



# COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

## SUMMARY

JANUARY 29, 2021

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1. **C-027-2021**  
Correspondence dated November 4, 2020 from the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board respecting a request to Health Canada to address proper regulation of the cannabis industry, specifically with designated medical growers who are operating outside of their medical designations.
2. **C-028-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 22, 2021 from the City of Port Colborne respecting a resolution of support for the City of Hamilton resolution regarding amending the AGCO licensing and application process for cannabis retail stores to consider radial separation.
3. **C-029-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 22, 2021 from the City of Port Colborne respecting a resolution of support for the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex regarding drainage matters on Canadian National Railway lands.
4. **C-030-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 22, 2021 from the Municipality of Grey Highlands respecting a call to the Province of Ontario regarding insurance premiums.
5. **C-031-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 12, 2021 from Dale and Mary Lou Gibson respecting public beach access concerns.
6. **C-032-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 25, 2021 from the City of Port Colborne respecting a resolution of support for the Town of Pelham resolution regarding a 988 Crisis Line.
7. **C-033-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 25, 2021 from the City of Port Colborne respecting a resolution of support for the Township of Howick resolution regarding amending the Tile Drainage Installation Act.

8. **C-034-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 25, 2021 from the City of Port Colborne respecting a resolution of support for the City of St. Catharines resolution regarding hospice workers.
9. **C-035-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 25, 2021 from the City of Port Colborne respecting a resolution of support for the City of Niagara Falls resolution regarding mental health, homelessness and addiction.
10. **C-036-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 25, 2021 from the Office of the Regional Clerk respecting Niagara Official Plan – steps and directions moving forward.
11. **C-037-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 7, 2021 from West Nipissing respecting a resolution of support for the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex resolution regarding drainage matters on Canadian National Railway lands.
12. **C-038-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 25, 2021 from the City of Welland respecting a request to the Province of Ontario for the allocation of more COVID-19 vaccines to Niagara.
13. **C-039-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 26, 2021 from the City of Port Colborne respecting a resolution of support for the Niagara Police Services Board request to Health Canada to address proper regulation of the cannabis industry, specifically with designated medical growers who are operating outside of their medical designations.
14. **C-040-2021**  
Correspondence dated January 26, 2021 from the City of Port Colborne respecting a resolution of support for the Township of Blandford-Blenheim resolution regarding unlicensed and unmonitored cannabis grow operations.
15. **C-041-2021**  
Correspondence received January 26, 2021 from the City of Welland respecting a request to Niagara Region to declare a state of emergency of mental health, homelessness and addition.

**16. C-042-2021**

Correspondence dated January 25, 2021 from the Township of North Glengarry respecting a request to the Province of Ontario to allow for small businesses to immediately open with the required health guidelines and protocols in place.

**17. C-043-2021**

Correspondence dated January 26, 2021 from the City of Niagara Falls respecting a resolution of support for the City of St. Catharines resolution regarding hospice workers.

**18. C-044-2021**

Correspondence dated January 25, 2021 from the Town of Gore Bay respecting a resolution of support for the Municipality of Charleton and Dack regarding call to the Province of Ontario regarding insurance premiums.



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA  
**POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

5700 VALLEY WAY, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO L2E 1X8

Received November 4, 2020  
C-027-2021

Tel: (905) 688-4111 Fax: (289) 248-1011  
E-mail: [psb@niagarapolice.ca](mailto:psb@niagarapolice.ca)  
Website: [www.niagarapolice.ca](http://www.niagarapolice.ca)

November 4, 2020

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

The Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Minister of Health  
[patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Hajdu:

**RE: Medical Cannabis Grow Operations - Public Safety Concerns**

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We are writing on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board and the Niagara Regional Police Service to request Health Canada address proper regulation of the cannabis industry, specifically with designated medical growers who are operating outside of their medical designations.

The *Federal Cannabis Act* controls the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis in Canada, including the application and licensing of personal and commercial medical cannabis production, which should be compliant with local municipal by-laws according to criteria set out for applicants in the process administered by Health Canada as the agency responsible for approval of cannabis production facilities.

Our concerns are for the significant number of operations growing for personal medical use under the certificate/registration system set up by Health Canada. Under the legislation, an adult individual is eligible to produce cannabis for their own medical purposes. The amount permitted to grow for personal use is contingent upon the maximum daily amount prescribed by a medical practitioner and whether or not the plants are going to be grown inside, outside or a combination of both. Health Canada's regulations govern the growing of medical cannabis and allow an individual to designate another individual to grow it on their behalf.

A maximum of four (4) certificates for growing medical cannabis for personal purposes are permitted per property. As a result, a significant amount of medical cannabis may be grown on a property for personal medical use. Designated growers are permitted to grow up to 500 plants per individual license, or potentially 2,000 plants. Further, Health Canada treats the certificates as medical information and as such, operators are not required to provide their certificates to municipalities or police, which prevents municipalities or the police from determining if an operation is legally permitted or not. This is exacerbated by minimal oversight or concern from Health Canada.

Police enforcement efforts across southern Ontario, including Niagara, indicate that many growers are producing well in excess of the maximum licensed number of plants. It has become clear that the excess being produced by designated growers is being funneled to the illicit market which is mostly controlled by organized crime.

This was well documented during a large-scale, multijurisdictional illicit cannabis growing investigation in August of this year, where police seized over an estimated \$42 million in drugs, equipment, weapons and other items. This included 101,049 illegal cannabis plants; 1,921 pounds of illegal cannabis bud; 21 pounds of illegal cannabis shatter and three pounds of illegal cannabis hash.

Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon occurrence. In July 2020, Niagara Regional Police made arrests and seizures at a large illicit cannabis operation in the City of St. Catharines with over 17,000 plants. The investigation resulted in the arrest of eleven people, with an estimated \$34 million in cannabis plants. In 2018, Niagara Regional Police arrested one individual for growing over 1,000 plants at an estimated worth of over \$1 million. In 2017, Niagara Regional Police busted two large medical grow operations that were operating under fraudulent Health Canada medical licenses for personal or designated use. In 2016, an individual was arrested with 500 plants and in 2015 the Niagara Regional Police arrested another person with over 1,000 plants that was also valued at just over one million dollars.

It is apparent that criminal enterprises are abusing the Health Canada registration, using it as a loophole to grow well over the allotted amount. These organized crime groups have been exploiting Health Canada medical, personal and designate cannabis production, instead growing the plants to sell illegally. Health Canada has strict rules governing licensing, odour, security, light pollution, chemical contamination, fire hazards and the like for federally-licensed grow facilities, however; no such oversight applies to personal and designated growers.

**We are therefore urging the Federal Government to expand the legislative framework to provide greater oversight to address public safety concerns with the personal and designated medical growers who are operating outside the boundaries of their medical designations.**

These unlicensed operations have become a significant concern for residents in the Niagara Region and our local municipalities from both a health and safety lens as well as from a land use and building code situation. Local municipal governments have responsibility for the enforcement of local by-laws and ensuring life-safety compliance with fire and building code regulations, but Health Canada has no process in place to share licensing information with local authorities about the location of medical cannabis production facilities. **By way of copy, we are calling on Niagara's MPs and MPPs for support, and urging the Niagara Region and Councils of its 12 local municipalities to call on the Federal Government to put in place the needed controls and oversight permissions that will provide safety, health and personal comfort to all residents of Niagara.**

Minister, we need your help to get these issues under control. We are asking that Health Canada take action against operations that cross the line into criminality. Police resources are stretched and the need to establish criminality limits police ability to respond to these operations that are causing such concern. Police enforcement is an important tool but we need other ways to manage the growing problems these unlicensed operations are creating. We need Health Canada to implement practices that will improve the sharing of information regarding cannabis certificates with police and municipalities, outline requirements for compliance with municipal zoning by-laws, include appropriate monitoring and inspections, and consider the need to revisit the formula for determining the maximum number of plants permitted under a certificate.

The Board and Police Service would certainly be willing to further engage with Ministry personnel in an effort to share our experiences and work collaboratively to increase the effectiveness of the legislation and enhance public safety.

Your consideration of the concerns raised in this letter would be greatly appreciated and we look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



William C. Steele  
Acting Board Chair



Bryan R. MacCulloch, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

Copies to:

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
MP Dean Allison, Niagara West  
MP Chris Bittle, St. Catharines  
MP Tony Baldinelli, Niagara Falls  
MP Vance Badawey, Niagara Centre

President Micki Ruth, Canadian Association of Police Governance  
Chief of Police Bryan Larkin, President, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General  
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of the Solicitor General

MPP Sam Oosterhoff, Niagara West  
MPP Jennie Stevens, St. Catharines  
MPP Wayne Gates, Niagara Falls  
MPP Jeff Burch, Niagara Centre

Chair Patrick Weaver, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards  
Chief of Police Paul Pedersen, President, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

Regional Chair Jim Bradley and Members of Council, Niagara Region  
Mayor Dave Bylsma and Members of Council, Town of West Lincoln  
Mayor Frank Campion and Members of Council, City of Welland  
Mayor Jim Diodati and Members of Council, City of Niagara Falls  
Mayor Betty Disero and Members of Council, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Mayor Sandra Easton and Members of Council, Town of Lincoln  
Mayor Kevin Gibson and Members of Council, Township of Wainfleet  
Mayor Jeff Jordan and Members of Council, Town of Grimsby  
Mayor Marvin Junkin and Members of Council, Town of Pelham  
Mayor Wayne Redekop and Members of Council, Town of Fort Erie  
Mayor Walter Sendzik and Members of Council, City of St Catharines  
Mayor Bill Steele and Members of Council, City of Port Colborne  
Mayor Terry Ugulini and Members of Council, City of Thorold

Board Members, Niagara Police Services Board



## PORT COLBORNE

Corporate Services Department  
Clerk's Division

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street  
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 • [www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca)

T 905.835.2900 ext 106 F 905.834.5746  
E [amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca](mailto:amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca)

Received January 22, 2021  
C-028-2021

January 22, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

**VIA E-MAIL**

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: Resolution – Amending the AGCO Licensing and Application Process for Cannabis Retail Stores to Consider Radial Separation from Other Cannabis Locations**

Please be advised that, at its meeting of December 14, 2020, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That the resolution received from the City of Hamilton Re: Amending the AGCO Licensing and Application Process for Cannabis Retail Stores to Consider Radial Separation from Other Cannabis Locations, be supported.

