the calculations.

Ongoing phasing and staging strategy work with our local municipal partners will further refine this assessment for understanding development capacity needs.

This methodology reflects the Region's current infrastructure plan, which includes the construction of the new South Niagara Wastewater Treatment Plant to expand overall capacity. It also assumes that existing treatment facilities will be maintained or upgraded as needed to remain fully operational. Additionally, the assessment is based on design capacity and does not account for the impact of wet weather flows.

This assessment does not reflect specific compliance, quality, sustainability, risk, or operational deficiencies at the treatment plants or trunk conveyance/transmission systems, which may affect the Region's ability to accommodate new development.

Appendices 1 and 2 provide annual average daily flows and five-year average flows from 2021 to 2025 for the water and wastewater treatment plants, respectively.

Appendices 3 and 4 provide a summary of Niagara's six (6) water treatment facilities and eleven (11) wastewater treatment facilities presenting their respective reserve capacities.

Wet Weather Flows Continue to Negatively Impact Wastewater Infrastructure

For municipal wastewater treatment, weather is the key factor that results in peak wet weather flow, which impacts the collection and trunk sewers in both local and regional systems through “Rainfall Derived Inflow and Infiltration” (RDI&I). Wet weather flows can have substantial impact on available WWTP capacities and a direct impact on the limitations of available servicing capacity for future growth. The analysis for this report is based on design capacity and does not account for the impact of wet weather flow. Peak wet weather conditions may limit sanitary sewer infrastructure capacity. As such, on-going efforts to reduce wet weather flows are critical to supporting future development.

Growth Analytics

It is worth noting that growth rates in recent years show an increase compared to time before, which consequently can affect the way this desktop exercise conducts the reserve capacity calculations. However, the averaging daily flows over a 5-year period versus a 3-year period in the Reserve Capacity calculations for 2025 do not show a compelling difference or significant trend. For the WWTP’s, there are some trends of a slightly reduced annual average daily flow when comparing the 3-year to the 5-year average flow, which can partially be due to several inflow and infiltration (I&I) reduction and capacity restoration projects within the recent years.

Plants Available Design Capacity

The results of this desktop average flow capacity assessment indicate that the design capacity of all of Niagara’s WTPs and WWTPs are positioned to accept growth beyond the minimum 10-year period (Appendix 3 and Appendix 4).

The reserve capacity calculations are based on the Region’s official long-range population and employment forecasts. It is important to note that actual growth rates in recent years have exceeded these forecasts. Higher growth can impact the accuracy of this desktop exercise, as a result, Regional staff will continue to monitor and review growth trends annually and adjust the forecasted growth rates used in the reserve capacity calculations as needed.

Risks that Reduce Available Treatment Capacity

It is important to note that the results of this capacity assessment, calculated according to MECP requirements, do not fully reflect real-world operating conditions. The assessment assumes dry weather flows, no constraints within the conveyance system and that all existing equipment is properly maintained.

In practice, precipitation, particularly rainwater, can reduce the available capacity of municipal wastewater systems. Rainwater does not require the same level of treatment as sewage; it should be directed to the stormwater system. However, when rainwater enters the sanitary collection system, it consumes capacity intended for sewage and future growth. As such, ongoing efforts to reduce wet weather flows are essential to alleviating system limitations and enabling future development and potentially delaying regional infrastructure upgrades. The Region continues to work with Area Municipalities to remove wet weather from the wastewater system.

Additionally, this assessment does not account for operational deficiencies or risks related to the condition of existing assets at treatment plants or within trunk conveyance, transmission systems and pumping stations. While not addressed in this report, infrastructure failures could impact the Region's ability to support new development.

Alternatives Reviewed

No alternatives reviewed as this report is a requirement of the MECP.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The report aligns with Council's Priority of Responsible Growth and Infrastructure Planning by highlighting the reserve capacity available for growth at all Regional Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities.

The report also provides MECP and local municipal partners operational summary and reserve capacity projections for Region's Water and Wastewater Treatment facilities.

Other Pertinent Reports

- PW 20-2025, May 6, 2025 - 2024 Reserve Water and Wastewater Treatment Capacities

Prepared by:

Ilija Stetic, B.Sc, PMP, CET
Manager W-WW Infrastructure Planning
Public Works Department

Recommended by:

Lisa DeAngelis, RPP, P.Eng.
Commissioner of Public Works
Public Works Department

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Jason Oatley, Associate Director W-WW Quality & Compliance and reviewed by Susan Dunsmore, Associate Director, Development Engineering.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Water Treatment Plant Annual Average Daily Flow 2021 to 2025
- Appendix 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant Annual Average Daily Flow 2021 to 2025
- Appendix 3 Water Reserve Capacity Calculations for 2025
- Appendix 4 Wastewater Reserve Capacity Calculations for 2025

Appendix 1: WTP Annual Average Daily Flow 2021 – 2025

Water Treatment Plant	Rated Capacity (m3/d)	2021 Average Daily Flow (m3/d)	2022 Average Daily Flow (m3/d)	2023 Average Daily Flow (m3/d)	2024 Average Daily Flow (m3/d)	2025 Average Daily Flow (m3/d)	5 Year Average 2021-2025	3 Year Average 2023-2025
Decew Falls WTP	227,300	50,824	52,970	52,830	56,133	58,039	54,159	55,667
Grimsby WTP	44,000	14,872	14,800	14,610	14,814	15,451	14,909	14,958
Niagara Falls WTP	145,584	40,125	42,160	43,050	43,310	45,241	42,777	43,867
Port Colborne WTP	36,000	6,387	6,953	8,310	8,046	8,751	7,689	8,369
Rosehill WTP	50,026	11,710	13,020	12,710	12,505	12,680	12,525	12,632
Welland WTP	65,000	24,675	24,160	24,100	24,863	26,890	24,938	25,284

Appendix 2: WWTP Annual Average Daily Flow 2021 – 2025

Wastewater Treatment Plant	Rated Capacity (m ³ /d)	2021 Average Daily Flow	2022 Average Daily Flow	2023 Average Daily Flow	2024 Average Daily Flow	2025 Average Daily Flow	5 Year Average 2021-2025	3 Year Average 2023-2025
Anger Avenue WWTP	24,500	13,580	13,171	12,992	12,084	11,548	12,675	12,208
Baker Road WWTP	31,280	17,952	17,081	23,700	22,100	20,647	20,296	22,149
Crystal Beach WWTP	9,100	5,688	5,256	5,423	4,865	4,598	5,166	4,962
Niagara Falls WWTP	68,300	35,242	35,197	42,902	41,748	37,810	38,580	40,820
NOTL WWTP	8,000	5,142	5,602	6,823	6,217	6,238	6,005	6,426
Port Dalhousie WWTP	61,350	34,113	31,793	29,176	27,416	26,075	29,715	27,556
Port Weller WWTP	56,180	33,751	33,176	38,024	36,429	34,298	35,136	36,250
Queenston WWTP	500	135	142	225	175	135	162	178
Seaway WWTP	19,600	11,299	10,200	11,391	9,519	8,923	10,266	9,944
Stevensville/Douglstown	2,289	1,592	1,552	1,479	1,400	1,267	1,458	1,382
Welland WWTP	54,550	33,617	34,288	39,800	34,801	33,352	35,172	35,984

Appendix 3: WTP Reserve Capacities for 2025

Water Treatment Plant	Permit To Take Water ⁽¹⁾ m ³ /d	Rated Treatment Capacity m ³ /d	Theoretical Ave Day Capacity m ³ /d	90% of Ave Day Capacity ⁽²⁾ m ³ /d	5-Year Ave Day Flow m ³ /d	Peaking Factor	Total Capacity Used	Reserve Treatment Capacity 90% m ³ /d	Design Flow Rate ⁽³⁾ 246 Lcd	Reserve Serviceable Population Equivalents	10Year Forecast Population Res & Emp	Surplus Population 10-Year Projection
DeCew Falls	227,000	227,300	155,366	139,829.1	54,159	1.463	35%	85,670	246	348,252	42,197	306,055
Grimsby	44,000	44,000	27,569	24,812.0	14,909	1.596	54%	9,903	246	40,254	15,550	24,704
Niagara Falls	145,500	145,584	98,701	88,830.9	42,777	1.475	43%	46,054	246	187,210	24,913	162,297
Port Colborne	45,500	36,000	21,635	19,471.1	7,689	1.664	36%	11,782	246	47,893	3,712	44,181
Rosehill	78,000	50,026	33,152	29,836.6	12,525	1.509	38%	17,312	246	70,372	10,389	59,983
Welland	110,000	65,000	43,449	39,104.3	24,938	1.496	57%	14,167	246	57,589	24,925	32,664

Note 1: Original MOE approved quantity of raw water permitted (Permit to Take Water).

Note 2: Region's 2021 W&WW MSP requires planning process for expansion when plant capacity exceeds 80%, and expansion should be completed when capacity exceeds 90%.

Note 3: Region's 2021 W&WW MSP new design criteria call for 240 Lcd residential consumption and 270 Led employment consumption. This is equivalent to 246 Lcd for both, using the 79% and 21% residential and employment share, respectively.

