

1. **C-2024-333**
Correspondence received July 10, 2024 from the Town of Pelham respecting a Notice of the Passing of Zoning By-law Amendment - Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Production (File No. AM-05-2024).
2. **C-2024-334**
Correspondence dated July 11, 2024 from the Office of the Regional Chair to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a call to increase Social Assistance Rates in the Province of Ontario.
3. **C-2024-335**
Correspondence dated July 12, 2024 from CN respecting a request to proclaim September 23-29, 2024 as Rail Safety Week.
4. **C-2024-336**
Correspondence dated July 12, 2024 from the Town of Cochrane to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a resolution calling for amendment to Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box for 'Ineligible' Sources.
5. **C-2024-337**
Correspondence dated July 12, 2024 from Samantha Girhiny respecting a request for a 4 way stop at the corner of O'Reilly's Road and Regional Road 27.
6. **C-2024-338**
Correspondence dated July 12, 2024 from the City of Stratford respecting a resolution of support for the Prince Edward County correspondence regarding a Call to Action to Meet the Deadline of an Accessible Ontario by 2025.
7. **C-2024-339**
Correspondence received July 16, 2024 from the Township of Larder Lake respecting a resolution calling for the Province of Ontario to undertake with AMO a social and economic prosperity review.
8. **C-2024-340**
Correspondence dated July 17, 2024 from Niagara Region Waste Management Services respecting Niagara Region Waste Management Strategic Plan Phase One Update and Upcoming Phase Two Engagement Opportunities.

NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

Cannabis and Industrial Hemp Production (File No. AM-05-2024)

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Pelham passed By-Law No. 47 (2024) on July 10, 2024, being a by-law which amends Zoning By-law No. 4481 (2022), as amended, under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that a specified person, public body or the registered owner of any land to which the by-law would apply, who before the by-law was passed made oral submissions at the public meeting or written submissions to Council, or the Minister may appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) in respect of the by-law by filing an appeal with the Clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Pelham not later than **Wednesday, July 30, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.** A completed "Appellant Form (A1) Planning Act" which must include the reasons for the appeal together with a certified cheque for \$1,100.00 payable to the Minister of Finance. An Appellant may request a reduction of the filing fee to \$400, if the Appellant is a private citizen or eligible community group. The request for a reduction in the fee must be made at the time of filing the appeal. Please use the OLT [Request for Fee Reduction Form](#).

The **Appellant Form (A1)** is on the **Service Ontario** website. Only a specified person, public body or the registered owner of any land to which the by-law would apply who, before the by-law was passed made oral submissions at the public meeting or written submissions to Council, or the Minister may appeal the Zoning By-law amendment to the OLT. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or group on its behalf. No specified person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless before the by-law is passed the specified person or public body made oral submissions at the public meeting or written submissions to Council, or in the opinion of the OLT, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party. An Appellant Form (A1) may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, an Appellant Form (A1) may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group.

Planning staff's recommendation report was presented to Council on July 10, 2024. The report can be found online at <https://events.pelham.ca/meetings>.

The explanation of the purpose and effect of the by-law is attached. The complete by-law is available for public review by request via email or at the Town of Pelham Municipal Office, Community Planning & Development Department, located at 20 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

DATED at the Town of Pelham, this 10th day of July 2024.

HOLLY WILFORD – TOWN CLERK

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM
P. O. BOX 400, 20 PELHAM TOWN SQUARE
FONTHILL, ON L0S 1E0

EXPLANATION OF THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT (BY-LAW NO. 47(2024))

ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT - BY-LAW 47 (2024) is a By-law to amend Zoning By-law 4481(2022), as amended, to incorporate regulations approved by the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) to regulate cannabis and industrial hemp production in Pelham.

Changes were made to:

- Section 2: Definitions
 - Introducing definitions for:
 - Cannabis-Related Use – Indoor and Outdoor;
 - Industrial Hemp-Related Use – Indoor and Outdoor; and
 - Sensitive Land Use.
- Section 4: Parking Provisions
 - Regulations specific to indoor cannabis and industrial hemp-related uses.
- Section 5: Rural/Agricultural Zones
 - Update Section 5.1.2 and 5.2.2 to include a setback from sensitive land uses;
 - Creation of Agricultural Cannabis Zone, Specialty Agriculture Cannabis Zone and Rural Employment Cannabis Zone;
 - Zone provisions to regulate: lot frontage; lot area; lot coverage; minimum front, side, rear and exterior lot lines; and
 - Regulations prohibiting a retail store as an accessory use and setback requirements for storage areas.



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Received July 12, 2024
C-2024-334

July 11, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Bldg Rm 281, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Sent by e-mail: premier@ontario.ca

RE: Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy – Social Assistance Rates

A five-year community-led Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) (2024-2028) was launched in March 2024 and approved by Niagara Regional Council.

The strategy reflects concerns, opportunities and actions identified by residents during a broad engagement process and outlines eight Areas of Focus with one recommendation for each area. The Areas of Focus are: Indigenous Well-Being, Housing, Income, Employment, Food Security, Early Child Development, Transportation, and Mental Health and Addiction. Each Area of Focus includes one recommendation and a set of actions that addresses the issue of poverty within that area.