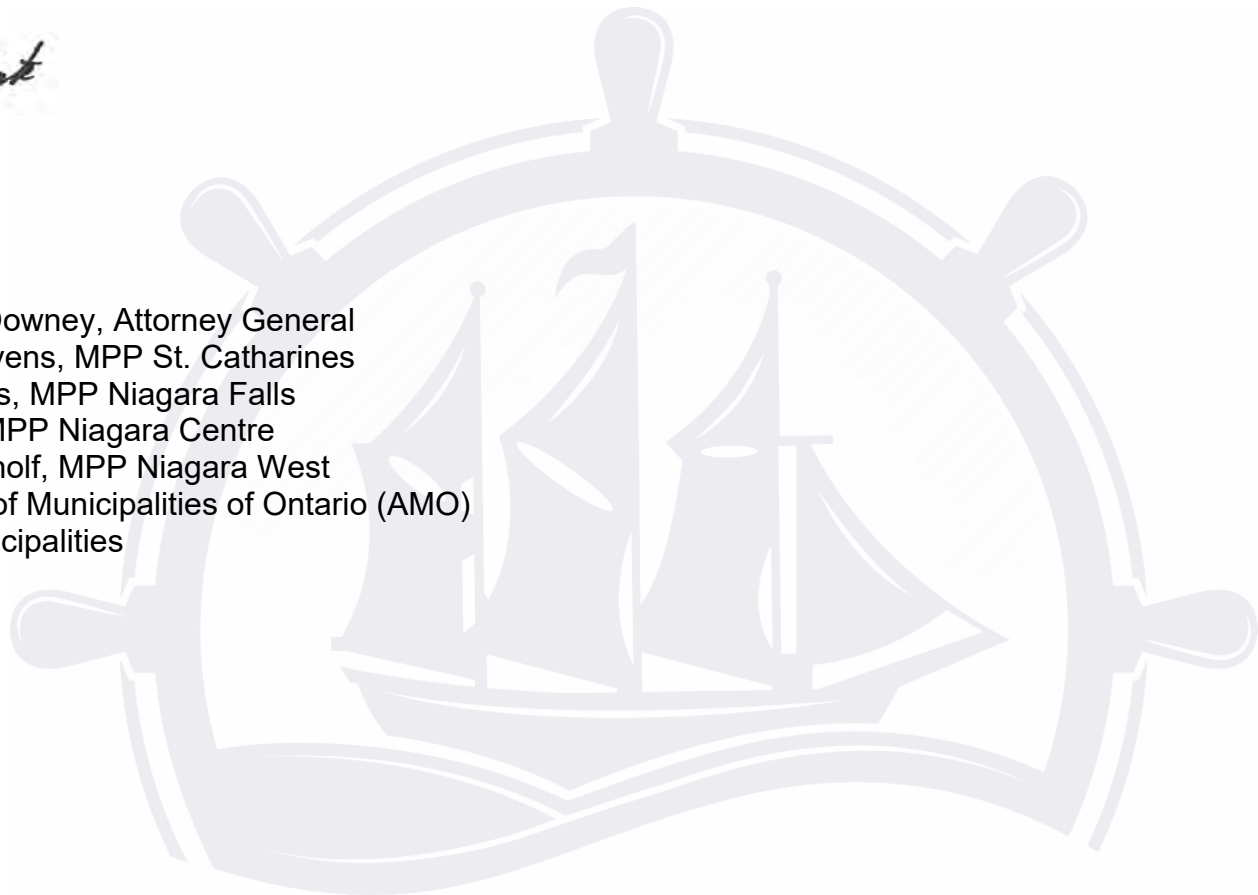
A copy of the above noted resolution is enclosed for your reference. Your favourable consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Amber LaPointe  
City Clerk

Encl.

ec: Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General  
Jennifer Stevens, MPP St. Catharines  
Wayne Gates, MPP Niagara Falls  
Jeff Burch, MPP Niagara Centre  
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Ontario Municipalities





OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF HAMILTON

**September 8, 2020**

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

Honourable Doug Downey  
Attorney General  
Ministry of the Attorney General  
McMurtry-Scott Building  
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Subject: **Amending the AGCO Licensing and Application Process for Cannabis Retail Stores to Consider Radial Separation from Other Cannabis Locations**

Dear Premier & Attorney General,

Hamilton City Council, at its meeting held on August 21, 2020, approved a motion, Item 6.1, which reads as follows:

WHEREAS in late 2019 the Province of Ontario announced that the AGCO had been given regulatory authority to open the market for retail cannabis stores beginning in January 2020, without the need for a lottery;

WHEREAS the AGCO has continued to send Cannabis Retail Store applications to the City of Hamilton for the required 15-day comment period,

WHEREAS the City has reviewed 61 Cannabis Retail Store applications for comment since January 2020;

WHEREAS the AGCO does not take into consideration radial separation for Cannabis Retail Stores.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

.../3



- (a) That the Mayor contact the Premier of Ontario, Ministry of Attorney General, and local Members of Parliament to ask that the Province consider amending its licensing and application process for Cannabis Retail Stores to consider radial separation from other cannabis locations.
- (b) That the request be sent to other municipalities in Ontario, including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for their endorsement.
- (c) That Staff be requested to submit heat maps outlining the location of all proposed AGCO Cannabis Retail Store in the City on all AGCO Cannabis Retail Store applications.

As per the above, we write to request, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, that the appropriate legislative and regulatory changes be made and implemented to the AGCO licensing and application process to take into consideration radial separation for Cannabis Retail Stores as a condition of approval for a license.

Currently the City of Hamilton has reviewed 61 cannabis retail location applications since January 2020. Approximately 12 of these potential locations are within 50m (or less) of each other.

The City of Hamilton appreciates that the AGCO conducts a background search prior to approving any licenses, however the lack of separation between locations poses a community safety issue, as the over saturation in specific area(s)/wards, can negatively impact the surrounding community with increased traffic flow, and an overall “clustering” of stores within a small dense area.

The City of Hamilton is confident that radial separations from cannabis retail locations will have a significant positive impact on the community and allow for its residents to continue to enjoy a safe and healthy community lifestyle.

Sincerely,



Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor

C: Hon. Donna Skelly, MPP, Flamborough-Glanbrook

Hon. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition, MPP, Hamilton Centre

Hon. Paul Miller, MPP, Hamilton East-Stoney Creek

Hon. Monique Taylor, MPP, Hamilton Mountain

Hon. Sandy Shaw, MPP, Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas



## PORT COLBORNE

Corporate Services Department  
Clerk's Division

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T 905.835.2900 ext 106 F 905.834.5746  
E [amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca](mailto:amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca)

Received January 22, 2021  
C-029-2021

January 22, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

**VIA E-MAIL**

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: Resolution – Drainage Matters on Canadian National Railway Lands**

Please be advised that, at its meeting of December 14, 2020, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That the resolution received from the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex Re: Drainage Matters on Canadian National Railway Lands, be supported.

A copy of the above noted resolution is enclosed for your reference. Your favourable consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Amber LaPointe  
City Clerk

Encl.

ec: Hon. Omar Alghabra, Federal Minister of Transport  
Hon. Ernie Hardeman, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Chris Bittle, MP St. Catharines  
Tony Baldinelli, MP Niagara Falls  
Vance Badawey, MP Niagara Centre  
Dean Allison, MP Niagara West  
Jennifer Stevens, MPP St. Catharines  
Wayne Gates, MPP Niagara Falls  
Jeff Burch, MPP Niagara Centre  
Sam Oosterhof, MPP Niagara West  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Ontario Municipalities



Municipality of Southwest Middlesex

December 7, 2020

Please be advised that the Council of Southwest Middlesex passed the following resolution at its November 25, 2020 Council meeting:

Drainage Matters: CN Rail

Moved by Councillor McGill  
Seconded by Councillor Vink

“WHEREAS municipalities are facilitators of the provincial process under the *Drainage Act* providing land owners to enter into agreements to construct or improve drains, and for the democratic procedure for the construction, improvement and maintenance of drainage works; and

WHEREAS municipal drain infrastructure and railway track infrastructure intersect in many areas in Ontario; and

WHEREAS coordination with national railways is required for the construction or improvement of drains that benefit or intersect with national railways; and

WHEREAS the national railways have historically participated in the process for construction, improvement and maintenance of drainage works; and

WHEREAS currently municipalities are experiencing a lack of coordination with national railways on drainage projects; and

WHEREAS the lack of coordination is resulting in projects being significantly delayed or cancelled within a year; and

WHEREAS municipal drains remove excess water to support public and private infrastructure and agricultural operations;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Province of Ontario work with the Federal Minister of Transportation to address concerns regarding municipal drainage matters and need for coordination with the national railways; and

THAT Council circulate the resolution to the Provincial Ministers of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, and Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Federal Minister of Transportation, the local MP and MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all municipalities.”

Municipality of Southwest Middlesex Resolution #2020-274

Carried

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bellchamber-Glazier".

Jillene Bellchamber-Glazier  
CAO-Clerk

Cc: The Honorable Marc Gardeau, Minister of Transport  
The Honorable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Monte McNaughton, MPP Lambton-Middlesex-London  
Lianne Rood, MP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex  
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
All Ontario Municipalities

January 22, 2021

RE: Insurance Rates Resolution

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands, at its meeting held January 20, 2021, passed the following resolution:

**2021-39**

**Moved by Tom Allwood, Seconded by Aakash Desai**

**Whereas the cost of municipal insurance in the Province of Ontario has continued to increase – with especially large increases going into 2021; and**

**Whereas Joint and Several Liability continues to ask property taxpayers to carry the lion’s share of a damage award when a municipality is found at minimum fault; and**

**Whereas these increases are unsustainable and unfair and eat at critical municipal services; and**

**Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario outlined seven recommendations to address insurance issues including:**

- 1. The provincial government adopt a model of full proportionate liability to replace joint and several liability.**
- 2. Implement enhancements to the existing limitations period including the continued applicability of the existing 10-day rule on slip and fall cases given recent judicial interpretations and whether a 1 year limitation period may be beneficial.**
- 3. Implement a cap for economic loss awards.**
- 4. Increase the catastrophic impairment default benefit limit to \$2 million and increase the third-party liability coverage to \$2 million in government regulated automobile insurance plans.**
- 5. Assess and implement additional measures which would support lower premiums or alternatives to the provision of insurance services by other entities such as nonprofit insurance reciprocals.**
- 6. Compel the insurance industry to supply all necessary financial evidence including premiums, claims and deductible limit changes which support its own and municipal arguments**

**as to the fiscal impact of joint and several liability.  
7. Establish a provincial and municipal working group to consider the above and put forward recommendations to the Attorney General;**

**Now therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Municipality of Grey Highlands call on the Province of Ontario to immediately review these recommendations and to investigate the unethical practice of preferred vendors who are paid substantial amounts over industry standards, despite COVID 19 delays, as insurance premiums will soon be out of reach for many communities and**

**Be it further resolved that this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario, the Honourable Bill Walker, MPP for Bruce - Grey - Owen Sound, and all Ontario municipalities.  
CARRIED.**

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jerri-Lynn Levitt  
Deputy Clerk  
Council and Legislative Services  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

**concerns****From** <dmlgibson@lastmilenet.ca>**Date** 2021-01-25 16:40

Received January 25, 2021

C-031-2021

January 12, 2021

To The Honorable Mayor Kevin Gibson,

Dear Sir,

Recently, as taxpayers and life-long residents of the township, there are two matters that have come to our attention which cause us some concern.