Appendix 4: WWTP Reserve Capacity for 2025

Wastewater Treatment Plant	MECP Rated Capacity m ³ /d	90% of Plant Capacity ⁽¹⁾ m ³ /d	5-Year Average Daily Flow m ³ /d	Percent Total Capacity Used	Reserve Treatment 90%Capacity m ³ /d	Design Flow Rate ⁽²⁾ 356 Lcd	Reserve Serviceable Population Equivalents	10-Year Forecast Population Res & Emp	Surplus Population 10-Year Projection
Anger Avenue (Fort Erie)	24,500	22,050	12,675	52%	9,375	356	26,334	7,366	18,968
Baker Road (Grimsby)	31,280	28,152	20,296	65%	7,856	356	22,068	19,835	2,233
Crystal Beach (Fort Erie)	9,100	8,190	5,166	57%	3,024	356	8,495	1,841	6,654
Niagara Falls ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾	68,300	61,470	38,580	56%	22,890	356	64,299	25,056	39,243
NOTL	8,000	7,200	6,005	75%	1,195	356	3,358	1,628	1,730
Port Dalhousie (St. Catharines)	61,350	55,215	29,715	48%	25,500	356	71,630	17,914	53,716
Port Weller (St. Catharines)	56,180	50,562	35,136	63%	15,426	356	43,333	17,852	25,481
Queenston (NOTL) ⁽⁵⁾	500	450	162	32%	288	356	808	0	808
Seaway (Port Colborne)	19,600	17,640	10,266	52%	7,374	356	20,712	3,697	17,015
Stevensville/Douglastown	2,289	2,060	1,458	64%	602	356	1,691	1,089	602
Welland	54,550	49,095	35,172	64%	13,923	356	39,111	24,925	14,186

Note 1: Region's 2021 W&WW MSP requires planning process for expansion when plant capacity exceeds 80%, and expansion should be completed when capacity exceeds 90%.

Note 2: Region's 2021 W&WW MSP new design criteria call for 255 Lcd residential and 310 Led employment generation rate including 90 Lcd of extraneous flow allowance. An equivalent of 356 Lcd is applied using 80% and 20% for residential and employment growth share, respectively.

Note 3: The Niagara Falls WWTP assessment includes the sewage flows from the St. David's area of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Note 4: The growth includes the anticipated growth for the new SNWWTP which has 10-year forecast population of 14,700.

Note 5: The Queenston WWTP in Niagara-on-the-Lake has a unique capacity commitment of 226 m³/d for the following properties: Niagara Parks Commission (75 m³/d), Niagara Falls Bridge Commission (63 m³/d), Shalamar Campground (38 m³/d) and Ontario Power Generation (50 m³/d). Due to these commitments and limited UAB, limited residential growth is expected within the next 10 years within the tributary area.

May 29, 2026

CL 9-2026, May 28, 2026

PWC 5-2026, May 12, 2026

PW 14-2026, May 12, 2026

Local Area Municipalities

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program – 2026 Funding Recommendations
PW 14-2026

Regional Council, at its meeting held on May 28, 2026, passed the following recommendation of its Public Works Committee:

That Report PW 14-2026, dated May 12, 2026, respecting Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program – 2026 Funding Recommendations, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to issue letters to award Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program funding to Local Area Municipalities for qualifying projects as outlined in Appendix 1 for funding options as set out in Appendix 2 and subject to the terms and conditions outlined in Appendix 3; and
2. That Local Area Municipalities **BE ADVISED** of the results of Regional funding support, as outlined in Appendix 1.

A copy of Report PW 14-2026 is enclosed for your reference.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk

rh

CLK-C 2026-051

- cc:
- I. Stetic, Manager, W-WW Infrastructure Planning
 - L. De Angelis, Commissioner, Public Works
 - K. Ward, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Public Works

Subject: Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program – 2026 Funding Recommendations

Report to: Public Works Committee

Report date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Recommendations

1. That staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to issue letters to award Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program funding to Local Area Municipalities for qualifying projects as outlined in Appendix 1 for funding options as set out in Appendix 2 and subject to the terms and conditions outlined in Appendix 3; and
2. That Local Area Municipalities **BE ADVISED** of the results of Regional funding support, as outlined in Appendix 1.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations and background information for the 2026 Local Area Municipality (LAM) projects proposed for funding pursuant to the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program and Public Works Policy PW4.S06.0.
- The CSO Control Cost Share Program has been in place since 2007 and shares funding with the LAMs for capital projects that help to mitigate the impacts of wet weather events on the region-wide sanitary system and the environment. The Region benefits from this program by gaining servicing capacity at regionally owned sanitary trunk sewers, sewage pump stations, and wastewater treatment plants, which in return, could be used for growth without oversizing Regional infrastructure.
- Representatives of the CSO Working Group, including representatives from all municipalities, developed administrative procedures and criteria to evaluate project submissions by LAMs in accordance with the guiding principles.
- For 2026, funding in the amount of \$4,000,000 was included in the Region's Wastewater Operating Budget for the CSO program.
- Nineteen (19) eligible applications representing a total of 22 eligible projects were submitted by LAMs for 2026; however, the total requested funding is more than the approved program budget of \$4,000,000 by \$784,985 for 2026 and demonstrates high demand to address wet weather issues in sanitary collection systems.

- Eighteen (18) municipal projects are recommended for funding in full, one (1) municipal project is recommended for partial funding, and three (3) projects are declined for funding as outlined in Appendix 1; however, they can be reconsidered, in accordance with the CSO Program Policy, following approval of the Region's 2027 budget.

Financial Considerations

A gross budget of \$4,000,000 has been approved as part of the 2026 Wastewater Operating Budget for the CSO Control Program. Funding for this program is partially provided through Development Charges (DC) at 50%.

Twenty-two (22) projects from LAMs are eligible for funding under the 2026 CSO Control Program at a total value of \$4,784,985. As the total requested amount is more than the approved program budget of \$4,000,000 by \$784,985, three (3) projects will not be funded by the Region's CSO Control Program.

In summary, Appendix 1 presents 18 municipal projects recommended for funding in full, one (1) municipal project recommended for partial funding and three (3) unfunded projects. Prior to awarding the 2026 budget, the Region had \$7.5 million in outstanding commitments to ten (10) municipalities for approved, but unspent, CSO projects at 2025 year-end as illustrated in Appendix 4.

As an update to PDS-C 1-2024 (Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program Update), staff closed 23 projects equating to \$784,756 during 2025. This resulted in \$392,378 of the encumbrances being returned to the wastewater reserve and \$392,378 of the DC portion being returned to the DC reserve in accordance with reserve policy.

Analysis

The CSO Program was Oversubscribed to in 2026

The CSO Control Working Group collaboratively reviews the funding structure and evaluates eligible CSO cost share projects, adjusting if needed, based on present-day needs and funding priorities for different types of work. Appendix 2 shows the Funding Options.

A number of LAMs submitted eligible applications for the CSO Program, including three (3) from Fort Erie, one (1) from Lincoln, 10 from Niagara Falls, one (1) from Pelham, three (3) from Welland, and one (1) from West Lincoln.

The 19 eligible applications were separated into 22 individual projects eligible for funding, as per the program policy PW4.S06.0.

Regional staff reviewed all eligible projects for cost-share funding. Eighteen (18) projects were incorporated for full funding and one (1) project for partial funding into the final recommendation list presented in Appendix 1. Projects were awarded based on the program evaluation matrix following the CSO Control Program Policy as approved by Council.

Wet Weather Flows Continue to Negatively Impact Infrastructure

Like other jurisdictions across Ontario, wet weather flows continue to negatively impact sanitary infrastructure resulting in potential basement flooding, overflows to the environment and reduce capacity for future growth. The removal of wet weather flow and inflow and infiltration reduction is important work that needs ongoing focus and support over the long term to be successful. Success of this program reduces the pressure on the capital program and reduce sanitary infrastructure expansions.

Alternatives Reviewed

No alternatives were reviewed as the approved budget was fully utilized.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

This report and more specifically, the CSO program supports the Council Strategic Priority of Effective Region through innovative service delivery and collaboration with municipal partners.

It also assists in establishing objectives of Green and Resilient Region to adopt to climate change impacts to help the current and future infrastructure be more resilient by reducing wet weather flow to gain capacity at regionally owned wastewater infrastructure and provide for growth.