Within the strategy, income was identified as the primary determinant of poverty. The recommendation that addresses income levels calls for Niagara to advocate for adequate, liveable rates from government income assistance programs.

At the June 27, 2024, meeting of Niagara Regional Council a motion was passed calling for a copy of the NPRS be circulated and for the provincial government to increase the Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) basic financial assistance rates and establish a policy to index rates to inflation for OW.

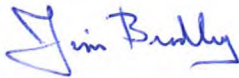
The approved motion is as follows:

1. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send correspondence to the Provincial Government requesting that action be taken to increase the Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) basic financial assistance rates and establish a policy to index rates to inflation for OW similar to ODSP, to mitigate further hardship that has resulted from frozen rates.

2. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to circulate a copy of the Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy and associated correspondence to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), local area MPs and MPPs and local area municipalities for consideration of further actions required to address poverty.

To this end, as directed by Regional Council, I want to formally request that the Provincial Government increase the Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) basic financial assistance rates and begin a collaborative process to develop and implement a policy to index rates to inflation for OW.

Sincerely,



Jim Bradley, Chair
Niagara Region

cc: The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
The Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP, Niagara West
Jeff Burch, MPP, Niagara Centre
Wayne Gates, MPP, Niagara Falls
Jennifer (Jennie) Stevens, MPP, St. Catharines

Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy

2024 - 2028

Acknowledgements

Authors

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Niagara Region

Contributors

Residents and community champions made this strategy possible.

Thank you to the hundreds of people in Niagara for sharing their time, wisdom, commitment and stories. Thank you to community groups listed in "[Appendix A: Locations of community engagement](#)" on page 33 for hosting sessions to increase the reach of engagement and facilitators for leading meaningful community conversations.

Special thanks to

Mary Ellen Simon

Director of Housing, Niagara Regional Native Centre
leading engagement with Indigenous community in Niagara

Olivia Schmidt

Student, Brock University
supporting research referencing

Rachel Sam

Former Poverty Reduction Strategy Advisor,
Niagara Region (Phase 1)
community engagement and research review

Land acknowledgement

Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The Regional Municipality of Niagara stands with all Indigenous peoples, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

The Regional Municipality of Niagara is committed to equity and respect for all by ensuring Indigenous voices are heard and included in our plans and programs. In addition, we are committed to eradicating anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination within our community.

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A message from the Poverty Reduction Steering Committee

The goal of this strategy is:

Working together to prevent and end poverty and increase well-being in Niagara.

The Poverty Reduction Steering Committee, made up of individuals from government, Niagara residents, Indigenous community, education and health, is pleased to present Niagara's Poverty Reduction Strategy. It is the mission of this committee and of this strategy that by **working together to prevent and end poverty and increase well-being in Niagara** we will create positive change for our community.

This strategy has been shaped by diverse voices of residents in Niagara including those who are disproportionately affected by poverty. The actions outlined in the strategy are supported by research and best practices and inspired by work happening in other communities to end poverty.

The Committee played a pivotal role in developing the recommendations, identifying interconnected strategies and providing input into the development of a picture of poverty in Niagara – what poverty is, what poverty means in people's lives and how poverty affects all of us.

Through the community's voice, the Committee selected the Areas of Focus of this strategy and prioritized eight recommendations aligned with best practice and existing strategies. These Areas of Focus are Indigenous well-being, housing, income, employment, food security, early child development, transportation, mental health and addiction. Preventing and ending poverty will be achieved by working together as a community to strategically address factors that impact and reduce poverty within these Areas of Focus.

During implementation, the Committee will look at ways to increase opportunities for a network of champions to exchange ideas and harness the power of their successes. The Committee will call on a collaborative approach. **To achieve success, we need people with lived expertise, Indigenous peoples, and other residents, along with representatives from government, funders, businesses, health and educational institutions, non-profit organizations, service clubs and associations to collaborate, share leadership, exchange ideas, engage community and mobilize action.**

We recognize that ending poverty will take more than five years given the complex nature of poverty and the need for a community-wide response. This strategy provides a major step to achieve this goal. We thank everyone who engaged in community conversations and look forward to continuing our collaborative work to end poverty in Niagara.

Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy

Steering Committee members

Lori Watson (Chair)

Director, Community Services

Haley Bateman

Niagara Regional Councillor

Laura Ip

Niagara Regional Councillor

David Oakes

Chief Administrative Officer,
City of St. Catharines

Arceli Olivares

Niagara resident

Christina Thomas

Niagara resident

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Niagara Regional Native Centre

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Indigenous Community Connections Facilitator,
Niagara Catholic District School Board

Jon Braithwaite

Chief Executive Officer,
The Hope Centre

Jennifer Gauthier

Executive Director,
Birchway and Chair Niagara Poverty
Reduction Network

Vivian Kinnaird

Chief Executive Officer,
Workforce Collective

Taralea McLean

Executive Director,
Bridges Community Health Centre

Mary-Beth Raddon

Department Chair Sociology,
Brock University

Carla Stout

General Manager,
Niagara Transit Commission

Ruth Unrau

Host, Niagara Made,
NewsTalk 610 CKTB

Nadine Wallace

Executive Director,
Contact Niagara

Why Niagara needs a strategy

A strategy lays a foundation to build a community of best practice as it relates to how and when we interact and provide service. Recognizing that Niagara Region and many local providers already deliver services to lift people out of poverty, this strategy provides a way to identify best practice, uncover gaps and leverage local knowledge to inform future action. The strategy can play a significant role to inform where to best invest resources in areas such as housing, economic development, child care, transit and the Niagara Prosperity Initiative, to have the biggest impact on poverty reduction.

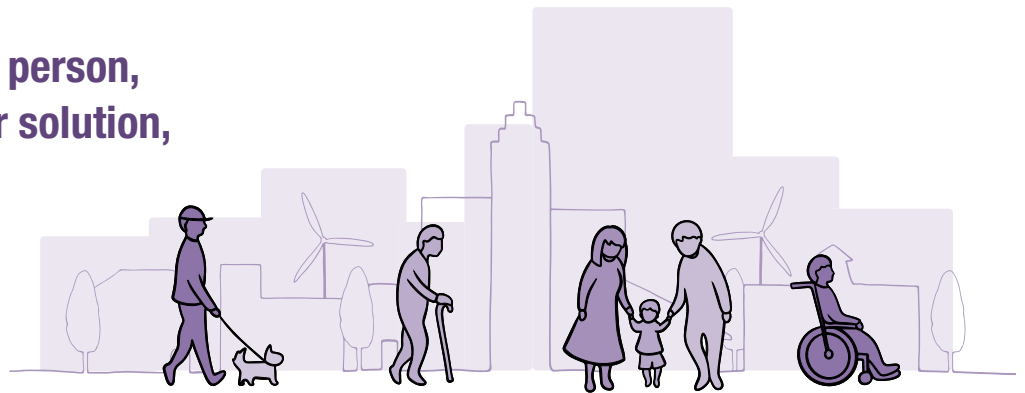
Definition and impacts of poverty

The Government of Canada's first Poverty Reduction Strategy, released in 2018, describes poverty as "the condition of a person who is deprived of the resources, means, choices and power necessary to acquire and maintain a basic living standard needed to promote and facilitate integration and participation in society".¹

Poverty is a complex issue with no single solution. We recognize that everyone experiences poverty differently. Each person's story is unique and a result of multiple complex and interrelated causes. As described by Tamarack, a Canadian institute that supports strategies that enable people to learn with and from each other to solve major community challenges, "There are many interconnected reasons why people are poor.

For practically every family, every problem magnifies the impact of the others, and all are so tightly interlocked that one reversal can produce a chain reaction with results far distant from the original cause. If problems are interlocking, then so must be solutions. A job alone is not enough. Medical insurance alone is not enough. Good housing alone is not enough. Reliable transportation, careful family budgeting, effective parenting, effective schooling, are not enough when each is achieved in isolation from the rest. There is no single variable that can be altered to help people move away from poverty. **If problems are interlocking, then solutions must also be interlocking".²**

Poverty is unique to each person, complex, with no singular solution, a human rights issue



- 1 Employment and Social Development Canada. (2018). Opportunity for All-Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy, 7.
- 2 Loewen, G. (2009). Compendium of Poverty Reduction Strategies and Frameworks. Tamarack An Institute for Community Engagement, 9.

Community Input

The complexity and interconnectedness of poverty was evident during engagement. When talking about the experience of living in poverty, Niagara residents used words such as **depression, hopelessness and despair**, and they linked poverty to negative outcomes such as gender-based violence, discrimination, homelessness, victimization and exploitation. Research reinforces the interconnectedness of poverty with many issues. For example, “reducing financial stress may decrease potential for relationship conflict and dissatisfaction, which are strong predictors of gender-based violence.”³

Further, participants spoke to elements of social and spiritual poverty through stigma, social isolation and lack of purpose. Social poverty exists where people are isolated and lack the formal and informal supports necessary to be resilient in times of crisis and change. Spiritual poverty exists where people lack meaning and purpose in their lives.⁴

Poverty is a human rights issue. Human rights are the basic rights every person has, inherently and universally, to live with safety and dignity. Examples include the right to work, the right to adequate food and the right to housing. In October 2023, the Ontario Human Rights Commission released its Human Rights-Based Approach Framework.⁵

We will leverage this framework to bring a human rights approach to ensure an equitable, inclusive Niagara that provides enough for all.

3 Niolon, P. H., Kearns, M., Dills, J., Rambo, K., Irving, S., Armstead, T., & Gilbert, L. (2017). Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan: A Technical Package of Programs, Policies, and Practices. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

4 Poverty Institute (n.d.). Poverty in Canada. povertyinstitute.ca/poverty-canada

5 Ontario Human Rights Commission. (2023). Human Rights-Based Approach Framework.

Poverty in Niagara

The Low-Income Measure After-Tax is an established measure of poverty in Canada. All persons in a household are considered to be living in poverty if their household income falls below half of median incomes of the same household size.