The first is Port Colborne council's intention to possibly sell off beach road allowances to property owners and close off access of beaches to the public. We have lived on Lakeshore Rd. near Augustine Rd. beach access for 40 years. We and our children and grandchildren have enjoyed summers at the beach. We are well aware the beachfront owners have put pressure on the council to restrict access. Even last year, the fence went up with the Council's approval cutting the shrinking beach in half. No Parking signs are everywhere including in front of our house. We can't even have a garage sale anymore. No one asked us if we were bothered by parking or objected to the signs. They appeared one day just like the fences. Wainfleet residents are already being denied access to the beaches unless they can be reached by walking or bicycle. When we were kids, our parents drove us to the beach or we rode our bikes. Any access was available. We are also well aware of the crowding. However, there are other measures for dealing with that as we have seen other communities do. For example, restricting access to locals (all Wainfleet residents) and their families or charging a minimal fee for the season for locals to cover the cost of bylaw officers. When Morgan's Point Community Park was managed by the township we had a card if we were local residents. The one public beach we do have is too small and parking is inadequate. Also last year it was closed at 6 p.m. so anyone who wanted to go for a swim at supertime when it was less crowded, could not go. The former crippled children's camp is the best beach around. What a great resource it could have been. The residents of Wainfleet need our beaches at this time more than ever. We need the solace and peace that a stroll along the beach can offer or to let our kids and grand-children run along the shore or play in the sand when there is no school to go to, or just somewhere nice to walk the dog. We hope Wainfleet does not choose to follow the same plan that Port Colborne is considering.

Secondly, a friend in Welland who lives along the 140, is having her land, which is currently being farmed, expropriated by the Council for an industrial corridor. Our backyard backs on to farmland which we quite enjoy. We would not wish to see it replaced by a plant, a wind farm, or a solar panel field, all of which would detract from the natural scenery and devalue our land. Nor would we like to see these spring up on other land currently being used as farmland in our township.

Yours Truly

Dale and Mary Lou Gibson

12044 Lakeshore Rd.





## PORT COLBORNE

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Received January 25, 2021  
C-032-2021

January 25, 2021

Vance Badawey, MP  
136 East Main Street, Suite 103  
Welland, ON L3B 3W6

**Via E-mail: [Vance.Badawey@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Vance.Badawey@parl.gc.ca)**

And

Jeff Burch, MPP  
60 King St., Unit 102  
Welland, ON L3B 6A4

**Via E-mail: [JBurch-CO@ndp.on.ca](mailto:JBurch-CO@ndp.on.ca)**

Dear Vance Badawey, MP and Jeff Burch, MPP

**Re: Resolution – 988 Crisis Line**

Please be advised that, at its meeting of January 11, 2021, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That the resolution received from the Town of Pelham - 988 Crisis Line, be supported.

A copy of the above noted resolution is enclosed for your reference. Your favourable consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Amber LaPointe  
City Clerk

Encl.

ec: Niagara Region  
Niagara Area Municipalities



December 17, 2020

Dean Allison, MP  
4994 King Street, PO Box 880  
Beamsville, ON L0R 1B0  
[Dean.allison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Dean.allison@parl.gc.ca)

AND

Sam Oosterhoff, MPP  
4961 King Street  
Beamsville ON L0R 1B0  
[Sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org](mailto:Sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org)

Attention: Dean Allison, MP and Sam Oosterhoff, MPP

**Re: Support for 988 Crisis Line**

At their regular meeting of December 14, 2020, Council of the Town of Pelham received a Motion put forth by Councillor Haun and seconded by Councillor Stewart calling for support for the 988 Crisis Line and endorsed the following:

**WHEREAS there is a call for the Federal government to adopt 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline;**

**AND WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200 per cent;**

**AND WHEREAS existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold;**

**AND WHEREAS in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline;**  
**AND WHEREAS Pelham Town Council recognizes that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Pelham Town Council endorses this 988 crisis line initiative;**

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**and that Staff be directed to send a letter indicating such support to the local MP, MPP and local area municipalities to indicate our support.**

On behalf of Council, we thank you for receiving our correspondence of support for this important initiative.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy J. Bozzato", is written over a light grey rectangular background.

(Mrs.) Nancy J. Bozzato, Dipl.M.M., AMCT  
Town Clerk

/sl

cc. Councillor Lisa Haun  
Local Area Municipalities



## PORT COLBORNE

Corporate Services Department  
Clerk's Division

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street  
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 • [www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca)

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E [amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca](mailto:amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca)

Received January 25, 2021  
C-033-2021

January 25, 2021

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, 77 Grenville St.  
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

**VIA E-MAIL**

Dear Mr. Hardeman:

**Re: Resolution – Amending the Tile Drainage Installation Act**

Please be advised that, at its meeting of December 14, 2020, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That the resolution received from the Township of Howick Re: Amending the Tile Drainage Installation Act, be supported.

A copy of the above noted resolution is enclosed for your reference. Your favourable consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Amber LaPointe  
City Clerk

Encl.

ec: Jeff Burch, MPP Niagara Centre  
Wayne Gates, MPP Niagara Falls  
Jennifer Stevens, MPP St. Catharines  
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association  
Ontario Federation of Agriculture  
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Land Improvement Contractors of Ontario  
Drainage Superintendents of Ontario Association  
Ontario Municipalities



44816 Harriston Road, RR 1, Gorrie On N0G 1X0  
Tel: 519-335-3208 ext 2 Fax: 519-335-6208  
[www.howick.ca](http://www.howick.ca)

City of Port Colborne  
**RECEIVED**  
DEC 03 2020  
CORPORATE SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT

December 3, 2020

The Honourable Ernie Hardeman  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

By email only [minister.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.omafra@ontario.ca)

Dear Mr. Hardeman:

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed at the December 1, 2020 Howick Council meeting:

**Moved by Councillor Hargrave; Seconded by Councillor Illman:**

**Be it resolved that Council request the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs amend the Tile Drainage Installation Act and/or the regulations under the Act that would require tile drainage contractors file farm tile drainage installation plans with the local municipality; and further, this resolution be forwarded to Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Huron-Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson, Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece, Rural Ontario Municipal Association, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Christian Farmers Federation Of Ontario, Land Improvement Contractors of Ontario, Drainage Superintendents of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities. Carried. Resolution No. 288/20**

If you require any further information, please contact this office, thank you.

Yours truly,

*Carol Watson*

Carol Watson, Clerk  
Township of Howick



**Background Information to the Township of Howick  
Resolution No. 288-20 Requesting Amendments to the  
Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act**

**Rational for Proposed Amendments**

Over the years, Howick Township staff have received many requests for tile drainage information on farmland. Usually these requests come after a change in ownership of the farm. Some of these drainage systems were installed recently but many are 30 to 40 or more years old. Many were installed by contractors who are no longer in business or who have sold the business and records are not available.

Information is generally available if the tile was installed under the Tile Drain Loan Program because a drainage plan is required to be filed with the municipality. If the tile system was installed on a farm without using the Tile Drain Loan Program, there likely are no records on file at the municipal office.

The other benefits to filing tile drainage plans with the municipality are identified in Section 65 of the Drainage Act.

- 65(1) – Subsequent subdivision of land (severance or subdivision)
- 65(3) – Drainage connection into a drain from lands not assessed to the drain
- 65(4) – Drainage disconnection of assessed lands from a drain
- 65(5) – Connecting to a municipal drain without approval from council

Section 14 of the Act states:

(1) "The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,

(a) providing for the manner of issuing licences and prescribing their duration, the fees payable therefor and the terms and conditions on which they are issued;

(a.1) exempting classes of persons from the requirement under section 2 to hold a licence, in such circumstances as may be prescribed and subject to such restrictions as may be prescribed;

(b) Repealed: 1994, c. 27, s. 8 (5).

(c) establishing classes of machine operators and prescribing the qualifications for each class and the duties that may be performed by each class;



- (d) providing for courses of instruction and examinations and requiring licence holders or applicants for a licence under this Act to attend such courses and pass such examinations;
- (e) prescribing the facilities and equipment to be provided by persons engaged in the business of installing drainage works;
- (f) prescribing standards and procedures for the installation of drainage works;
- (g) prescribing performance standards for machines used in installing drainage works;
- (h) prescribing forms and providing for their use;
- (i) respecting any matter necessary or advisable to carry out effectively the intent and purpose of this Act. R.S.O. 1990, c. A.14, s. 14; 1994, c. 27, s. 8 (4, 5)."

I believe it would be beneficial if a regulation required the installer, of agricultural drainage, to file a plan of the drainage system with the municipality following completion of the work.