Other Pertinent Reports

- [PDS-C 1-2024 Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program Update](https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=524e81b7-e788-4788-b364-48a291e6c28b&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=15&Tab=attachments)
(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=524e81b7-e788-4788-b364-48a291e6c28b&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=15&Tab=attachments>)

Prepared by:

Ilija Stetic, B.Sc., PMP, CET
Manager W-WW Infrastructure Planning
Public Works Department

Recommended by:

Lisa De Angelis, RPP, P.Eng.
Commissioner of Public Works
Public Works Department

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with, Dan Ane, Senior Program Financial Specialist, Renee Muzzell, Associate Director, Program Financial Support and Susan Dunsmore, Associate Director, Development Engineering.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Recommended 2026 CSO Control Program Funding Requests
Appendix 2	Funding Options
Appendix 3	CSO Control Policy Terms and Funding Conditions
Appendix 4	Summary of CSO Project Remaining Budget Encumbrances by Municipality at 2025 Year-End

Appendix 1: Recommended 2026 CSO Control Program Funding Requests

Eligible Recommended Projects with Funding

Municipality	Project Description	Category	% ¹	Project Cost	Regional Share	Recommended Regional Funding
Fort Erie	WWTR26 (Wastewater Trenchless Repairs) - Sewer Separation Portion	1	50%	\$125,000.00	\$62,500.00	\$62,500.00
Fort Erie	WWTR26 (Wastewater Trenchless Repairs) - Study Portion	2	50%	\$300,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Fort Erie	WWTR26 (Wastewater Trenchless Repairs) - Source Control Portion	3	60%	\$325,000.00	\$195,000.00	\$195,000.00
Fort Erie	WWTR26 (Wastewater Trenchless Repairs) - RRR Portion ²	5	30%	\$1,750,000.00	\$525,000.00	\$478,000.00
Fort Erie	FLOMON26 (Flow Monitoring Program 2026)	2	60%	\$100,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Fort Erie	SANCTV26 (Sanitary Sewer Closed Circuit TV Inspection)	2	50%	\$125,000.00	\$62,500.00	\$62,500.00
Lincoln	Ontario St. Catchment - Lateral Assessment & Rehab Phase 2	5	30%	\$1,200,000.00	\$360,000.00	\$360,000.00
Niagara Falls	Valley Way Phase 1A Sewer Separation - Design & Construction	1	50%	\$1,367,500.00	\$683,750.00	\$683,700.00
Niagara Falls	Huron St. Sewer Separation - Design	1	50%	\$31,250.00	\$15,625.00	\$15,600.00

Municipality	Project Description	Category	%¹	Project Cost	Regional Share	Recommended Regional Funding
Niagara Falls	George St. /Fraser St. Sewer Separation – Design	1	50%	\$45,000.00	\$22,500.00	\$22,500.00
Niagara Falls	Homewood Ave. Sewer Separation - Design	1	50%	\$27,500.00	\$13,750.00	\$13,700.00
Niagara Falls	Cedar St. Sewer Separation - Design	1	50%	\$21,250.00	\$10,625.00	\$10,600.00
Niagara Falls	Huggins St. Area Sewer Separation -Phase 1	1	50%	\$1,681,000.00	\$840,500.00	\$840,500.00
Niagara Falls	Falls Ave. Area Combined Sewer Study	2	50%	\$120,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Niagara Falls	Grassybrook SPS Area I/I Reduction Design	2	50%	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Pelham	Foss Rd. Sanitary Sewer Replacement	5	30%	\$1,080,000.00	\$324,000.00	\$324,000.00
Welland	Bald-Maple-Catharine Infrastructure Renewals - Design	1	40%	\$986,487.50	\$394,595.00	\$394,600.00
Welland	2026 Flow Monitoring	2	50%	\$249,600.00	\$124,800.00	\$124,800.00
West Lincoln	2026 I/I Reduction Program	5	30%	\$140,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00
Recommended Eligible Projects Total				\$9,874,587.50	\$4,047,145.00	\$4,000,000.00

*2026 Regional CS) Control Program Budget - \$4,000,000.00

Eligible Unfunded Projects

Municipality	Project Description	Category	% ¹	Project Cost	Regional Share	Recommended Regional Funding
Niagara Falls	Combined Sewer Separation 10-year Implementation Strategy	2	50%	\$100,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$ -
Niagara Falls	Sewer I/I Reduction Program	2	50%	\$150,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$ -
Welland	Lyons Avenue Infrastructure Renewals	5	30%	\$2,042,800.00	\$612,840.00	\$ -
Eligible Unfunded Projects Total				\$2,292,800.00	\$737,840.00	\$ -

Total of All Eligible Projects

Total Project Cost	\$12,167,387.50
Total Regional Share Requests	\$4,784,985.00
Total Regional Share	\$4,000,000.00

Note 1. Funding % share is dependent on specific project component and related work. Appendix 2 has project cost share split details

Note 2. Project received partial funding up to the limit of the 2026 budget

CSO Control Program Funding Options

Sewer Separation - 40% of Priorities

Work Examples	Region%	Municipality %
Disconnection of road drainage	40%	60%
Disconnection of private	60%	40%
Disconnection of road, previous disconnection of private or opposite	50%	50%

Studies - 15% of Priorities

Work Examples	Region%	Municipality %
PPCP as per the PPCP guide	50%	50%
I&I and Extraneous Flow Investigation including CCTV/Smoke Dye Testing ¹	50%	50%
Mandatory Flow Monitoring-Pre and Post	60%	40%
Investigative work on municipal/private side	50%	50%
Public education/water conservation and efficiency measures	50%	50%
Sewer use by-law development/update and municipal activities	50%	50%

Note 1. CCTV inspection - only site/project specific. Regular city-wide inspections should be part of municipal O&M.

Source Control Private Side - 20% of Priorities

Disconnection of roof leaders to be done by homeowners/municipalities as a prerequisite for other works on the private side.

Work Examples	Region%	Municipality %
Disconnection of roof leaders	60%	40%
Disconnection of weeping tiles from sanitary including application works	60%	40%
Disconnection of private sump pumps	60%	40%
Backflow preventer installation on sanitary	40%	60%

Conveyance and Flow Control/Storage - 15% of Priorities

Work Examples	Region%	Municipality %
Real-time control detention	60%	40%
In-line flow controllers design and construction (i.e. weirs)	60%	40%
Off-line conveyance and pumping design and construction	60%	40%
In-line/off-line storage	40%	60%

Repair, Rehabilitation, Replacement of Sewers - 10% of Priorities

Estimated $\geq 50\%$ flow reduction during WW events

Work Examples	Region%	Municipality %
Repair of sanitary, manholes-gel sealing, spot repairs	30%	70%
Spot repair lining	30%	70%
Full length liner	30%	70%

CSO Control Program Terms and Funding Conditions

The terms and conditions under which funding will be offered to the successful applications, include the following:

#	Terms and Conditions
1	Amount of Funding, Studies - The Region shall contribute 50% of total study costs for the PPCP and I&I studies, and 60% for the Pre and Post Flow monitoring projects provided the Region participates on a committee overseeing the study and the study covers the entire area tributary to the Wastewater Treatment Plant(s) and includes both local and Regional infrastructure.
2	Amount of Funding, Design & Construction projects – The Region shall contribute defined percentage of the cost based on the Funding Options matrix, provided that; the facility or measure is supported by a recommendation from a current CSO study, life cycle cost comparisons of alternative solutions were undertaken, and the Region agrees with the Cost comparisons, the Region agrees with the 'best overall solution', and the Region participates on a committee overseeing the design.
3	Third Party Funding – The Region's funding shall be net of any third-party funding approved for the project. If third party funding is obtained after Regional funding approval, the amount of Regional funding will be adjusted to be net of any third party funding. Payment of the funding to the Area Municipality shall be based on actual expenditures incurred up to the maximum amount approved by Regional Council based on the budget submitted with the application.
4	Project Lead Studies – Lead by either the Area Municipality or the Region based on a mutual agreement prior to initiation of study.
5	Project Lead Design & Construction – A project located in the Area Municipal wastewater system shall be managed by the Area Municipality while a project in the Regional wastewater system shall be managed by the Region. On a case-by-case basis the Region may consider managing a project in the local system, if requested by the Area Municipality.

#	Terms and Conditions
6	Ownership and Operation of Assets – The ownership and operation of all new and existing assets shall remain the responsibility of the current owner. The Area Municipality, on a case-by-case basis, may request the Region to operate and maintain an existing or new CSO control facility on behalf of the Area Municipality on a direct charge back basis.
7	Follow up Flow Monitoring – On a case-by-case basis, the Region may include a condition or approval of funding that requires follow-up flow monitoring to assess project’s effectiveness.
8	Expiry of Funding – Funding of a project by the Region may expire if the local Area Municipality does not invoice the Region within three (3) years of the date of funding approval by Regional Council. Also, if an Area Municipality decides not to proceed with a project, the Region may revoke funding. The Region may also withdraw funding for future phases if a project does not proceed on a continuous basis toward completion.
9	Indemnity – The Region, or its directors, officers, employees, agents or consultants will not be held liable as a result of providing funding for any project.
10	Regional Recognition – The Area Municipality is to ensure that the Region is to be acknowledged in all advertising and publicity related to the project for which funding was provided.
11	Project Deliverables – The Region shall receive copies of all project deliverables, including, but not limited to, reports, flow monitoring data, hydraulic modelling files, GIS layers/data, and technical memorandums.
12	Funding Agreement - A letter formalizing the funding in accordance with the Region’s CSO Funding Policy will be issued to the Area Municipality for signature and used as the agreement to the terms and conditions of the funding.