To fully comprehend the state of poverty in Niagara, it is important to understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In pre-pandemic statistics of 2016, Niagara had 14.5 per cent of people living in poverty (64,944 people). Numbers from Statistics Canada in 2021 indicate that Niagara had 10.4 per cent of people living in poverty (49,706 people).⁶

The National Advisory Council on Poverty in their 2023 report, “Blueprint for Transformation”, indicated that the temporary increase in government transfers available during the pandemic influenced the 2021 poverty statistics. This growth in income protected people from falling into poverty and helped lift many people out of poverty. In Niagara, 15,238 people in Niagara temporarily moved out of poverty, a change of four per cent from 2016 to 2021. This information reconciles with what local service providers saw. For example, food banks reported a drop in visits during that time; however, since 2021, use of food banks has significantly increased from pre-pandemic visits. This suggests that income-based solutions are key to reducing poverty.

As cautioned by the National Advisory Council on Poverty, the phasing out of the COVID-19 income supports alongside higher inflation and increasing cost of living mean that poverty rates have likely increased. It is important to keep this context in mind when comparing the poverty rate to earlier years.

⁶ Source. Statistics Canada, Census Profiles, 2016 and 2021 Census of Population. Low Income Measure After Tax (LIM-AT).

One Niagara Regional grant program that has a direct goal to alleviate and reduce poverty in Niagara, is the Niagara Prosperity Initiative. Since its inception in 2008, Regional Council approved \$1.5 million annually to fund local projects. This funding resulted in work with over 90 organizations and over 400 innovative neighbourhood-based projects, impacting over 100,000 families and individuals living in poverty in Niagara.

Recognizing local evidence that indicated that the pandemic had exacerbated and amplified many issues caused by poverty, the 2022 Niagara Prosperity Initiative targeted funding into six areas:

- Indigenous well-being
- Early child development
- Housing and homelessness
- Food security
- Domestic violence
- Living wage

The Niagara Prosperity Initiative is one funding source that we can use to enhance actions identified in this strategy. Evaluation of outcomes of funded projects will inform future investments. Staff will align the Niagara Prosperity Initiative with the Poverty Reduction Strategy to distribute resources where they can have the greatest effect.

Indigenous prosperity

Prosperity for Indigenous peoples in the Niagara region will require a deep understanding of Indigenous history and culture to incorporate the mental, physical, spiritual and emotional well-being of the individual, family and both human and non-human communities simultaneously. Culturally safe environments for Indigenous peoples are needed to engage and build relationships with municipal governments.

It is well established that existing systems perpetuate colonization and racism, and that many of them fail to support Indigenous peoples. It is important to understand the role that colonialism plays in poverty in Indigenous communities and its continued existence today.⁷

Niagara Region acknowledges that colonialism and past actions and inactions across all levels of government have created discriminatory policies and practices against Indigenous peoples. This has had direct, widespread and devastating effects on the health and well-being of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities. We need to move beyond acknowledgement and take actions to change this. Municipal governments, as well as other levels of government in Canada, share responsibility and have a significant role to play in eradicating anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination and fostering equity and respect for all.

⁷ Employment and Social Development Canada. (2021). Understanding systems: The 2021 report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty.

How we developed the strategy

In October 2021, Niagara Region staff received Council approval to develop a Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy and a new approach for Niagara Prosperity Initiative investments. The Niagara Prosperity Initiative is an annual investment by the Region towards poverty reduction. Development of a Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy meets recommendations put forth in the **Connecting the Pieces: An Evaluation of the Niagara Prosperity Initiative** report by Brock University and the **Niagara Community Safety and Well-Being Plan** (niagararegion.ca/community-safety/plan.aspx)

Stages of strategy development

This strategy is driven by diverse perspectives and experiences. We heard from people who are disproportionately affected by poverty and typically underrepresented in research. Recommendations are supported by research.

The community spoke. We listened. Together, we developed a strategy

Niagara Regional Council approves development of a local poverty reduction strategy

1000+ residents give input about an ideal future state, challenges, strengths and actions

200+ Indigenous people give input about Indigenous prosperity

Staff review research to identify best practices to address poverty

Staff draft recommendations based on community input and best practices

Staff engage with Local Area Municipalities

100+ content experts validate recommendations

Niagara Region staff indicate alignment with other Niagara Region plans

Steering Committee prioritize recommendations based on impact, effort and community support



Council Strategic Priorities - Equitable Region

Economic Development Strategy	Children's Services Service System Plan	Consolidated Housing Master Plan	Community Safety and Well-Being Plan	Poverty Reduction Strategy
Niagara Prosperity Initiative	Transportation Master Plan	Housing and Homelessness Action Plan	Indigenous Action Plan	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan

Engaging community

Residents who participated in Community Conversations envisioned an ideal future state, spoke to challenges, identified community strengths and recommended actions.