While most of Section 14 deals with contractor, machine and installer licences, I think that Section 14(f) or 14(i) may allow a regulation change. This would be a better solution than an amendment to the Act.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Request by municipal resolution that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs amend the Tile Drainage Installation Act and/or the regulations, under the Act, that would require tile drainage contractors file all farm tile drainage installation plans in the Municipality where the installation took place
- Send the municipal resolution to:
  - Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
  - Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron Bruce
  - Randy Pettapiece, MPP Perth Wellington
  - Rural Ontario Municipal Association [roma@roma.on.ca](mailto:roma@roma.on.ca)
  - [OFA](#)
  - [CFFO](#)
  - All Ontario municipalities
  - the Land Improvement Contractors of Ontario (LICO), and
  - the Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario (DSAO)

Wray Wilson, Drainage Superintendent  
Township of Howick  
[drainage@howick.ca](mailto:drainage@howick.ca)



**The County**  
PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY • ONTARIO

**From the Office of the Clerk**

The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward  
332 Picton Main Street, Picton, ON K0K 2T0  
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727  
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

**WHEREAS** the operation, finance and regulatory compliance of elections is fully undertaken by municipalities themselves; and,

**WHEREAS** local governments are best poised to understand the representational needs and challenges of the body politic they represent, and when looking at alternative voting methods to ensure more people vote safely, it becomes more difficult to implement these alternatives with the proposed shorter period between Nomination day and the October 24, 2022 Election day;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Corporation of the County of Prince Edward Council send a letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing urging that the Government of Ontario continues to respect Ontario municipalities' ability to apply sound representative principles in their execution of elections;

**AND THAT** the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward Council recommends that the Government of Ontario supports the freedom of municipalities to run democratic elections within the existing framework the Act currently offers;

**AND THAT** this resolution be circulated to all Ontario Municipalities, AMO and AMCTO.

**CARRIED**

Catalina Blumenberg, Clerk





## PORT COLBORNE

Corporate Services Department  
Clerk's Division

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street  
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 • [www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca)

T 905.835.2900 ext 106 F 905.834.5746  
E [amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca](mailto:amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca)

January 25, 2021

Received January 25, 2021  
C-034-2021

Honourable Christine Elliot  
Minister of Health  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor – 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**Via E-Mail**

Dear Honourable Minister:

**Re: Resolution – Hospice Workers**

Please be advised that, at its meeting of January 11, 2021, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That the resolution received from the City of St. Catharines - Hospice Workers, be supported.

A copy of the above noted resolution is enclosed for your reference. Your favourable consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Amber LaPointe  
City Clerk

Encl.

ec: Chris Bittle, MP St. Catharines  
Tony Baldinelli, MP Niagara Falls  
Vance Badawey, MP Niagara Centre  
Dean Allison, MP Niagara West  
Jennifer Stevens, MPP St. Catharines  
Wayne Gates, MPP Niagara Falls  
Jeff Burch, MPP Niagara Centre  
Sam Oosterhof, MPP Niagara West  
Niagara Region  
Niagara Area Municipalities





December 9, 2020

Honourable Christine Elliott  
Minister of Health  
5th Floor - 777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Sent via email: [christine.elliott@pc.ola.org](mailto:christine.elliott@pc.ola.org)

**Re: Hospice Workers  
Our File 10.57.99**

Honourable Minister,

At its meeting held on November 30, 2020, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

“WHEREAS Hospice Niagara, and hospices across this province, provide a number of critical services needed by Ontario and Niagara residents including: end of life Hospice Residence care; in-Home Palliative Care; Day Hospice; Bereavement Support; and Education and Consultation; and

WHEREAS these services provide a central role in decreasing hospital emergency department volume, incidents of hallway medicine and costly hospital admissions for palliative and end-of-life care; and

WHEREAS Hospice care is the only health service whose health care workers are not fully funded by the Province and hospices and provincial organizations have requested that this funding be provided as delegations before the Standing Committee regarding Bill 3, the Compassionate Care Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Catharines recommends that Ontario's Health Ministry accept Hospice Niagara's request and start fully funding all hospice health care workers fully, and right away; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be forwarded directly to the Minister of Health Christine Elliot, all Niagara MPPs, the Region of Niagara and all Niagara municipalities.”

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Nistico-Dunk".

Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk  
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk  
:em



Cc Chris Bittle, MP - St. Catharines, [Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca)  
Vance Badawey, MP - Niagara Centre, [Vance.Badawev@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Vance.Badawev@parl.gc.ca)  
Dean Allison, MP - Niagara West, [dean.allison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:dean.allison@parl.gc.ca)  
Tony Baldinelli, MP - Niagara Falls, [Tony.Baldinelli@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Tony.Baldinelli@parl.gc.ca)  
Niagara Region  
Niagara Area Municipalities



## PORT COLBORNE

Corporate Services Department  
Clerk's Division

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street  
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 • [www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca)

T 905.835.2900 ext 106 F 905.834.5746  
E [amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca](mailto:amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca)

Received January 25, 2021  
C-035-2021

January 25, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via E-mail: [Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

Honourable and Dear Sir:

**Re: Resolution – Mental Health, Homelessness and Addiction**

Please be advised that, at its meeting of January 11, 2021, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That the resolution received from the City of Niagara Falls - Mental Health, Homelessness and Addiction, be supported.

A copy of the above noted resolution is enclosed for your reference. Your favourable consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Amber LaPointe  
City Clerk

Encl.

ec: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health  
Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General  
Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services  
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Andrea Horwath, Leader of Official Opposition  
Niagara Region  
Niagara Region Public Health  
Niagara Area Municipalities



# The City of Niagara Falls, Ontario

## Resolution

No. 10

November 17, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Wayne Campbell

Seconded by: Councillor Victor Pietrangelo

**WHEREAS** According to the Province of Ontario Emergency Response Plan (2008), Canadian municipalities are free to declare states of emergencies in response to “any situation or impending situation caused by the forces of nature, an accident, an intentional act or otherwise that constitutes a danger of major proportions to life or property.”

**WHEREAS** Approximately 625 residents- including 144 children in Niagara, were counted as homeless (March 2018), with shelter occupancy operating at 109.4 percent capacity

**WHEREAS** Niagara EMS reported 335 suspected opiate overdoses (Jan-June 2019).

**WHEREAS** Some Niagara-area municipalities have had services such as mental health removed from their Hospitals, and whereas Niagara is severely lacking in mental health and addiction services

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Niagara Falls request the Niagara Region to declare a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness, and addiction.

**FURTHERMORE**, the Niagara Regional Council, Niagara Region Public Health and Social Services, Premier of Ontario, the provincial Minister of Health, Minister of the Attorney General, Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Leader of the Official Opposition, as well as the Prime Minister of Canada, all regional municipalities and all local area municipalities within the Niagara Region be copied on this resolution.”

**AND** The Seal of the Corporation be hereto affixed.

**CARRIED**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William G. Matson".

**WILLIAM G. MATSON**  
CITY CLERK

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Diodati".

**JAMES M. DIODATI**  
MAYOR

January 25, 2021

**CL 1-2021, January 21, 2021**  
**PEDC 1-2021, January 13, 2021**  
**PDS 4-2021, January 13, 2021**

***Local Area Municipalities***

***Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority***

***SENT ELECTRONICALLY***

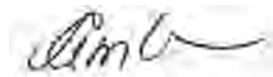
**RE: Niagara Official Plan - Steps and Directions Moving Forward**

Regional Council, at its meeting of January 21, 2021, approved the following recommendation of its Planning & Economic Development Committee:

That Report PDS 4-2021, dated January 13, 2021, respecting Niagara Official Plan – Steps and Directions Moving Forward, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

A copy of Report PDS 4-2021 is enclosed for your information.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk

:me

CLK-C 2021-019

Distribution List:

D. Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant

D. Giles, Acting Commissioner, Planning & Development Services

N. Oakes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Planning & Development Services

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**Subject:** Niagara Official Plan – Steps and Directions Moving Forward

**Report to:** Planning and Economic Development Committee

**Report date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021

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## **Recommendations**

1. That Report PDS-4-2021 **BE RECEIVED** for information; and
2. That Report PDS-4-2021 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

## **Key Facts**

- The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Niagara Official Plan consultation, work program and reports over Q1 and Q2 of 2021.
- This is the first comprehensive review of the Niagara Official Plan since approval in the early 1970's, this review is referred to as a Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR). The objective of this MCR is to replace the outdated current Regional Official Plan and to provide a Niagara Official Plan that manages growth in Niagara over the next 30 years and balances the requirements of competing land uses.
- To date, as background reports and other information has become available, reports have been presented by subject matter. However, policies in the Official Plan are interconnected and over the coming months subject matter will be presented as integrated policy sets.
- The next phase of consultation, focusing on draft policy and implementation, will continue in early 2021 and will include consultation with Regional Council, local Councils, Area Planners and stakeholders.
- In Q2 of 2021 (April) a Regional Official Plan Policy Report will be prepared for PEDC/Council that will reflect the recent round of consultation and provide the status of the following policy sets Growing Region – regional structure, housing, land needs assessment (growth allocations), settlement area boundary expansions; Connected Region – transportation, infrastructure; Vibrant Region – district and secondary plans, urban design, archeology; Competitive Region – employment, agriculture,

aggregates; and Sustainable Region – natural heritage system & water resource system options, Niagara watershed plan project, climate change.

## **Financial Considerations**

Council approved the resources to complete the Niagara Official Plan over a 5 year period as part of the 2017 Budget Process.

## **Analysis**

### **Conformity & Role of an Official Plan**

Certain parts of Niagara's Official Plan are mandated by provincial policy. For example, we must plan for employment areas and allocate assigned growth to them. Other policies in an Official Plan are more permissive, such as policies around climate change.

The *Planning Act, 1990* requires Council to make planning decisions that are consistent with, conform to, or not conflict with, Provincial Policy. Regional staff must make recommendations to Council under the same rules.

Part of the Official Plan process is identifying the roles of Regional and local planning departments. Local municipalities will need to bring their Official Plans in to conformity with the Niagara Official Plan once it is approved by the Province.

There are statutory limits on how much can be done in an Official Plan. Official Plans regulate the use of land and, to an extent, they can assist in addressing social issues such as youth and business retention. However, these matters are primarily not land use related, and therefore require strategies and programs outside the Official Plan.

### **Emerging Themes**

- **Managing Growth**

Future population and employment numbers are given to the Region by the Province. Over the past 3 to 4 years Niagara has experienced a level of population growth that if continued would achieve the previous 2041 population projections. A significant level of growth is coming to Niagara and the Niagara Official Plan is required to plan for this level of growth to 2051. Data from CANCEA indicates that increasing the supply of all forms of housing, low, medium and higher density



housing, will improve affordability, and support the long term future of Niagara socially and economically. Additionally, proactively planning through exercises like district and secondary plans, will allow for the allocation of growth and intensification in strategically identified areas.

- **Policies are Interconnected**

In the preparation of the Niagara Official Plan it is mandatory to consider all applicable Provincial policies. The interconnection between policy sets will allow the Niagara Official Plan to provide a framework that accommodates growth, ecological health and addresses climate. Changing direction in one area will impact other plan components.