Appendix 4: Summary of CSO Project Remaining Budget Encumbrances by Municipality at 2025 Year-End

Municipality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Fort Erie	-	54,591	138,582	270,686	651,400	1,115,259
Grimsby	-	1,712	162,500	-	570,000	734,212
Lincoln	-	-	13,323	155,326	327,607	496,255
Niagara Falls	-	264,478	867,235	175,500	738,800	2,046,013
Niagara-on-the-Lake	-	84,452	37,196	-	75,000	196,648
Pelham	-	-	-	-	169,400	169,400
Port Colborne	-	-	-	25,000	189,700	214,700
St. Catharines	204,194	58,150	445,486	464,558	743,700	1,916,089
Thorold	-	-	-	-	-	-
Welland	100,680	-	-	55,841	300,000	456,521
West Lincoln	-	-	-	-	154,894	154,894
Total	304,874	463,383	1,664,322	1,146,911	3,920,500	7,499,991

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

May 29, 2026

CL 9-2026, May 28, 2026
CSC 4-2026, May 13, 2026
CSD 16-2026, May 13, 2026

Local Area Municipalities

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Debt Information Report – 2026 Debenture Issuance

CSD 16-2026

Regional Council, at its meeting held on May 28, 2026, passed the following recommendation of its Corporate Services Committee:

That Report CSD 16-2026 dated May 13, 2026, respecting Debt Information Report – 2026 Debenture Issuance, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of the Local Area Municipalities.

A copy of CSD 16-2026 is enclosed for your reference.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

:kl

CLK-C 2026-047

cc:

B. Beaulieu, Debt Analysis

T. Ellis, Commissioner, Corporate Services/Treasurer

D. Francis, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Corporate Services

Subject: Debt Information Report – 2026 Debenture Issuance

Report to: Corporate Services Committee

Report date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Recommendations

1. That Report CSD 16-2026 **BE RECEIVED** for information; and
2. That Report CSD 16-2026 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of Local Area Municipalities for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the 2026 planned debenture issuance for the Region and the Local Area Municipalities (LAMs), in accordance with established debenture issuance procedures, and its' impacts on the current bond rating and overall long-term financial planning.
- Each year the Region and/or LAMs require the issuance of debentures for Council approved capital projects. During construction, these projects were internally financed and are now either complete or nearing completion and debenture financing must be secured. A total issuance of \$215.7 million is being proposed (see Appendix 1 to CSD 16-2026).
- Of the proposed \$215.7 million debt issuance, \$140.7 million relates to Regional debt which will increase the Region's 2026 outstanding debt from \$339.7 million to \$480.4 million. Previously authorized but unissued debt for the Region will decrease by \$140.7 million, from \$410.5 million to \$269.8 million.
- The Region raises funds largely through the sale of Niagara Region debentures in the capital markets or through the Infrastructure Ontario (IO) lending program. Regional staff are planning for two capital markets debt issuances this year in May and November 2026, and one debt issuance through the IO lending program in September 2026.
- Regional staff monitor the rates for the IO lending program and capital markets and propose the issuance of debentures in consideration of interest rate levels and cash flow management.

- Based on 2026 forecasted debt issuances, the Region is within the Standard and Poor's Global (S&P) 75% debt ratio (debt/revenue) and under the 25% Annual Repayment Limit (ARL). However, planned borrowing to support the capital program is expected to place increasing pressure on these limits over time and will require ongoing monitoring and prudent financial management.

Financial Considerations

The Region plans to issue debentures in 2026 for both Regional and LAM financing requirements as identified in Appendix 1 to CSD 16-2026. The following summarizes the 2026 debenture issuance requirements:

Table 1 – Summary of 2026 Debt Requirements (in millions)

Debt Term	Region Amount	LAM Amount	Total
1-10 Year Debt	\$9.0	\$4.8	\$13.8
15-30 Year Debt	\$131.7	\$70.2	\$201.9
Total	\$140.7	\$75.0	\$215.7

Total issued debt will be recorded as a long-term liability on the Region's financial statements with a corresponding debt recoverable from the LAM for their issued amount. Debt servicing costs associated with the Region's approved debt have been included within the Region's operating budget. The projected debt servicing costs associated with the Region's debt requirement of \$140.7 million is estimated at \$9.8 million and can be accommodated within the approved budget.

The Region includes in its annual budget the estimated cost of debt servicing for Council approved but unissued debt. When developing budgets, staff consider forecasted interest rates to ensure the full cost of debt service is included. As of the 2026 budget approval, the Region currently has \$410.5 million of approved but unissued debt. Knowing that not all unissued debt is required currently, staff will monitor interest rates and recommend debt issuance when projects are substantially complete, taking both interest rates and cash flow needs into consideration. Each LAM budgets their own debt-servicing costs, and the Region then recovers those costs from the respective LAM.

The Regions overall 2026 debt requirement of \$140.7 million, includes \$79.9 million related to the long-term care home project. IO approved the Region's application for

debt financing of the new long term care home in St. Catharines in 2023. The debt will be financed over 25 years to align with the Construction Funding Subsidy (CFS). The CFS received helps offset the debt servicing costs and is calculated using a set per diem based on market segment.

Other Regional and Municipal debt considerations for 2026 and going forward include:

- **Infrastructure Ontario Sector Limit**

Following the approval of the significant debt financing for the two new Long Term Care Homes of \$135 million in 2023, IO made finance staff aware that the Region is approaching its sector limit. All municipalities in Ontario are subject to the same concentration limit, referenced as a Sector Limit, regardless of Upper or Single tier, size or geographic location. The sector limit places limitations on the amount of IO debt that the Region and its LAMs will be able to access in the future. The sector limit for the Region is currently \$693.6 million with \$146.3 million remaining unutilized. It is estimated that an additional \$20 million of sector limit room will become available each year as debt payments are made. As IO is heavily relied upon for longer term (30 year) financing, relative to the market debentures, the Region and LAMs will work collaboratively to stay within the sector limit or consider alternative financing methods.

- **S & P Global (Standard and Poor's)**

On October 20, 2025, S&P Global reaffirmed Niagara's rating of AA+. The rating reflects the views on Canadian municipal governments improved institutional framework. The rating also incorporates S&P's opinion of Niagara's exceptional liquidity, strong budgetary performance and financial management, and moderate debt burden.

In their 2025 report, S&P Global Ratings lauded the Niagara Region for sound and transparent financial management protocols. It also deemed strengths of the regional economy to include sectors such as manufacturing and trade, healthcare, and the innovative Port Colborne electric vehicle battery separator facility currently under construction. Still, S&P predicted that the Niagara Region will face adversity in preserving its AA+ credit rating as it adds debt to upgrade essential infrastructure needs, especially in the realms of transportation and water/wastewater.

Niagara's focus is maintaining the AA+ credit rating, which provides a positive message to investors, and a lower cost of borrowing in the capital markets. One criteria evaluated by S&P is consolidated debt outstanding (Region and LAMs) over total operating

revenues (Region and LAMs), staff were advised that the Region should strive to remain below 75% in order to sustain its current credit rating. The Region's 2024 S&P ratio was 60.4% and 2025 forecasted ratio would be 54.8% based on proposed debt issuance in this report. It is expected that the S&P ratio will increase to 61.2% in 2026 and could exceed 75% in the next 5 years based on forecasted LAM debt requirement and approved unissued Regional debt. A downgrading of the Region's credit rating could result in higher interest rates for the Region's debt which will impact Regional and LAM operating budgets.

- **Moody's**

Regional staff have taken the first steps in receiving a second credit rating through Moody's Corporation. Receiving a second bond rating will help strengthen and broaden investor interest when issuing debentures through capital markets. This will also increase the supply of investors going forward, as some require two credit ratings.

Having multiple ratings provides investors with more confidence in the Region by providing a more complete picture and reducing uncertainties. Regional staff are planning to hold the final management meeting with Moody's in October in order to receive the rating by the end of 2026.

- **Annual Repayment Limit (ARL)**

The Province imposes on each municipality an Annual Repayment Limit (ARL) of the amount of operating revenues that can be dedicated to servicing debt. Region's ARL is forecasted to be 6.40% after the 2026 debenture issuance, well below the 25% ARL set by the Province. The ARL for each LAM is provided in Appendix 3 to Report CSD 16-2026 and is based on the latest available published Financial Information Return (FIR) which is generally 2024. While the Region has significant room to absorb debt servicing costs within the ARL, an increase in debt puts pressure on operating budgets and on the S&P evaluation of total debt outstanding.

- **Canadian Outlook**

According to the Region's main bank, RBC, Canada's economic trajectory has been quietly shifting constructively with encouraging signs of recovery. Total gross domestic product growth has proven more resilient than feared in 2025. Per-capita GDP is on track to post an increase in 2025 for the first time in three years. RBC expects per-

capita GDP growth will strengthen further, and the unemployment rate to drift lower in 2026. Regional staff monitor the rates for the IO lending program and capital markets and propose the issuance of debentures in consideration of interest rate levels and cash flow management. ¹

- **Financing Strategy**

The Region's Capital Financing Policy (Appendix 4 to Report CSD 16-2026) is a strategy for establishing adequate levels of funding for capital projects that address sustainment, growth and new strategic investments. The policy supports debt for growth and strategic investments to be strategic within the debt constraints. It also ensures that as current property owners use capital assets, they are paying for the life cycle sustainment costs through annual operating budget transfers to capital reserves. The Region is forecasting 10 capital projects, requiring debt financing, to be complete or nearing completion in 2026. These projects were approved with debt financing by Council through budget the process.