For details about input provided by residents, read the [Interim Report on Community Engagement](https://niagararegion.ca/community-safety/poverty-reduction-strategy/interim-report-community-engagement.aspx).
niagararegion.ca/community-safety/poverty-reduction-strategy/interim-report-community-engagement.aspx

When asked about an ideal future state, the community envisioned:

A Niagara that is...

- Equitable and inclusive
- Meeting all residents' basic needs
- Supportive, accessible and allows people to live with dignity
- Community-oriented
- Safe
- Prosperous
- Healthy and well
- A great place to raise a family

The Niagara Regional Native Centre's Director of Housing met with the Indigenous community in Niagara to discuss Indigenous Prosperity. Respondents emphasized the importance of:

- Indigenous identity
- Non-Indigenous relationships
- Culture
- Community development
- Education
- Equity
- Self-determination
- Health/well-being
- Housing
- Safety
- Spirituality
- Financial well-being

Introduction to the strategy

The goal of Niagara's five-year Poverty Reduction Strategy is:

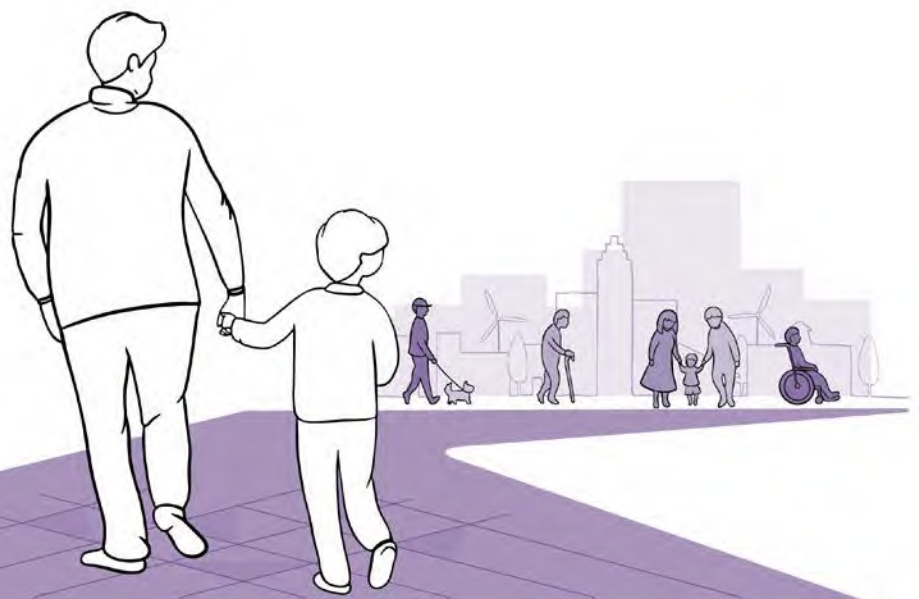
Working together to prevent and end poverty and increase well-being in Niagara.

This strategy reflects concerns, opportunities and actions identified by residents during a broad engagement process.

The community identified eight Areas of Focus for the Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy. Each Area of Focus includes one recommendation and a set of actions that address the issue of poverty within that area.

In total, the community identified over 100 actions to reduce poverty. In the following pages, we list actions that:

- Are supported by research
- Consider impact, effort, and community support to make them happen
- Align with Niagara Region Council priorities



Areas of focus

Through community conversations, eight Areas of Focus emerged



Indigenous well-being

Indigenous community to develop a strategy for Indigenous specific poverty reduction initiatives.



Housing

Provide housing stability services for people living in poverty to maintain current housing, prevent eviction, improve social inclusion and access income through periods of financial instability.



Income

Increase opportunities for living wage employment in Niagara and advocate for adequate, livable rates from government income assistance programs.



Employment

Promote and develop decent work opportunities that provide fair wages, and benefits and fosters stable, consistent and safe employment.



Food security

Improve access to fresh, culturally appropriate, affordable and nutritious foods through income-based solutions to food insecurity.



Early child development

Improve access to affordable, high-quality child care for families living in poverty or at risk of poverty.



Transportation

Continue the work of Niagara Region Transit to achieve affordable and equitable access to services across municipalities.



Mental health and addiction

Enhance core service capacity and offer a choice of timely, early recovery interventions and treatments for people who are living in poverty or at risk of poverty.



Indigenous well-being

Most Indigenous people who responded to a survey that asked, “what do you believe is Indigenous Prosperity?” identified that community development, Indigenous identity, culture and self-determination were essential components of prosperity. Respondents talked about the need to improve on services that impact the education, health, housing, income and safety of Indigenous peoples. Not only are more services needed, but we also need to address how we deliver these services. Mainstream services need to be respectful of Indigenous cultural practices and social values of the Indigenous community.

The Indigenous community has called upon the Niagara Region to adopt a bottom-up approach to addressing Indigenous well-being. Indigenous peoples have the right to “pursue their economic, social and cultural development”, and so must be able to determine their own futures and develop poverty reduction strategies that meet their specific needs and priorities, enabling them to pursue their own economic development opportunities and carve their own path towards greater independence and self-sufficiency.