- **Competing Interests**

Not everyone will agree on a planning outcome; in many cases, there can be more than one good outcome. Consultation carried out thus far identifies a variety of competing interests. A balanced policy approach often means fewer people or groups being highly satisfied.

- **Planning for the Long Term.**

The Niagara Official Plan will include policies that have not been addressed or required in the current Regional Official Plan. With this comes challenges in policy direction and decision making in an environment where communities do not stay static. Both the current and projected levels of growth will result in development patterns that represent significant changes compared to what has historically occurred.

- **Regular Updating.**

The Niagara Official Plan is a 30 year plan. To effectively monitor and adapt to changes that will occur it is important to ensure land use policies are review at regular intervals, that policies at the Regional and Local levels are aligned and that the monitoring of growth is consistent across Niagara.

- **Assist with Local Conformity**

Once the Niagara Official Plan is approved, local municipalities will need to bring their Official Plans in to conformity. It is important that Niagara Official Plan policies are clear in identifying local roles and responsibilities.

### **Consultation with Regional & Local Councils**

Niagara Official Plan consultation with Regional and Local Councils will be held in February, March and April with both Regional Councillors and Local Councils.

In February, Overlap Consultants will conduct an online survey of Regional Councillors relating to the direction and themes of the Regional Official Plan.

Consultation with Regional Council in April will focus on growth management and environmental policy. The purpose is to inform Councillors of the draft policy direction and provide for discussion. Staff are not seeking any decisions from Councillors at that time, this consultation is to provide information and answer questions.

Consultation with individual Local Councils including the Mayor, designated Local Councillors (i.e. Chair and Vice Chair of Planning and Economic Development Committee), CAO and Planning Director, will occur during March and April. The purpose is to provide an overview of policy contained in the Niagara Official Plan and to discuss policy sets that are of interest to the Local Councils.

Other consultation is planned in early 2021, but for the purpose of this report, only Council related consultation is outlined.

### **Upcoming Reporting To PEDC**

In the lead up to the Regional Official Plan Policy Report in Q2, the following reports will be coming to PEDC/Council in February and March:

- A Consultation Report on Natural Heritage and Water Systems options which summarizes feedback obtained through the virtual Public Information Centres (PICs), virtual stakeholder workshops, discussions with Area Planners, presentations to provincial agencies and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.
- A Climate Change Report to outline consultation and feedback received to date from the Climate Change Discussion Paper.
- Overlap Associates will report on its directions survey with Regional Councillors. The Overlap survey will be informed by public survey results of Pillar Statements and Directives previously developed.

## **Regional Official Plan Policy Report**

The Regional Official Plan Policy Report (the Report) will cover 5 policy sets and 15 topics as presented below. The status of policy will be provided and draft policies will be included. There will be areas that are less developed and may not include draft policies.

Importantly, the purpose of the Report is to provide information. Council will not be asked to make decisions (with limited exceptions, noted below). The Report is an opportunity for Council and the public to view the direction of the Regional Official Plan. Subsequently, significant consultation on draft policy will be undertaken before returning to Council for decision-making.

The exception to the above is in relation to the Natural Heritage System and Water Resource System Options. In April, Committee and Council will be asked to make a decision on an environmental policy option, a decision will be necessary to ensure the next phase of work (preparation of detailed methodology, policy and mapping) can be initiated.

The following is a breakdown of the topics to be covered in the Report, which has been organised by the Official Plan Sections.

### **Growing Region**

#### **Regional Structure**

The Regional Structure sets out a strategic distribution of population and employment growth to the planning horizon of 2051.

A Regional Structure Policy Paper will be provided with the Joint Report.

That Paper will include draft policies and a discussion of critical factors needed to allocate population and housing forecasts for the local municipalities, including the identification of Strategic Growth Areas, minimum intensification rates for Built-Up Areas, and density targets for Designated Greenfield Areas. The Regional Structure directs growth to these areas based on the area's function, with the goal of achieving complete communities, protecting natural heritage resources, and maximizing investments in infrastructure, public transit, and community services.

## **Housing**

Niagara needs a diverse housing supply in order to improve affordability and offer a range of housing options. The Housing Strategy identifies the form of housing needed to accommodate Niagara's current and future residents. This Strategy is based on extensive analysis of housing-related data, which is currently being updated to conform to the Growth Plan's 2051 population and employment forecasts.

Housing Strategy policies will support a range and mix of housing options and will establish targets to facilitate the development of affordable ownership and rental housing. These policies will also align with the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, and coordinate with the Incentive Review to identify land use planning and financial planning tools that facilitate the provision of affordable housing.

Draft policies will be included in the Joint Report.

## **Land Needs Assessment (Growth Allocations)**

The Land Needs Assessment ("LNA") is a technical, Region-led process that determines the amount of land needed for each local municipality. Specifically, the Region must quantify the amount of designated land each municipality requires to accommodate population, housing and employment forecasts provided to it in the Growth Plan. The Province released a new Land Needs Assessment Methodology in August 2020, which the Region must use.

Staff are working expeditiously to provide a draft LNA. The LNA will be based on inputs from other background strategies noted here, including the Regional Structure (for intensification rates and densities), Housing Strategy (for housing mix and targets), and the Employment Policy Paper (for employment forecasts and densities).

A summary of the draft LNA will be provided in the Joint Report.

## **Settlement Area Boundary Expansions**

Settlement area (i.e. urban and hamlet) boundaries cannot be changed except where specific policies are satisfied. The Region has exclusive authority to adjust boundaries. However, the Region is working closely with local municipalities to set processes for boundary adjustment reviews.

The Region's program is called the Settlement Area Boundary Expansion Review ("SABR"). A threshold component of the SABR is the outcome of the LNA. The LNA will set out the amount of population and employment growth and whether expansions are warranted; the SABR process is that which determines where that expansion will go.

The SABR program has and will continue to be carefully coordinated with local municipalities. It balances the interests of Provincial, Regional, and local municipalities and their ability to accommodate growth. The process is done in collaboration with local municipalities and in consultation with stakeholders and the public.

Regional staff are in the process of establishing evaluation criteria for the SABR program. This will allow for the assessment of SABR requests received to date. The evaluation criteria will prioritize the availability of existing infrastructure and public service facility investments, and consider impacts on watersheds, the natural environment, the agricultural system, and the protection of resource areas, as required.

Evaluation criteria for the SABR program will be provided in the Joint Report. Additionally, staff will provide policies to guide any expansion applications submitted *after* approval of the Niagara Official Plan.

Following consultation on the draft LNA and SABR evaluation criteria, at a later time Regional staff will bring forward a final LNA for Council endorsement. Based on the final LNA, staff will make recommendations for boundary changes and that will be provided to the public and Council for consideration.

### Connected Region

#### **Transportation**

Transportation policies and mapping approved through Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 13 will be carried forward to the new Niagara Official Plan.

A Complete Streets Design Manual is being developed by the Public Works Department, which will include the identification and application of Complete Streets typologies to the Regional Road system. The results of this analysis will result in updates to right-of-ways for all Regional Road segments listed in Table 9-1 of the existing Official Plan. The above-noted Table may not be ready for the Joint Report. If not, it will be provided in draft a later time.

## **Infrastructure**

Draft infrastructure policies will address promoting the efficient use and optimization of existing infrastructure; planning, designing and constructing systems to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate; integrating servicing and land-use considerations during all stages of the planning process; and developing water and wastewater master plans that identify options for servicing growth and development.

Additionally, draft storm water policies will address promoting storm water management best practices, such as low impact development, water conservation and efficiency; ensuring storm water management is informed by watershed planning and prepared for the impacts of changing climate; and ensuring large-scale development will have storm water management plans that incorporate best practices, such as no negative impacts on the quality and quantity of surface or groundwater.

Draft infrastructure policies will be provided in the Joint Report.

## **Vibrant Region**

### **District & Secondary Plans**

District Plans and Secondary Plans are proactive planning tools that focus on managing growth and the development of complete communities to support economic prosperity. Although they vary in scale, both District Plans and Secondary Plans require a collaborative effort between the Region and the local municipalities, creates a strategic vision to inform where and how much growth can occur, and allow for the strategic identification of intensification areas within communities. These Plans rely on extensive public engagement and consultation.

Secondary Plans will be used to implement the Regional Structure. Through the Niagara Official Plan, these plans will be required for Strategic Growth Areas and new Designated Greenfield Areas. They may also be considered for existing Designated Greenfield Areas and Built-Up Areas that are facing development pressure.

Draft District and Secondary Plan policies will be included in the Joint Report.

## **Urban Design**

Urban design is the practice of making places attractive, memorable, and functional for the people who use them. It involves the arrangement, appearance and relationship between buildings, public spaces, transportation systems, services, and amenities. Policies will support a better understanding of urban design and commitment to excellence, enhancement of the public realm and promotion of active transportation, tools for urban design implementation, and providing a clear direction to local municipalities.

Draft urban design policies will be provided in the Joint Report.

## **Archaeology**

The review of proposed development sites for archaeological potential is a requirement of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture. An Archaeological Management Plan (“AMP”), has been undertaken to streamline this Provincial review process at the local level. The AMP will create a clear process for the identification and conservation of archaeological resources.

The Joint Report will provide information on the proposed archaeological review process and function, draft modelling and draft archaeological resource potential mapping.

## **Competitive Region**

### **Employment**

An Official Plan Employment Policy Paper (“Employment Paper”) will be included with the Joint Report. The Employment Paper will contain draft employment policy and employment area mapping to be considered for the Official Plan. Recommendations are based on current legislation, detailed analysis, and other municipal practices. The Employment Paper will improve the degree of certainty and predictability to which employers can plan for and sustain viable employment operations for short- and long-term horizons, while protecting Provincial and municipal interests.

The Employment Policy Paper, which includes draft policies, will be provided in the Joint Report.

## **Agriculture**

The Region has a strong history of proactive agricultural planning. Regional agricultural policies are being refined to capture the updated policy regime implemented by the Province. The Agricultural System includes policies to protect the agricultural land base and the agri-food network. This includes elements important to the sector such as farm diversification and irrigation systems that contribute to a thriving agricultural industry.

Regional staff, in collaboration with local area municipalities, have made refinements to the agricultural land base, including a review of provincially-proposed candidate areas for consideration as prime agricultural areas.

The Joint Report will contain Agricultural draft policy and draft mapping.