Analysis

Each year, the Region raises funds through the sale of Niagara Region debentures in the capital markets, the IO lending program or the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) funding program to finance previously approved capital projects for both the Region and the LAMs. While projects are under construction funding is generally provided internally. Once projects are complete, financing must be secured. The authority to issue debentures is granted solely to regional government in accordance with the *Municipal Act*.

A listing of the proposed debenture amounts, and capital projects can be found in Appendix 1 and 2 to CSD 16-2026:

¹ Royal Bank of Canada Economics. (2025). *Quarterly Canadian Outlook: More Cautious Optimism Amid Structural Shifts*.
<https://www.rbc.com/en/economics/canadian-analysis/featured-analysis/quarterly-canadian-outlook/quarterly-canadian-outlook-more-cautious-optimism-amid-structural-shifts/>

- **For the 1–10-year term**, the proposed requirement for the Region’s projects totals \$9 million. The proposed requirement for the municipalities of Lincoln, Welland, and St. Catharines totals \$4.8 million.
- **For the 15–30-year term**, the proposed requirement for the Region’s Long Term Care Home project and other projects totals \$131.6M. The proposed requirement for the municipalities of Grimsby, Lincoln, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Pelham, Port Colborne and St. Catharines totals \$70.2 million.

Capital Markets

The Region monitors the markets and, in consultation with our fiscal agents, determines the most appropriate time to enter the capital markets. As per the debt modernization strategy implemented in 2025, the Region plans to continue with two debt issuances through the capital markets in 2026.

Table 2 – Summary of Capital Markets Issuances (in millions)

Municipality	May Issuance	November Issuance	Total Capital Markets Debt
Niagara Region	\$9.0	-	\$9.0
Lincoln	-	\$0.8	\$0.8
Niagara-On-The-Lake	-	\$2.7	\$2.7
Port Colborne	-	\$11.3	\$11.3
St. Catharines	-	\$11.5	\$11.5
Welland	\$4.1	-	\$4.1
Total	\$13.1	\$26.3	\$39.4

The Region engages its fiscal syndicate in the sale of debentures in the capital markets. The syndicate is comprised of three fiscal agents: CIBC World Markets, RBC Capital Markets and National Bank Financial. RBC Capital Markets will be the lead for the May 2026 capital market transaction and CIBC for November 2026 as per the established rotation.

Infrastructure Ontario (IO)

Staff are also proceeding with debenture issues via the IO lending program throughout the remainder of 2026.

Table 3 – Summary of IO Issuance (in millions)

Municipality	IO Debt
Niagara Region	\$131.7*
Lincoln	\$13.4**
Grimsby	\$20.2
Pelham	\$8.0
Total	\$173.3

Note: * \$79.9 million for Long-term Care Home in St. Catharines was reflected in the IO unutilized debt room at the end of 2025.

** \$13.4 million is pre-approved IO construction loans which were reflected in the IO unutilized debt room at the end of 2025.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

Another approach to financing capital projects is FCM's funding program, which offers Canadian municipal governments a blend of grant and loan funding for eligible projects. FCM has approved debenture financing of \$3.0M for The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines' replacement of Fire Station No. 2.

Sinking Fund

Given that the Region is approaching its sector limit, other options for longer term financing could be considered. One option is to issue longer term debt through the capital markets, which can only be accessed through a bullet bond, and requires a sinking fund. The region currently has one sinking fund, which relates to debt issued for the Region and the City of St. Catharines, in 2010. Sinking funds require the annual

investment of funds over the term of the debenture and the funds must be accounted for and reported on separately including annual audited financial statements. Staff have not pursued this particular type of debt since 2010 as a result of the administration required. The capital markets offer serial or amortized loans for terms 20 years or less, which is another option. This option could result in potential operating budget pressure as 30-year projects would need to be financed over shorter amortization periods. Approximately \$321.6 million or 78% of the Regions unissued debt is currently budgeted for based on a 30-year term.

Borrowing Rates

- The current 10-year rates for IO and capital markets are approximately 4.07% and 3.92% respectively
- The Region's last 10-year capital markets issuance was in November 2025 for \$5 million at an average rate of 3.165%
- The current 20-year IO rate is 4.56%
- The current 30-year IO rate is 4.81%

These rates are indicative of current conditions, and it should be noted that rates may change according to subsequent market conditions and timing of the actual debenture issue. Interest rates for both IO and capital markets are in line with budget assumptions therefore staff are not anticipating further pressure as a result of interest rates at this time.

Future Debt Planning & Modernization

In Niagara's two-tier system, the Region and all 12 LAMs must work collectively to manage debt in a coordinated and sustainable manner. Maintaining strong credit ratings with S&P Global and Moody's requires a shared commitment to consistent debt practices and responsible financial planning across all municipalities.

A key principle of this approach is ensuring that base budgets adequately fund asset maintenance and state of good repair needs. Reliance on debt for these ongoing requirements is not sustainable and places additional pressure on long-term financial capacity.

It is also important to note that if new debt issuances consistently exceed the amount of debt being repaid, overall debt levels will continue to grow. Over time, this trend may

negatively impact the Region's credit ratings and reduce financial flexibility for the Region and all 12 LAMs.

Regional and LAM staff are working together to strengthen long-term capital planning, better align funding strategies, and explore alternative financing tools. At the same time, staff continue to actively pursue external funding opportunities to reduce reliance on debt wherever possible.

Alternatives Reviewed

The alternatives available to the Region are:

- The decision of whether to issue debt with IO or capital markets, however there are some limitations regarding the term of the debt and the administrative effort associated with setting up a sinking fund.
- The decision on when to issue debt. Staff will monitor timing based on interest rate levels and cash flow requirements.
- The decision on how much debt to issue. If the total amount of debt issued increases the S&P ratio to over 75%, the bond rating will suffer going from AA+ to AA. This downgrade could result in higher interest rates for debt, impacting Regional and LAM operating budgets.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The proposed 2026 debt issuance will fund capital infrastructure projects that support Council's strategic priorities of:

- Effective Region
- Equitable Region

Other Pertinent Reports

- [BRC-C 1-2026 2026 General Tax Levy Budget Update](#)
(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=94acebe0-befa-40f3-80ab-d6989c2beeed&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English>)
- [CAO 1-2026 2026 General Tax Levy Budget Update](#)
(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=47e34f8f-6c5c-44db-885d-965e412be6e0&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=12&Tab=attachments>)
- [BRC-C 3-2026 Decisions from BRCOTW December 11, 2026](#)
(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=47176>)
- [CSD 68-2025 2026 Consolidated Budget Approval](#)
(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=e699c477-4349-4eda-8f3a-3408947101fc&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=12&Tab=attachments>)
- [CSD 57-2025 2026 Budget- WWW Operating Budget, Rate Setting](#)
(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=46174>)
- [CSD 55-2025 2026 Capital Budget](#)
(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=6d0966bf-f96c-4eee-b4d4-828def08e899&Agenda=Merged&lang=English>)

Prepared by:

Brittany Beaulieu
Debt Analysis
Corporate Services

Recommended by:

Tim Ellis
Commissioner
Corporate Services

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Lucia Chen, Associated Director, Budget Planning and Strategy and reviewed by Beth Brens, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Proposed 2026 Debenture Amounts
Appendix 2	Proposed 2026 Debenture Project Summary
Appendix 3	Annual Repayment Limits
Appendix 4	C-F-027 Capital Financing Policy

Description	May Capital Markets	November Capital Markets	IO Loan	FCM	Total Proposed Amount
Region					
<u>1-10 Year Term</u>					
Police	9,010,000				9,010,000
Total 1-10 Year for Region	9,010,000	-	-	-	9,010,000
<u>15-30 Year Term</u>					
Roads			29,012,000		29,012,000
Wastewater			22,752,530		22,752,530
Senior Services			79,883,688		79,883,688
Total 15-30 Year for Region	-	-	131,648,218	-	131,648,218
Total For Region	9,010,000	-	131,648,218	-	140,658,218
Area Municipalities					
<u>1-10 Year Term</u>					
Lincoln		151,851			151,851
Welland	4,113,712				4,113,712
St. Catharines		550,000			550,000
Total 1-10 Year for Area Municipalities	4,113,712	701,851	-	-	4,815,563
<u>15-30 Year Term</u>					
Grimsby			20,259,925		20,259,925
Lincoln		655,500	13,419,379		14,074,879
NOTL		2,662,922			2,662,922
Pelham			8,000,000		8,000,000
Port Colborne		11,302,400			11,302,400
St. Catharines		10,950,000		2,965,140	13,915,140
Total 15-30 Year for Area Municipalities	-	25,570,822	41,679,304	2,965,140	70,215,266
Total For Area Municipalities	4,113,712	26,272,673	41,679,304	2,965,140	75,030,829
Total Proposed Debenture Amount - 2026	13,123,712	26,272,673	173,327,522	2,965,140	215,689,047