Recommendation

Indigenous community to develop a strategy for Indigenous specific poverty reduction initiatives.

Action

- Work in partnership with Indigenous community leaders to develop a strategy driven by a community process



Housing

Residents named housing and homelessness as one of the biggest and most visible poverty-related challenges for Niagara. They expressed concern with the lack of available housing, affordability, accessibility and quality of housing in Niagara. This is especially true for those living on a fixed income.

Recommendation

Provide housing stability services for people living in poverty to maintain their current housing, prevent eviction, improve social inclusion and access income through periods of financial instability.

Action

- Improve relationships between tenants and property owners to reduce evictions
- Expand the use of quick reconnects of financial and other supports for people who have previously been homeless
- Increase legal supports for people in low-income households
- Increase early identification of housing related risk
- Address needs of those escaping gender-based violence

Implementation of this recommendation will align with Niagara Region's Housing Master Plan and with the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan which uses best practice approaches, including Housing First⁸ and Built for Zero⁹ as a foundation.

8 Supportive Housing Programs. (n.d.). Niagara Region. niagararegion.ca/housing-homelessness/supportive-housing-programs.aspx

9 Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. (n.d.). Built for Zero Canada. bfzcanada.ca/



Income

Residents pointed to income as the primary determinant of poverty. They identified two points of focus that affect income, availability of a living wage and adequacy of social assistance. A living wage is the hourly wage a worker needs to earn to cover their basic expenses and participate in their community. Employees that earn a living wage can face fewer stressors and employers that pay a living wage can be confident they are not keeping their employees in poverty.

The rising unaffordability of the basics such as housing, food and transportation are additional barriers. Unfortunately, the gap between income and the rising cost of living has continued to grow. Residents noted that the face of poverty has not changed, just expanded to include more people who used to be “middle-income.”

Recommendation

Increase opportunities for living wage employment in Niagara and advocate for adequate, liveable rates from government income assistance programs.

Action

- Increase awareness, support for and adoption of living wage in Niagara as a poverty reduction effort
- Advocate to federal and provincial governments to:
 - Develop and implement a Universal Basic Income
 - Increase government programs that provide income and benefits (e.g., Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, Canadian Pension Plan, Old Age Security)
 - Improve access and eligibility for people living in poverty to access health benefits such as dental services, drug benefits and eyeglasses



Employment

Residents noted a disconnect between existing skill sets and job requirements in Niagara. Others noted that the quality of employment in Niagara is lacking. For people with disabilities, options are not always accommodating. A larger topic of conversation focused on racism and implicit bias that exists in hiring practices in Niagara.

Recommendation

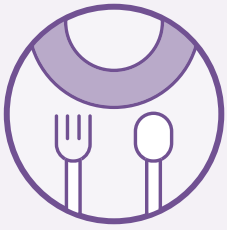
Promote and develop decent¹⁰ work opportunities that provide fair wages and benefits and foster stable, consistent and safe employment.

Action

- Increase vocation training for those living in poverty, so that they qualify for stable employment opportunities relevant to local industries
- Increase internships and apprenticeship opportunities for foreign trained newcomers to be able to work while obtaining Canadian credentials
- Explore a social procurement policy for Niagara Region that increases opportunities for small businesses and equity seeking groups

Implementation of this recommendation will align with Niagara Region's Economic Development Strategy. Regional staff in Economic Development foster regional growth by attracting and facilitating investment. They promote Niagara globally and support new and existing businesses to create and expand decent jobs. This work supports poverty reduction by facilitating an environment conducive to new job creation, investment and economic opportunities. New investments result in incremental improvements to the economy, new jobs for residents and additional tax revenue.

10 Decent work involves employment that is productive and delivers a fair income. It also should ensure workplace security, social protection, better prospects for personal development and social integration.” Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development Goals. sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8



Food security

Residents indicated that the primary problem with food security in Niagara is income and affordability.

With the cost of living exponentially increasing and incomes largely staying the same, an increasing number of residents are having to choose between paying their bills or purchasing groceries.

Recommendation

Improve access to fresh, culturally appropriate, affordable and nutritious foods through income-based solutions to food insecurity.

Action

- Advocate to federal and provincial governments to implement evidence-based policy solutions to reduce food insecurity
- Pilot interventions that reduce barriers to food access in identified priority neighbourhoods
- Continue to monitor and report the prevalence and severity of food insecurity and effective interventions to build awareness and knowledge about the problem and support for actions

To better understand the issues of food security, Niagara Region Public Health is mapping the food environment to determine locations of food deserts¹¹. This work can inform service, planning and decision making.

11 Food deserts are geographic areas that have limited access to healthy food. In some neighbourhoods, lack of economic resources and transportation can cause geographical barriers to access affordable healthy food. In these cases, residents may be dependent on convenience stores and fast-food restaurants resulting in lower quality of diets. This may be especially true for individuals living in rural areas.” Source: National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health. (2017). Food Deserts and Food Swamps: A Primer.