## **Aggregates**

The Region is expecting increased demand for aggregates to support forecasted growth. Background reports related to aggregate resources are complete and have been previously presented to Committee and Council. A first draft of the policies were prepared and circulated to the local municipalities, stakeholders, and industry representatives for comment.

The Joint Report will contain an updated draft of the Official Plan policies for mineral aggregate resources and mineral aggregate operations. Mapping of mineral aggregate resources is undertaken by technical experts at the Province (Ontario Geological Survey). Planning staff have been in touch with our colleagues at the Province and hope to have new mapping for Niagara included with the Official Plan.

## **Sustainable Region**

### **Natural Heritage System (NHS) & Water Resource System (WRS) Options**

In the Joint Report, the results of the additional analysis being completed on the NHS and WRS options will be presented. This includes statistics on the estimated extent of the natural heritage system and water resource system for each of the options, and commentary on the implications for developable land.



The information will be presented for the urban areas in each local municipality. To accompany these detailed statistics, preliminary information on the policy intent of each option will be prepared.

Unlike other topics set out in this Report, Committee and Council will be asked to make a decision on the preferred option for the NHS and WRS. It is critical that a decision is made at that time, to allow Staff to proceed with detailed mapping and policy development. Otherwise, the timing of the Official Plan will be in jeopardy.

After a decision from Council in April, detailed draft mapping and policy for the NHS and WRS can be prepared for review and comment by Committee and Council, the public, and other stakeholders.

### **Niagara Watershed Plan (NWP) Project**

The NWP is the next step in implementing a watershed planning program. It will ensure the Niagara Official Plan is appropriately informed by watershed planning.

The NWP is being undertaken at the 'tertiary-level' and will be an important tool to guide more detailed watershed and sub watershed planning studies in the Region. The NWP will include a range of best practices and recommendations to inform land use planning decisions in the region.

The NWP is being prepared in accordance with Provincial requirements, including direction that decisions on growth allocations and the identification of a water resource system be informed by watershed planning.

The Joint Report will provide an update on the NWP, including how watershed planning has helped inform growth allocations and the development of the water resource system.

### **Climate Change**

The Climate Change Work Program has been updated as set out in Report PDS 6-2021.

The program now includes climate modeling for Niagara as well as a tree planting and greening strategy. Policy development for this subject has been ongoing to inform other Official Plan work programs.

The Joint Report will update Council on the climate modeling exercise, provide a preliminary overview of a tree planting and greening strategy, as well as highlight the integration of climate policies in other sections of the Official Plan.

### **Alternatives Reviewed**

The background report and review stage of the Official Plan program is nearly complete. Staff are developing policy, most of which will be ready for April 2021. It is important to provide the policy comprehensively and openly at that time. There are no reasonable alternatives to proceeding as set out. This is an important step in informing and allowing discussion of policy directions and content with Regional and local Councils, to ensure we represents the best approach to enable informed decision making.

### **Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities**

The Niagara Official Plan is important to address Council's priorities, being: Supporting Businesses and Economic Growth; Healthy and Vibrant Community; and Responsible Growth and Infrastructure Planning.

### **Other Pertinent Reports**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| PDS 35-2020   | Niagara Official Plan - Consultation Update             |
| PDS 1-2020    | New Niagara Official Plan - Public Consultation Summary |
| PDS 33-2019   | Growth Management Program Update for New Official Plan  |
| PDS 9-2019    | New Official Plan Consultation Timeline Framework       |
| CWCD 421-2019 | New Niagara Official Plan Updates                       |

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**Prepared by:**

Dave Heyworth  
Official Plan Policy Consultant  
Planning and Development services

---

**Recommended by:**

Doug Giles, BES, MUP  
Acting Commissioner  
Planning and Development services

---

**Submitted by:**

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.  
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

*This report was prepared in consultation with Isaiah Banach, Acting Director of Long Range Planning, and reviewed by Erik Acs, Manager of Community Planning and Lyndsey Ferrell, Program Financial Specialist, Corporate Services.*

Received January 26, 2021  
C-037-2021

January 7, 2021

Honourable Ernie Hardeman  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
77 Grenville Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1B3

SENT VIA E-MAIL

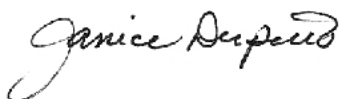
Honourable Minister Hardeman:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES WITH EMERGENCY OPERATIONAL FUNDING**

At its regular meeting held on January 5, 2021, Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing passed resolution **2021/11**, a copy of which is attached hereto. The resolution supports a request circulated by the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex, seeking to address concerns regarding municipal drainage matters and the need for coordination with the national railways.

We trust the enclosed is self-explanatory.

Respectfully,



Deputy Clerk / Assistant to the  
Chief Administrative Officer

\Encl.

cc: Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Minister of Transportation  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Marc Serré, MP  
John Vanthof, MPP  
Ontario municipalities



The Corporation of the Municipality of West Nipissing /  
La Corporation de la Municipalité de Nipissing Ouest

Resolution No.

**2021 / 11**

**JANUARY 5, 2021**

Moved by / *Proposé par* :

**« Councillor Y. Duhaime »**

Seconded by / *Appuyé par* :

**« Councillor L. Sénécal »**

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of West Nipissing received a request from the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex seeking support for their resolution asking various levels of government to address concerns regarding municipal drainage matters and the need for coordination with the national railways;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing supports the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex's resolution seeking to address concerns regarding municipal drainage matters and the need for coordination with the national railways;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing also requests that the resolution be forwarded to the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Federal Minister of Transportation, the local MP and MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all municipalities.

|                        | <b>YEAS</b> | <b>NAYS</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| DUHAIME, Yvon          |             |             |
| FISHER, Christopher    |             |             |
| LARABIE, Roland        |             |             |
| MALETTE, Léo           |             |             |
| ROVEDA, Dan            |             |             |
| WARD 7 (vacant)        | <del></del> | <del></del> |
| SÉNÉCAL, Denis         |             |             |
| SÉNÉCAL, Lise          |             |             |
| SAVAGE, Joanne (MAYOR) |             |             |

CARRIED: **« Mayor Joanne Savage »**

DEFEATED: \_\_\_\_\_

DEFERRED OR TABLED: \_\_\_\_\_



Municipality of Southwest Middlesex

December 7, 2020

Please be advised that the Council of Southwest Middlesex passed the following resolution at its November 25, 2020 Council meeting:

Drainage Matters: CN Rail

Moved by Councillor McGill  
Seconded by Councillor Vink

“WHEREAS municipalities are facilitators of the provincial process under the *Drainage Act* providing land owners to enter into agreements to construct or improve drains, and for the democratic procedure for the construction, improvement and maintenance of drainage works; and

WHEREAS municipal drain infrastructure and railway track infrastructure intersect in many areas in Ontario; and

WHEREAS coordination with national railways is required for the construction or improvement of drains that benefit or intersect with national railways; and

WHEREAS the national railways have historically participated in the process for construction, improvement and maintenance of drainage works; and

WHEREAS currently municipalities are experiencing a lack of coordination with national railways on drainage projects; and

WHEREAS the lack of coordination is resulting in projects being significantly delayed or cancelled within a year; and

WHEREAS municipal drains remove excess water to support public and private infrastructure and agricultural operations;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Province of Ontario work with the Federal Minister of Transportation to address concerns regarding municipal drainage matters and need for coordination with the national railways; and

THAT Council circulate the resolution to the Provincial Ministers of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, and Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Federal Minister of Transportation, the local MP and MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all municipalities.”

Municipality of Southwest Middlesex Resolution #2020-274

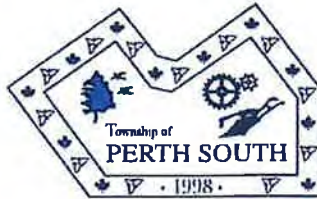
Carried

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bellchamber-Glazier".

Jillene Bellchamber-Glazier  
CAO-Clerk

Cc: The Honorable Marc Gardeau, Minister of Transport  
The Honorable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Monte McNaughton, MPP Lambton-Middlesex-London  
Lianne Rood, MP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex  
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
All Ontario Municipalities



**Corporation of the Township of Perth South**

3191 Road 122  
St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0  
Telephone 519-271-0619  
Fax 519-271-0647  
[lscott@perthsouth.ca](mailto:lscott@perthsouth.ca)

December 16, 2020

Municipality of Southwest Middlesex  
Jillene Bellchamber-Glazier, CAO-Clerk

*Sent by email*

**RE: Drainage Matters & CN Rail**

At the regular meeting of the Township of Perth South council held December 15, 2020 council received the resolution sent December 7, 2020 in regards to drainage matters and the current working relationship with CN Rail. The Township has experienced similar delays with drainage projects and agrees that the situation needs to improve. Council directed staff to send a letter of support for your resolution.

If you require any additional information please contact me.

Regards,

Lizet Scott  
Clerk

**Cc: The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport  
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Randy Pettapiece, MPP Perth Wellington  
John Nater, MP Perth Wellington  
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
All Ontario Municipalities**





**City of Welland**  
**Corporate Services**  
Office of the City Clerk  
60 East Main Street, Welland, ON L3B 3X4  
Phone: 905-735-1700 Ext. 2159 | Fax: 905-732-1919  
Email: [clerk@welland.ca](mailto:clerk@welland.ca) | [www.welland.ca](http://www.welland.ca)

Received January 26, 2021  
C-038-2021

January 25, 2021

**File No. 20-64**

SENT VIA EMAIL

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

Attention: The Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: January 19, 2021 – WELLAND CITY COUNCIL**

At its meeting of January 19, 2021, Welland City Council passed the following motion:

**"THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives for information and supports the letter from the Medical Advisory Committee; and further THAT Welland Council in the strongest possible terms, urges the Provincial Government to immediately allocate more Pfizer vaccines to Niagara and restore the allocation of Moderna that was unfairly taken away, that the Mayor be authorized to send a letter to the Premier of Ontario to this effect on behalf of Welland City Council and that this motion be forwarded to all local area municipalities, all members of the Provincial Legislature and the Medical Advisory Committee."**

Yours truly,

Tara Stephens  
City Clerk

TS:cap

- c.c.: - The Medical Advisory Committee, sent via email  
- Local Area Municipality Clerks, sent via email  
- All Members of the Provincial Legislative Assembly of Ontario, sent via email



## PORT COLBORNE

Corporate Services Department  
Clerk's Division

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street  
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 • [www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca)

T 905.835.2900 ext 106 F 905.834.5746  
E [amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca](mailto:amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca)

January 26, 2021

Received January 26, 2021  
C-039-2021

Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Federal Minister of Health  
705 Red River Road, Suite 3  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1J3

Sent via E-mail: [Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Honourable Minister:

**Re: Resolution – Medical Cannabis Grow Operations – Public Safety Concerns**

Please be advised that, at its meeting of January 11, 2021, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That Council support the correspondence received from the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board attached as Appendix A.