Proposed 2026 Debenture Project Summary

Project Summary	Capital Markets Q2	Capital Markets Q4	Infrastructure Ontario	FCM	Total
Region					
Project ID 20001888 - NF Go Station Renos			2,206,000.00		2,206,000.00
Project ID 20001889 - St. Catharines Go Station Renos			900,000.00		900,000.00
Project ID 20000897 - RR20 Hwy Smithville Phase 4			2,540,000.00		2,540,000.00
Project ID 20000140 - Go Transit			14,046,000.00		14,046,000.00
Project ID 20001322 - STC Go Precinct Cap Wrks			4,300,000.00		4,300,000.00
Project ID 20000663 - 18 - Stuc Rpl - 20 Arch 081210-SC			5,020,000.00		5,020,000.00
Project ID 20001203 - LTC St. Catharines New Home			79,883,688.00		79,883,688.00
Project ID 10SW1517 - NF WWTP Secondary Treatment Upgrade			22,752,530.00		22,752,530.00
Project ID 1ZPO0411 - Communications Unit Back up	1,250,000.00				1,250,000.00
Project ID 20001271 - Backup 911 Call Centre Relocation	7,760,000.00				7,760,000.00
Subtotal	9,010,000.00	-	131,648,218.00	-	140,658,218.00
Grimsby					
Peach King Centre - Renovation and Expansion			20,259,925.00		20,259,925.00
Subtotal	-	-	20,259,925.00	-	20,259,925.00

Project Summary	Capital Markets Q2	Capital Markets Q4	Infrastructure Ontario	FCM	Total
Lincoln					
Lincoln Ave Reconstruction		655,500.00	8,745,000.00		9,400,500.00
Fire Truck - Squad		151,851.00			151,851.00
Prudhommes and Victoria Ave WM			4,674,379.00		4,674,379.00
Subtotal	-	807,351.00	13,419,379.00	-	14,226,730.00
NOTL					
C02360 Pump 1 Replacement		1,352,922.00			1,352,922.00
C02359 Line 2 Road Culverts - East of Townline Rd		910,000.00			910,000.00
C02506 McNab Rd Culvert Replacement		400,000.00			400,000.00
Subtotal	-	2,662,922.00	-	-	2,662,922.00
Pelham					
Fire Station 1			8,000,000.00		8,000,000.00
Subtotal	-	-	8,000,000.00	-	8,000,000.00
Port Colborne					
Line 1/3 of City Wastewater		7,072,200.00			7,072,200.00
Water Line Replacement (Phase 1)		4,230,200.00			4,230,200.00
Subtotal	-	11,302,400.00	-	-	11,302,400.00

Project Summary	Capital Markets Q2	Capital Markets Q4	Infrastructure Ontario	FCM	Total
St Catharines					
Various Projects		11,500,000.00			11,500,000.00
Fire Station 2				2,965,140.00	2,965,140.00
Subtotal	-	11,500,000.00	-	2,965,140.00	14,465,140.00
Welland					
Various Projects	4,113,712.00				4,113,712.00
Subtotal	4,113,712.00	-	-	-	4,113,712.00
Grand Total	13,123,712.00	26,272,673.00	173,327,522.00	2,965,140.00	215,689,047.00

Annual Repayment Limits

Niagara Region:	Total Outstanding Debt (including sinking fund assets) as at Dec 31, 2025 (in \$000s)	Principal Payments in 2026 (in \$000s)	Adjusted Debt Outstanding As at Dec. 31, 2026 (in \$000s)	Forecasted Debt Issuance for 2026 (in \$000s)	Total Debt Outstanding, including 2026 Forecasted Issuance As at Dec. 31, 2026 (in \$000s)	Annual Repayment Limit %
IT Solutions	756	(35)	721	-	721	-
Court Services	7,020	(329)	6,692	-	6,692	-
Properties Management	3,205	(1,282)	1,923	-	1,923	-
General Government - Other	14,330	(661)	13,669	-	13,669	-
General Government	25,311	(2,307)	23,004	-	23,004	-
Police	65,907	(3,296)	62,611	9,010	71,621	-
Roads	83,901	(8,984)	74,917	29,012	103,929	-
Transportation	83,901	(8,984)	74,917	29,012	103,929	-
Public Health	5,558	(388)	5,170	-	5,170	-
Emergency Medical Services	2,357	(107)	2,251	-	2,251	-
Public Health	7,915	(494)	7,421	-	7,421	-
Community Services	5,054	(287)	4,767	-	4,767	-
Seniors Services	68,258	(2,961)	65,297	79,884	145,180	-
Community Services	73,312	(3,248)	70,064	79,884	149,948	-
NRH	22,690	(4,923)	17,767	-	17,767	-
Planning	0	0	0	0	0	-
Sub-Total Levy	279,037	(23,252)	255,785	117,906	373,690	-

Niagara Region:	Total Outstanding Debt (including sinking fund assets) as at Dec 31, 2025 (in \$000s)	Principal Payments in 2026 (in \$000s)	Adjusted Debt Outstanding As at Dec. 31, 2026 (in \$000s)	Forecasted Debt Issuance for 2026 (in \$000s)	Total Debt Outstanding, including 2026 Forecasted Issuance As at Dec. 31, 2026 (in \$000s)	Annual Repayment Limit %
NRT	9,112	(1,956)	7,156	-	7,156	-
Waste Management	0	0	0	0	0	-
Sub-Total Special Levy	9,112	(1,956)	7,156	-	7,156	-
Wastewater	60,325	(3,495)	56,830	22,753	79,583	-
Water	20,666	(780)	19,886	-	19,886	-
Sub-Total Rate	80,991	(4,275)	76,716	22,753	99,469	-
Total Niagara Region:	369,141	(29,484)	339,657	140,658	480,315	6.40%
External:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fort Erie	8,104	(951)	7,153	-	7,153	2.17%
Grimsby	7,982	(673)	7,309	20,260	27,569	5.38%
Lincoln	53,433	(1,619)	51,814	14,227	66,041	6.81%
Niagara Falls	82,002	(5,881)	76,121	-	76,121	4.10%
NOTL	9,173	(622)	8,552	2,663	11,215	3.17%
Pelham	22,200	(1,752)	20,448	8,000	28,448	9.64%
Port Colborne	23,777	(917)	22,860	11,302	34,162	5.75%
St. Catharines	90,092	(12,624)	77,468	14,465	91,933	7.46%
Thorold	152	(152)	-	-	-	0.31%
Wainfleet	5,061	(384)	4,677	-	4,677	5.53%
Welland	66,314	(9,446)	56,868	4,114	60,982	10.66%
West Lincoln	20,171	(947)	19,224	-	19,224	9.56%
Local Area Municipalities	388,461	(35,969)	352,493	75,031	427,524	n/a

Niagara Region:	Total Outstanding Debt (including sinking fund assets) as at Dec 31, 2025 (in \$000s)	Principal Payments in 2026 (in \$000s)	Adjusted Debt Outstanding As at Dec. 31, 2026 (in \$000s)	Forecasted Debt Issuance for 2026 (in \$000s)	Total Debt Outstanding, including 2026 Forecasted Issuance As at Dec. 31, 2026 (in \$000s)	Annual Repayment Limit %
NPCA	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Total External:	388,461	(35,969)	352,493	75,031	427,524	n/a
Total Consolidated	757,602	(65,452)	692,150	215,689	907,839	n/a

¹ Niagara Region Annual Repayment limit is 6.40% and includes the forecasted 2026 Issuance. The Local Area Municipalities is based on the most recent Financial Information Return. The Region relies upon the Local Area Municipality to update their Financial Information Return and Annual Repayment Limit in accordance with the Municipal Act.

<i>Policy Category</i>	<i>Name of Policy</i>
<i>Financial</i>	<i>Capital Financing Policy</i>

Policy Owner	Corporate Services, Financial Management and Planning
Approval Body	Council
Authorization Reference:	Council Minutes CL 18-2019 October 17, 2019: Minute Item 12.1 (COTW 8-2019 October 3, 2019) Report CSD 51-2019
Effective Date	October 17, 2019
Review by Date	October 2020

1. Policy

This policy establishes principles and practices for preparing Niagara Region's Capital Budget, operating impacts and multi-year capital forecast and the prudent use of funding. The Region recognizes the importance of creating a capital financing strategy. This strategy will utilize the following principles:

1.1. Ensure long-term financial sustainability and flexibility

- a. On an annual basis, the multiyear capital plan shall be analyzed for funding requirements.
 - i. Projects that are aligned to asset management should utilize reserves and any deficiencies shall be communicated and considered in the operating budget before utilizing debt.
 - ii. Projects that are supporting growth should be funded with development charges.
 - iii. Projects that are new strategic investments should be funded with debt.
 - iv. The cost of servicing the debt and operating impacts of capital will be requested in the operating budget in the year the capital program is approved.
 - v. Favourable timing variances on debt charges or operating impacts resulting from timing of project completion will be utilized to substitute previously approved debt or fund pay as you go for projects aligned to the asset management plan or otherwise as approved in the budget.
- b. To the extent practicable, the hierarchy and principle of allocating funding will be in the following order.
 - i. External sources that are known to the project should be utilized first
 - ii. Federal Gas Tax will be allocated to reduce the use of reserves or debt funding.

<i>Policy Category</i>	<i>Name of Policy</i>
<i>Financial</i>	<i>Capital Financing Policy</i>

- iii. Development Charges Reserve will be allocated in accordance to the methodology included in the Development Charge background study.
- iv. Reserves (pay as you go) will be allocated as defined under C-F-013 Reserve and Reserve Funds Policy and as updated from time to time to support renewal investment and state of good repair projects as identified in the asset management plan.
- v. Debt will be utilized for growth and strategic investment projects.