Early child development

Residents identified the need to address intergenerational poverty and to focus prevention efforts at childhood. Service providers noted that Niagara's children are vulnerable in many domains of childhood development, and this is often tied to socioeconomic status. Parents expressed how impossible it feels to keep up with the cost of raising children. Not just parents, but grandparents as well who are in custody of their grandchildren and parenting again. A major issue residents identified was the cost and availability of licensed child care in Niagara.

Recommendation Improve access to affordable, high-quality child care for families living in poverty or at risk of poverty.

Action

- Continue to implement the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care program in Niagara, including a reduction to the cost of child care to an average of \$10/day by 2026
- Continue to develop and implement an Early Childhood Educator workforce strategy in Children's Services to expand the system and increase child care spaces.

Implementation of this recommendation will align with Children's Services Service System Plan.



Transportation

Residents indicated that transportation is a significant poverty-related pressure point in the region. They noted that cost, timing and coverage of transit create barriers to use. Residents from rural communities expressed frustration over the difficulty and time commitment to travel to other municipalities and barriers to using NRT On-Demand Transit. These barriers can impact employment; residents indicated that some employers in Niagara will not hire people who take public transit, because it is unreliable. Overall, residents emphasized the importance of equitable transportation to access resources and social connectors.

Recommendation

Continue the work of Niagara Region Transit to achieve affordable and equitable access to services across municipalities.

Action

- Provide concession fare products for people who are living in poverty
- Improve access to transit and active transportation
- Increase hours of service, smoothing out evening, weekend and holiday hours across all levels of transportation services



Mental health and addiction

Links between mental health concerns and substance use and abuse concerns are generally complex. For example, although people with mental illness have a higher likelihood of also having an addiction¹², not all people with a mental illness have a co-occurring addiction.

Residents frequently discussed the impact of living in poverty while dealing with mental health and addiction challenges. The stress of not having enough money, being in a constant state of survival and hopelessness about living in poverty, can lead to anxiety, depression and thoughts of suicide. Service providers and people with lived expertise indicated that the situation is worse than it has been in a long time, and residents have lost hope that it will improve any time soon.

To address the effects of poverty, residents and service providers emphasized the need for mental health and addiction treatment supports within a better coordinated system of care. These supports need to address social determinants of health that are the root causes and stressors for people living in poverty or at risk of poverty such as housing, transportation and income.

Recommendation

Enhance core service capacity and offer a choice of timely, early recovery interventions and treatments for people who are living in poverty or at risk of poverty.