A copy of the above noted correspondence is enclosed for your reference. Your favourable consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Amber LaPointe  
City Clerk

Encl.

ec: Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
MP Dean Allison, Niagara West  
MP Chris Bittle, St. Catharines  
MP Tony Baldinelli, Niagara Falls  
MP Vance Badawey, Niagara Centre  
President Micki Ruth, Canadian Association of Police Governance  
Chief of Police Bryan Larkin, President, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police  
The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General  
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of the Solicitor General  
MPP Sam Oosterhoff, Niagara West

Medical Cannabis Grow Operations – Public Safety Concerns

MPP Jennie Stevens, St. Catharines  
MPP Wayne Gates, Niagara Falls  
MPP Jeff Burch, Niagara Centre  
Chair Patrick Weaver, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards  
Chief of Police Paul Pedersen, President, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police  
Regional Chair Jim Bradley and Members of Council, Niagara Region  
Mayor Dave Bylsma and Members of Council, Town of West Lincoln  
Mayor Frank Campion and Members of Council, City of Welland  
Mayor Jim Diodati and Members of Council, City of Niagara Falls  
Mayor Betty Disero and Members of Council, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Mayor Sandra Easton and Members of Council, Town of Lincoln  
Mayor Kevin Gibson and Members of Council, Township of Wainfleet  
Mayor Jeff Jordan and Members of Council, Town of Grimsby  
Mayor Marvin Junkin and Members of Council, Town of Pelham  
Mayor Wayne Redekop and Members of Council, Town of Fort Erie  
Mayor Walter Sendzik and Members of Council, City of St Catharines  
Mayor Bill Steele and Members of Council, City of Port Colborne  
Mayor Terry Ugolini and Members of Council, City of Thorold  
Board Members, Niagara Police Services Board





REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA  
**POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

5700 VALLEY WAY, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO L2E 1X8

Tel: (905) 688-4111 Fax: (289) 248-1011  
E-mail: [psb@niagarapolice.ca](mailto:psb@niagarapolice.ca)  
Website: [www.niagarapolice.ca](http://www.niagarapolice.ca)

November 4, 2020

DELIVERED BY EMAIL

The Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Minister of Health  
[patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Hajdu:

**RE: Medical Cannabis Grow Operations - Public Safety Concerns**

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We are writing on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board and the Niagara Regional Police Service to request Health Canada address proper regulation of the cannabis industry, specifically with designated medical growers who are operating outside of their medical designations.

The *Federal Cannabis Act* controls the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis in Canada, including the application and licensing of personal and commercial medical cannabis production, which should be compliant with local municipal by-laws according to criteria set out for applicants in the process administered by Health Canada as the agency responsible for approval of cannabis production facilities.

Our concerns are for the significant number of operations growing for personal medical use under the certificate/registration system set up by Health Canada. Under the legislation, an adult individual is eligible to produce cannabis for their own medical purposes. The amount permitted to grow for personal use is contingent upon the maximum daily amount prescribed by a medical practitioner and whether or not the plants are going to be grown inside, outside or a combination of both. Health Canada's regulations govern the growing of medical cannabis and allow an individual to designate another individual to grow it on their behalf.

A maximum of four (4) certificates for growing medical cannabis for personal purposes are permitted per property. As a result, a significant amount of medical cannabis may be grown on a property for personal medical use. Designated growers are permitted to grow up to 500 plants per individual license, or potentially 2,000 plants. Further, Health Canada treats the certificates as medical information and as such, operators are not required to provide their certificates to municipalities or police, which prevents municipalities or the police from determining if an operation is legally permitted or not. This is exacerbated by minimal oversight or concern from Health Canada.

Police enforcement efforts across southern Ontario, including Niagara, indicate that many growers are producing well in excess of the maximum licensed number of plants. It has become clear that the excess being produced by designated growers is being funneled to the illicit market which is mostly controlled by organized crime.

This was well documented during a large-scale, multijurisdictional illicit cannabis growing investigation in August of this year, where police seized over an estimated \$42 million in drugs, equipment, weapons and other items. This included 101,049 illegal cannabis plants; 1,921 pounds of illegal cannabis bud; 21 pounds of illegal cannabis shatter and three pounds of illegal cannabis hash.

Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon occurrence. In July 2020, Niagara Regional Police made arrests and seizures at a large illicit cannabis operation in the City of St. Catharines with over 17,000 plants. The investigation resulted in the arrest of eleven people, with an estimated \$34 million in cannabis plants. In 2018, Niagara Regional Police arrested one individual for growing over 1,000 plants at an estimated worth of over \$1 million. In 2017, Niagara Regional Police busted two large medical grow operations that were operating under fraudulent Health Canada medical licenses for personal or designated use. In 2016, an individual was arrested with 500 plants and in 2015 the Niagara Regional Police arrested another person with over 1,000 plants that was also valued at just over one million dollars.

It is apparent that criminal enterprises are abusing the Health Canada registration, using it as a loophole to grow well over the allotted amount. These organized crime groups have been exploiting Health Canada medical, personal and designate cannabis production, instead growing the plants to sell illegally. Health Canada has strict rules governing licensing, odour, security, light pollution, chemical contamination, fire hazards and the like for federally-licensed grow facilities, however; no such oversight applies to personal and designated growers.

**We are therefore urging the Federal Government to expand the legislative framework to provide greater oversight to address public safety concerns with the personal and designated medical growers who are operating outside the boundaries of their medical designations.**

These unlicensed operations have become a significant concern for residents in the Niagara Region and our local municipalities from both a health and safety lens as well as from a land use and building code situation. Local municipal governments have responsibility for the enforcement of local by-laws and ensuring life-safety compliance with fire and building code regulations, but Health Canada has no process in place to share licensing information with local authorities about the location of medical cannabis production facilities. **By way of copy, we are calling on Niagara's MPs and MPPs for support, and urging the Niagara Region and Councils of its 12 local municipalities to call on the Federal Government to put in place the needed controls and oversight permissions that will provide safety, health and personal comfort to all residents of Niagara.**

Minister, we need your help to get these issues under control. We are asking that Health Canada take action against operations that cross the line into criminality. Police resources are stretched and the need to establish criminality limits police ability to respond to these operations that are causing such concern. Police enforcement is an important tool but we need other ways to manage the growing problems these unlicensed operations are creating. We need Health Canada to implement practices that will improve the sharing of information regarding cannabis certificates with police and municipalities, outline requirements for compliance with municipal zoning by-laws, include appropriate monitoring and inspections, and consider the need to revisit the formula for determining the maximum number of plants permitted under a certificate.

The Board and Police Service would certainly be willing to further engage with Ministry personnel in an effort to share our experiences and work collaboratively to increase the effectiveness of the legislation and enhance public safety.

Your consideration of the concerns raised in this letter would be greatly appreciated and we look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



William C. Steele  
Acting Board Chair



Bryan R. MacCulloch, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

Copies to:

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
MP Dean Allison, Niagara West  
MP Chris Bittle, St. Catharines  
MP Tony Baldinelli, Niagara Falls  
MP Vance Badawey, Niagara Centre

President Micki Ruth, Canadian Association of Police Governance  
Chief of Police Bryan Larkin, President, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General  
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of the Solicitor General

MPP Sam Oosterhoff, Niagara West  
MPP Jennie Stevens, St. Catharines  
MPP Wayne Gates, Niagara Falls  
MPP Jeff Burch, Niagara Centre

Chair Patrick Weaver, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards  
Chief of Police Paul Pedersen, President, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

Regional Chair Jim Bradley and Members of Council, Niagara Region  
Mayor Dave Bylsma and Members of Council, Town of West Lincoln  
Mayor Frank Campion and Members of Council, City of Welland  
Mayor Jim Diodati and Members of Council, City of Niagara Falls  
Mayor Betty Disero and Members of Council, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Mayor Sandra Easton and Members of Council, Town of Lincoln  
Mayor Kevin Gibson and Members of Council, Township of Wainfleet  
Mayor Jeff Jordan and Members of Council, Town of Grimsby  
Mayor Marvin Junkin and Members of Council, Town of Pelham  
Mayor Wayne Redekop and Members of Council, Town of Fort Erie  
Mayor Walter Sendzik and Members of Council, City of St Catharines  
Mayor Bill Steele and Members of Council, City of Port Colborne  
Mayor Terry Ugulini and Members of Council, City of Thorold

Board Members, Niagara Police Services Board



## PORT COLBORNE

Corporate Services Department  
Clerk's Division

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street  
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 • [www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca)

T 905.835.2900 ext 106 F 905.834.5746  
E [amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca](mailto:amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca)

Received January 26, 2021  
C-040-2021

January 26, 2021

Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Federal Minister of Health  
705 Red River Road, Suite 3  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1J3

**Sent via E-mail: [Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca)**

Dear Honourable Minister:

**Re: Resolution – Unlicensed and unmonitored cannabis grow operations**

Please be advised that, at its meeting of January 11, 2021, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That Council support the correspondence item attached as Appendix B from the Township of Blandford-Blenheim regarding Cannabis Production.