1.2. Maintain a Strong Credit Rating

- a. The Region will undertake due diligence and consider the impacts of debt financing on the Regions credit rating.

1.3. Adhere to Statutory Requirements

- a. On an annual basis, the capital budget will be developed including a multi-year capital plan and include a financing strategy adhering to legislative requirements including but not limited to asset management regulations and compliance to the provincially mandated 25% annual repayment limit.

2. Purpose

Niagara Region prepares a Capital Budget annually as required by the Municipal Act. In addition, multi-year capital forecasts are prepared to plan funding for upcoming capital requirements. This policy will establish the principles Niagara Region will undertake to ensure financial sustainability, flexibility, transparency and legislative compliance of its capital funding program.

3. Scope

This policy applies to the following:

- a. Capital budget financing for projects.
- b. Operating budget impacts required to support the approved Capital projects including but not limited to debt servicing costs, operations and maintenance.
- c. The administration and management of the issuance of debt for approved capital projects.

The Budget Control By-Law defines the Region's authority over Agencies, Board and commissions and this policy shall comply congruently.

<i>Policy Category</i>	<i>Name of Policy</i>
<i>Financial</i>	<i>Capital Financing Policy</i>

3.2. Roles and Responsibilities

- a. The Responsibility of Regional Council
 - i. To approve the annual budget.
 - ii. To pass debenture by-law prior to the issuance of debentures.

- b. The Responsibilities of the Corporate Leadership Team
 - i. To recommend and support the budget submissions to Council.

- c. The Responsibilities of the Financial Management and Planning Team
 - i. To transparently consolidate and present budget considerations to Council in accordance with the policy.
 - ii. To direct staff on strategy to meet Council's expectations of the annual budget.
 - iii. To recalculate the Annual Repayment Limit (O. Reg. 403/02, s. 4(1)) each year.
 - iv. To manage the administration of the debenture issuances.
 - v. To lead the annual credit rating review process.

- d. The Responsibilities of Project Managers
 - i. To provide sufficient information to determine the type of project for the financing strategy.
 - ii. To provide required capital project information including specific external funding sources.

4. References and Related Documents.

4.1. Legislation, By-Laws and/or Directives

- a. Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, C .25
- b. Tile Drainage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.T.8
- c. Local Improvement Act, R.S.O. 1990, C. L.26
- d. Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure O.Reg. 588/17
- e. Budget Control By-law No. 2017-63

4.2. Procedures

5. Related Policies

- a. Operating Surplus/Deficit Policy (C-F-022)
- b. Reserve and Reserve Fund Policy (C-F-013)

<i>Policy Category</i>	<i>Name of Policy</i>
<i>Financial</i>	<i>Capital Financing Policy</i>

6. Document Control

The electronic version of this document is recognized as the only valid version.

Approval History

Approver(s)	Approved Date	Effective Date
Regional Council	October 17, 2019	October 17, 2019

Revision History

Revision No.	Date	Summary of Change(s)	Changed by

Received May 29, 2026
C-2026-149

May 29, 2026

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of May 26, 2026 the following resolution regarding the Better Regional Governance Act was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-246

DATE: **May 26, 2026**

MOVED BY: **Councillor MacNaughton**

SECONDED BY: **Councillor Branderhorst**

WHEREAS electoral representation is the keystone of Canadian democracy; and,

WHEREAS the Better Regional Governance Act, 2026 (Act) received royal assent on May 7th; and,

WHEREAS the Act allows the provincial government to interfere with shape and composition of certain local and regional governments in Ontario without consultation, clear rationale or democratic process; and,

WHEREAS the Act allows the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, without consultation, clear rationale, or democratic process to appoint or vacate heads of council; and

WHEREAS the Act allows any appointed, non-elected head of council to have the voting rights of an elected mayor which may include strong chair powers; and

WHEREAS these changes are part of a series of anti-democratic decisions that undermine municipal authority and centralize local decision making at the province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Prince Edward County Council, in solidarity with the impacted municipalities, urge the Province to recommit to local democracy, empower municipalities to determine their own composition, and restore the requirement that all local governments and regional council members including regional chairs be directly elected by their communities to ensure heads of council remain directly accountable to local voters; and,

THAT Council urge the province to restrict any further changes or expansion of the Act in any way that could undermine the democratic vigour of any additional municipality; and,

THAT this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack, and Member of Provincial Parliament, Tyler Allsop; and



From the Office of the Clerk
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

THAT this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Yours truly,

Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor MacNaughton, Councillor Branderhorst



Received May 29, 2026
C-2026-150

May 29, 2026

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of May 26, 2026 the following resolution seeking support for sustainable funding for Public Health Units was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-244

DATE: May 26, 2026

MOVED BY: Councillor Roberts

SECONDED BY: Councillor Nieman

WHEREAS Ontario public health units and agencies provide a vital service to Ontarians that keeps people healthy, out of hospitals and out of the acute care system;

WHEREAS rural-urban equity in Ontario's public healthcare delivery is essential for a thriving provincial economy that keeps people at work and contributing;

WHEREAS Ontario's public health units & agencies sector has received a mere 1% in its annual budget increase from Queen's Park since 2018, a sum significantly below inflation and real-world cost increases;

WHEREAS public health faces steadily increasing demands, such as a 231% increase in respiratory outbreaks supported in Ontario's long-term care homes, hospitals, and retirement homes since 2018, as well as a 637% increase in Infection Prevention & Control complaints follow-ups;

WHEREAS according to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), municipalities across Ontario spend close to \$4 billion on health despite receiving less than \$2 billion in provincial grants, and Canada's Constitution Act 1867 clearly asserts provincial responsibility for health;

WHEREAS Ontario consistently ranks at the bottom for provincial health spending per capita, at \$876 below the average of other provinces using 2022-2023 data;

WHEREAS 60% of Ontario's hospitals are overwhelmed and in dire operating deficits, yet the Canadian Public Health Association asserts that investment in Ontario public health's preventative and health promotion initiatives delivers a 4:1 return on investment, for example, for every dollar spent on upstream public health vaccine immunization of children, \$16 in downstream hospital and primary health care costs are saved;

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to shoulder an escalating percentage of public health unit costs while also asked to solve complex social determinates of health such as rural homelessness and food insecurity but with limited revenue tools;

WHEREAS the province and federal governments continue to collect significant revenue from local/municipal property transactions through the Land Transfer Tax and Goods & Services Tax;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward requests:

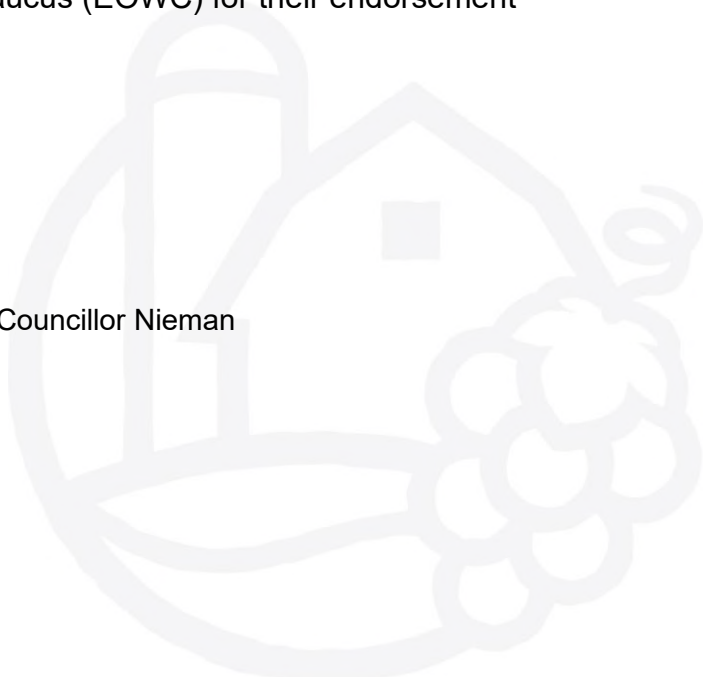
1. **THAT** the Provincial Government redistribute a portion of the Land Transfer Tax to municipalities to address public health funding gaps and the rising % share of municipal contributions to public health units;
2. **THAT** when the province announces its new Ontario Public Health Standards, it also commits to minimum annual funding increases tied to Ontario's consumer price inflation, currently holding at 2.4%;
3. **THAT** this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Mark Carney, Premier Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Bay of Quinte Member of Parliament, Chris Malette, and Member of Provincial Parliament, Tyler Allsop; and
4. **THAT** this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Nieman



**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**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 585-7000



Ontario

Received June 1, 2026
C-2026-151

234-2026-1746

June 1, 2026

On May 25, 2026, our government introduced the proposed [Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026](#) (Bill 119). Through this legislation, we are proposing new tools to address zoning by-law contraventions which respond to recommendations and requests from municipal leaders. The proposed *Planning Act* changes, if passed, would enable municipalities to use an administrative monetary penalty (AMP) system for zoning by-law contraventions which relate to land uses that are not permitted.