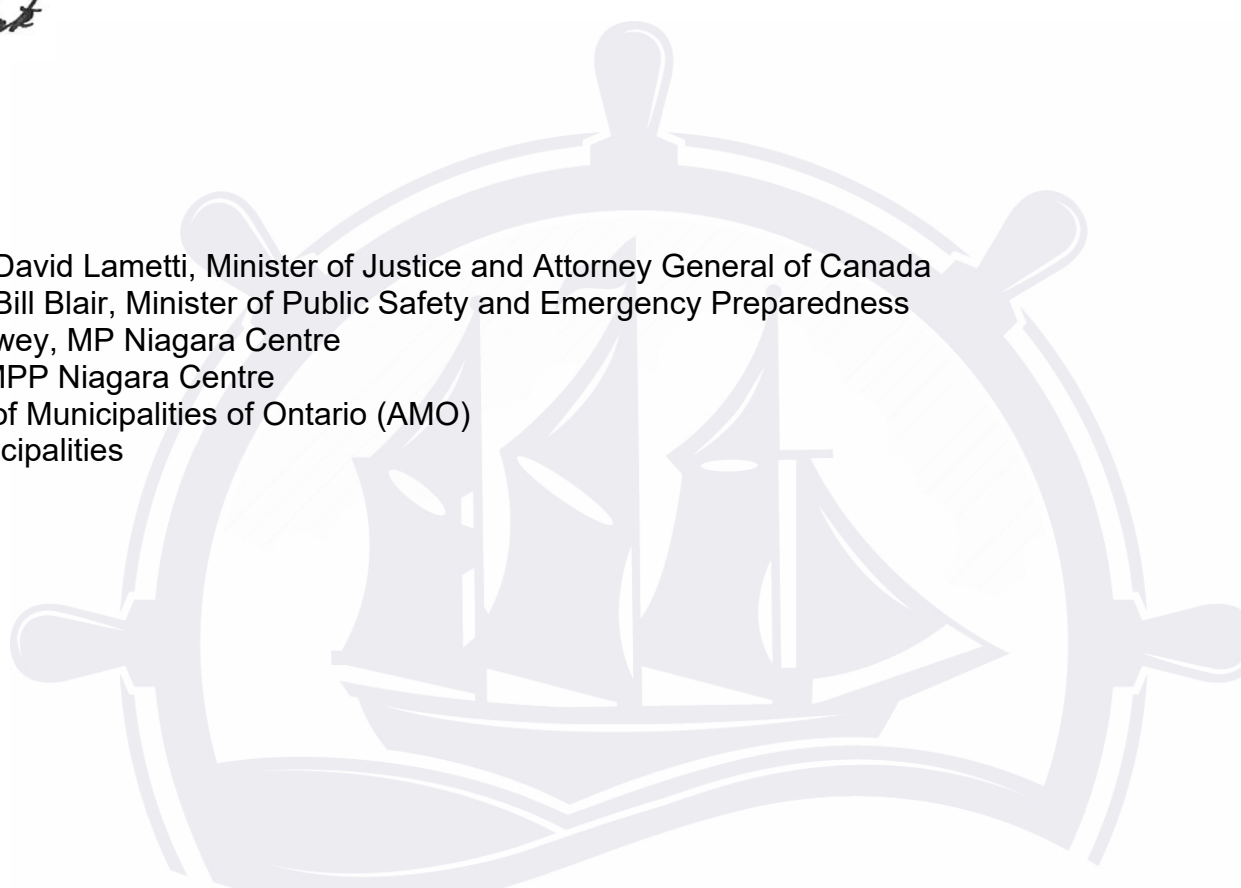
A copy of the above noted correspondence is enclosed for your reference. Your favourable consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Amber LaPointe  
City Clerk

Encl.

ec: Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
Vance Badawey, MP Niagara Centre  
Jeff Burch, MPP Niagara Centre  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Ontario Municipalities





## Township of Blandford-Blenheim

47 Wilmot Street South  
Drumbo, Ontario N0J 1G0

Phone: 519-463-5347  
Fax: 519-463-5881  
Web: [www.blandfordblenheim.ca](http://www.blandfordblenheim.ca)

---

October 13, 2020

Emailed to the Federal Minister of Health, Federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Federal Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Oxford MP, Oxford MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all municipalities in Ontario.

### **Re: Unlicensed and unmonitored cannabis grow operations**

Please be advised that at the Regular Meeting of Council on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Council of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim passed the following resolution:

**Resolution Number: 2020-14**

**Moved by: Councillor Nancy Demarest**

**Seconded by: Councill Bruce Banbury**

**“That Whereas unlicensed and unmonitored cannabis grow operations have increasingly become a problem in communities in Ontario as well as across the Country; and,**

**Whereas these operations are allowed to establish with little or no consultation with the local community and municipalities are often only made aware of their existence after conflicts arise with neighboring land owners; and,**

**Whereas loopholes in existing Federal legislation allow these large scale grow op’s to establish and operate without any of the regulations or protocols that licensed and monitored operations need to adhere to,**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim urges the Federal Government to amend the legislation under which these facilities operate to ensure the safety and rights of the local communities in which they are situated are respected; and,**

**That this resolution be forwarded to the Federal Minister of Health, Federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Federal Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Oxford MP, Oxford MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all municipalities in Ontario.”**

Regards,

Sarah Matheson  
Deputy Clerk  
Township of Blandford-Blenheim





**City of Welland**  
**Corporate Services**  
Office of the City Clerk  
60 East Main Street, Welland, ON L3B 3X4  
**Phone:** 905-735-1700 Ext. 2159 | **Fax:** 905-732-1919  
**Email:** clerk@welland.ca | www.welland.ca

Received January 26, 2021  
C-041-2021

April 22, 2020

File No. 21-30

SENT VIA EMAIL

Office of the Regional Clerk  
Niagara Regional Council  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way  
P.O. Box 1042  
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Attention: Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Dear Ms. Norio:

**Re: January 19, 2021 – WELLAND CITY COUNCIL**

At its meeting of January 19, 2021, Welland City Council passed the following motion:

**“THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND requests the Niagara Region to declare a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness and addiction; and further**

**The Niagara Regional Council, Niagara Region Public Health and Social Services, Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health, Minister of the Attorney General, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Niagara Center MPP be copied on this resolution.”**

Yours truly,

Tara Stephens  
City Clerk

TS:cap

c.c.: Niagara Region Public Health, sent via email  
Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, sent via email  
Minister of the Attorney General, sent via email  
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, sent via email  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, sent via email  
Niagara MPPs, sent via email  
Local Municipalities, sent via email  
Adam Eckhart, Fire Chief, sent via email

**CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY**

Resolution #

8

Date:

Monday, January 25, 2021

---

**Moved by:** Jacques Massie

**Seconded by:** Brenda Noble

THAT the Council of the Township of North Glengarry request that the Province of Ontario allow for small businesses to immediately reopen with the required health guidelines and protocols in place; and

THAT this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP Jim McDonell, and circulated to all municipalities in Ontario.

Carried

Deferred

Defeated

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor / Deputy Mayor



Received January 27, 2021  
C-043-2021

January 26, 2021

Honourable Christine Elliott  
Minister of Health  
5th Floor - 777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
Sent via email: christine.elliott@pc.ola.org

**Re: Hospice Workers**

Dear Honourable Christine Elliott:

Please be advised that the City Council of Niagara Falls at its meeting of January 19, 2021 passed the following motion:

**That Council receive and support correspondence from the City of St. Catharines dated December 9, 2020 recommending the Ontario's Health Minister accept Hospice Niagara's request to fully fund all hospice health care workers.**

Attached please find a copy of the City of St. Catharines' correspondence dated December 9, 2020.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Bill Matson*

Bill Matson  
City Clerk

Attach  
c.c.

Dean Allison, MP, Niagara West dean.allison@parl.gc.ca  
Chris Bittle, MP, St. Catharines chris.bittle@parl.gc.ca  
Tony Baldinelli, MP, Niagara Falls tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca  
Vance Badawey, MP, Niagara Centre vance.badawey@parl.gc.ca  
Niagara Region  
Local Area Municipalities

***Working Together to Serve Our Community***

Clerks  
Ext 4342 Fax 905-356-9083  
billmatson@niagarafalls.ca



December 9, 2020

Honourable Christine Elliott  
Minister of Health  
5th Floor - 777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Sent via email: [christine.elliott@pc.ola.org](mailto:christine.elliott@pc.ola.org)

**Re: Hospice Workers  
Our File 10.57.99**

Honourable Minister,

At its meeting held on November 30, 2020, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

“WHEREAS Hospice Niagara, and hospices across this province, provide a number of critical services needed by Ontario and Niagara residents including: end of life Hospice Residence care; in-Home Palliative Care; Day Hospice; Bereavement Support; and Education and Consultation; and

WHEREAS these services provide a central role in decreasing hospital emergency department volume, incidents of hallway medicine and costly hospital admissions for palliative and end-of-life care; and

WHEREAS Hospice care is the only health service whose health care workers are not fully funded by the Province and hospices and provincial organizations have requested that this funding be provided as delegations before the Standing Committee regarding Bill 3, the Compassionate Care Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Catharines recommends that Ontario's Health Ministry accept Hospice Niagara's request and start fully funding all hospice health care workers fully, and right away; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be forwarded directly to the Minister of Health Christine Elliot, all Niagara MPPs, the Region of Niagara and all Niagara municipalities.”

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Nistico-Dunk".

Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk  
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk  
:em



Cc Chris Bittle, MP - St. Catharines, [Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca)  
Vance Badawey, MP - Niagara Centre, [Vance.Badawev@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Vance.Badawev@parl.gc.ca)  
Dean Allison, MP - Niagara West, [dean.allison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:dean.allison@parl.gc.ca)  
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Postal Box 590  
Gore Bay, Ontario  
POB 1H0

Received January 28, 2021  
C-044-2021

Office of the

CAO/Clerk

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January 25, 2021

Dan Thibeault  
Clerk Treasurer CAO  
Municipality of Charlton and Dack  
287237 Sprucegrove Road  
Englehart, ON P0J 1H0

Re: Motion Regarding Insurance

Please be advised that at a recent Council meeting held on January 11, 2021 Council reviewed your correspondence regarding the increased cost of municipal insurance.

The Town of Gore Bay is in support for the Municipality of Charlton and Dack to urge the Province of Ontario to immediately review the recommendations and investigate the unethical practices of preferred vendors who are paid substantial amounts over the industry standard despite Covid 19 delays, as insurance premiums will soon be out of reach for many communities.

Please find attached a certified true copy of Resolution No. 14993 indicating the Town of Gore Bay's support.

Yours truly,

Stasia Carr  
CAO/Clerk  
Encl.  
SC/pf

CC: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance  
Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario  
All Ontario Municipalities

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GORE BAY**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 14993**

14993

Moved by Jack Clark

Seconded by Aaron Wright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Gore Bay Council send a letter of support to the Municipality of Charleton and Dack to immediately review the recommendations to investigate the unethical practice of preferred vendors who are paid substantial amounts over industry standards, despite COVID 19 delays, as insurance premiums will soon be out of reach for many communities;

FURTHER, this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario and all other Ontario municipalities.

Carried

THIS IS A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY  
OF RESOLUTION NUMBER 14993  
ADOPTED BY COUNCIL ON  
January 11, 2021



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Stasia Carr  
CAO/Clerk