We are interested in receiving your comments on these proposed changes. Comments can be made through the Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting [026-0558](#) Proposed Planning Act Changes (Schedule 7 of Bill 119 - *Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026*) from May 26, 2026, to June 25, 2026. The government invites you to review the [Environmental Registry of Ontario and Regulatory Registry of Ontario](#) links provided above and share any feedback you may have.

If you have any questions, please reach out to my Director of Stakeholder Relations, Caucus Affairs and Public Appointments, Tanner Zelenko at tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca.

I look forward to continued collaboration with you to address these and other important issues facing our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Flack".

Hon. Robert J. Flack

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c. The Honourable Graydon Smith, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff Minister's Office

Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Laura Smith, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Brian Saunderson, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing

David McLean, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Laurie Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Municipal Chief Administrative Officers

June 2, 2026

Federation of Canadian Municipalities
24 Clarence Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 5P3

Sent via email: info@fcm.ca

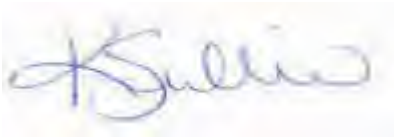
Re: Request for Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to Develop an Anniversary Tree Planting Program

At its meeting held on May 25, 2026, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED that St. Catharines City Council requests that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities consider developing a program to fund tree planting initiatives that recognize significant milestone anniversaries for Canadian municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to local area municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1524.



Kristen Sullivan, City Clerk
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
:sm

cc: local area municipalities

Village of Merrickville Wolford

317 Brock Street W PO Box 340
Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0
T: 613-269-4791
W: Merrickville-wolford.ca

May 26, 2026

Re: OPP Detachment Board Resolution of Support - Traffic Calming & Speeding Mitigation Techniques

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, at its Regular Meeting on May 25, 2026, passed the following motion pertaining to the OPP Detachment Board Resolution of Support - Traffic Calming & Speeding Mitigation Techniques:

Resolution #: R-24-05-25-26
Moved by: Councillor Maitland
Seconded by: Councillor Ireland

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford receive for information the resolution from the Municipality of North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford Village OPP Detachment Board dated May 7, 2026 regarding traffic calming and speeding mitigation techniques;

AND THAT Council endorse and support the resolution from the OPP Detachment Board and direct staff to circulate the resolution of support to Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Finance, MPP Steve Clark, AMO, ROMA, all Ontario Police Service Boards, and all 444 Municipalities in Ontario.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at clerk@merrickville-wolford.ca.

Thank you.



Julia McCaugherty-Jansman
Clerk



May 7, 2026

Traffic Calming/Speeding Mitigation Techniques

The North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford Village OPP Detachment Board, at its Meeting on May 7, 2026, passed the following motion with the request for municipal support:

Moved by: Ian Fraser

Seconded by: Jim Goodman

WHEREAS history demonstrates that speeding and public safety concerns are increasing across Ontario;

WHEREAS the Provincial government has shown interest and allocated financial resources to certain municipalities to implement alternative measures to photo radar, reaffirming its ongoing commitment to addressing public safety issues;

WHEREAS this commitment currently applies only to municipalities utilizing photo radar as a deterrent;

AND WHEREAS such funding support would assist municipalities with limited financial resources in protecting their citizens - especially seniors and school-aged children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grenville 1 OPP Detachment Board respectfully request North Grenville and Merrickville-Wolford Councils advocate that the province expand its stated interest and financial commitment to include all municipalities in Ontario, adopting a province-wide approach to public safety and thereby ensuring the well-being of all Ontarians;

AND THAT this resolution be sent to the following:

Premier Doug Ford

Minister of Transportation

Minister of Finance

MPP Steve Clark

AMO

ROMA

All Ontario Police Service Boards

And all 444 Municipalities in Ontario

Carried.



May, 27, 2026

Re: OPP Detachment Board Resolution of Support - Traffic Calming and Speeding Mitigation Techniques

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of North Grenville, at its Regular Meeting on May 26, 2026, passed the following motion pertaining to the OPP Detachment Board Resolution of Support - Traffic Calming and Speeding Mitigation Techniques:

Resolution #: C-2026-215

Moved By: Deputy Mayor John Barclay

Seconded by: Councillor Deb Wilson

THAT Council accept the OPP Board Resolution - Traffic Calming/Speeding Mitigation Techniques as information as submitted and circulated.

FURTHER THAT Council consider the request to support the OPP Board resolution as attached.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail at clerk@northgrenville.on.ca.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lindsey Lee".

Lindsey Lee
Municipal Clerk



May 7, 2026

Traffic Calming/Speeding Mitigation Techniques

The North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford Village OPP Detachment Board, at its Meeting on May 7, 2026, passed the following motion with the request for municipal support:

Moved by: Ian Fraser

Seconded by: Jim Goodman

WHEREAS history demonstrates that speeding and public safety concerns are increasing across Ontario;

WHEREAS the Provincial government has shown interest and allocated financial resources to certain municipalities to implement alternative measures to photo radar, reaffirming its ongoing commitment to addressing public safety issues;

WHEREAS this commitment currently applies only to municipalities utilizing photo radar as a deterrent;

AND WHEREAS such funding support would assist municipalities with limited financial resources in protecting their citizens - especially seniors and school-aged children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grenville 1 OPP Detachment Board respectfully request North Grenville and Merrickville-Wolford Councils advocate that the province expand its stated interest and financial commitment to include all municipalities in Ontario, adopting a province-wide approach to public safety and thereby ensuring the well-being of all Ontarians;

AND THAT this resolution be sent to the following:

Premier Doug Ford

Minister of Transportation

Minister of Finance

MPP Steve Clark

AMO

ROMA

All Ontario Police Service Boards

And all 444 Municipalities in Ontario

Carried.



Thorold

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Nicholas Debono, City Clerk
3540 Schmon Parkway, P.O. Box 1044
Thorold, ON L2V 4A7

June 3, 2026

Received June 3, 2026
C-2026-154

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

To the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario,

Re: 13.2 Resolution Respecting Support for Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Thorold, at its meeting held on June 2, 2026, considered the aforementioned topic and passed the following resolution:

1. That the Corporation of the City of Thorold **SUPPORTS** the municipality of Stratford's resolution regarding Support for Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act 2025; and
2. That a copy of this resolution **BE CIRCULATED** to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness; the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Niagara Areas MPPs; the Ontario Federation of Agriculture; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Niagara Region; and Niagara Area municipalities.

Thank you,

Nicholas Debono
City Clerk, City of Thorold

cc. Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Niagara Area MPPs
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Niagara Region
Niagara Area Municipalities

Appendix CWCD 187-2026 - Correspondence Re Support Bill 21 Protect Our Food Act 2025



City of Stratford, Corporate Services Department

Clerk's Office

City Hall, P. O. Box 818, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W1

Tel: 519-271-0250, extension 5237

Email: clerks@stratford.ca

Website: www.stratford.ca

May 11, 2026

Sent by email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building, Queen's Park

Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Honourable Doug Ford,

Re: Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025

At the April 27, 2026, Regular meeting, Stratford City Council heard a presentation by Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner regarding Bill 21, Protect Our Food, 2025.

At the meeting, Stratford City Council adopted the following resolution in support:

R2026-176

THAT the Council of the City of Stratford support Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 and strongly urges the provincial government to support this and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner, Perth Wellington MPP Matthew Rae, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Municipalities in Ontario.

Enclosed is a copy of the resolution supported by Stratford City Council.

Sincerely,

T. Dafoe

Tatiana Dafoe, Clerk
tdafoe@stratford.ca
519-271-0250 extension 5329

Cc: The Honourable Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness;
The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation, and
Parks;
Mike Shreiner, Member of Provincial Parliament for Guelph;
Bobbi Ann Brady, Member of Provincial Parliament for Haldimand-Norfolk;
Matthew Rae, Member of Provincial Parliament for Perth – Wellington;
The Ontario Federation of Agriculture;
Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
All Ontario municipalities.

WHEREAS Private Member's Bill 21 has been introduced into the legislature, a bill to protect Ontario's future food sovereignty; and

WHEREAS arable land is a critical finite resource; and

WHEREAS Ontario has lost 2.8 million acres of farmland in the last three decades and Ontario currently loses as much as 319 acres of farmland a day; and

WHEREAS Ontario's farmland provides food, fiber and fuel to all of Ontario and beyond; and

WHEREAS Perth County holds some of the best farmland in Ontario and is facing pressures to increase sprawl into important agricultural lands. While we need housing, sacrificing our food security can cause issues for our local economies and communities and undermine our ability to provide food for our local communities.

WHEREAS the Bill is supported by the Ontario Farmland Trust, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Christian Farmers and the National Farmers Union, reflecting broad support within the farming community on an exploratory basis; and

WHEREAS the Bill will encourage farmers to create succession plans and to reinvest in their farms;

WHEREAS a significant portion of Ontario's food supply comes from the US, where current protectionism practices are creating ambiguity and uncertainty in the food supply chain;

AND WHEREAS the City of Stratford encourages the Province to continue to use all available tools and supports, including incentives, grants, infrastructure investment, and innovation programs to promote and expand local food production, enhance on-farm viability, and strengthen Ontario's food security;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Stratford support Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 and strongly urges the provincial government to support this and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner, Perth Wellington MPP Matthew Rae, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Municipalities in Ontario.