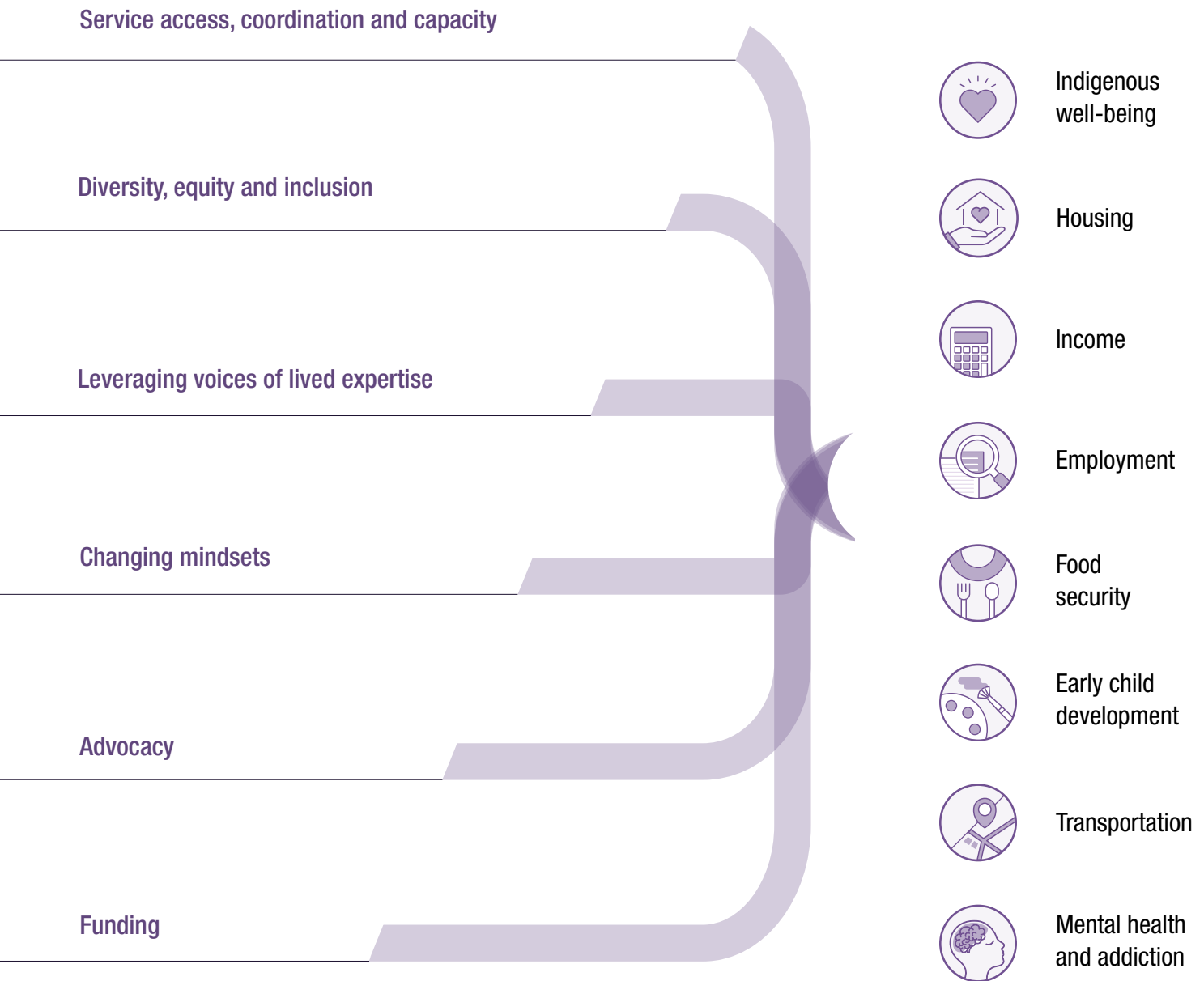
Action

- Address gaps and streamline local mental health and addiction services
- Continue to promote wellness and safety of people experiencing problems with substance use and addiction

12 CAMH. (2023). Mental Illness and Addiction: Facts and Statistics.
camh.ca/en/driving-change/the-crisis-is-real/mental-health-statistics

How to create change

During engagement, residents identified essential conditions needed to end and prevent poverty in Niagara. These conditions for change affect how we incorporate actions in the Poverty Reduction Strategy's recommendations throughout the Areas of Focus:



Service access, coordination and capacity

A person's ability to access services can impact their experience of poverty. A more coordinated and integrated network of health, justice and government funded social services would make it easier for people to navigate services they need to move out of poverty. In addition, those services need capacity, with funding, staffing and resources, to meet the needs of people seeking support.

Organizations, institutions and governments can improve ease of system navigation and access by increasing opportunities for people to access multiple services at the same time and location e.g., polyclinics or community hubs using mobile services as needed.

Other areas where this condition of change can enhance service is in:

- Strengthening supports for those escaping gender-based violence
- Strengthening transition supports such as discharge planning for people leaving hospitals and the justice system
- Building capacity to identify children at risk of poverty or living in poverty and strengthening referral pathways for families to a network of services such as income, housing, parenting and mental health supports

Diversity, equity and inclusion

Residents noted that attention to diversity, equity and inclusion in Niagara is important and needs to continue. The intersections of identity, such as age, culture, gender, race, ability and other social aspects, shape how people experience poverty. Addressing poverty must consider diverse experiences of poverty.

Public and private sectors can integrate diversity, equity and inclusion into program design and delivery as it relates to ending and preventing poverty. This can include increasing learning opportunities for staff, elected officials, agencies and community members to make services more equitable.

Leveraging voices of lived expertise

Lived expertise refers to “personal knowledge about the world gained through direct, first-hand involvement in everyday events rather than through representations constructed by other people”.¹³ It includes “the experiences of people on whom a social issue or combination of issues has had a direct impact”.¹⁴

Creating opportunities for people with lived expertise to provide input in policy development, planning and decision-making is crucial to addressing poverty. This can include expanding opportunities to integrate peer support models into existing community work.

Changing mindsets

Residents identified stigma as one of the most significant poverty-related issues in Niagara. The stigma of poverty can have a profound impact on a person’s sense of self and self-worth. Stigma is not only a result of living in poverty but can also perpetuate poverty by impacting a person’s mental well-being, ability to access services, relate to others, maintain housing or keep employment.

Poverty is a socially isolating experience that can significantly impact a person’s well-being. Not only is social isolation a result of living in poverty, but a lack of social connection can mean that people do not have support in times of crisis. Staff heard that people living in poverty feel alone and lack connection to their community.

The intent of changing mindsets is to bring people together to better understand the experience of poverty and the role they can play to help lift people out of poverty. Poverty is discriminatory in nature. Addressing false belief systems that feed into negative stereotypes is an important predictor of successful poverty reduction efforts. Changing mindsets that feed into the stigmatization of people living in poverty can decrease discrimination and allow for better community connections, thereby reducing isolation and loneliness.

13 Chandler, D., & Munday, R. (2016). Oxford: A dictionary of media and communication (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

14 Sandu, B. (2017). The value of lived experience in social change: The need for leadership and organisational development in the social sector. Retrieved from thelivedexperience.org/report/

Advocacy

Residents emphasized the need for income-based solutions to poverty. They highlighted the importance of using a human right's lens when speaking about and advocating for poverty-related issues. The strategy calls for advocacy to federal and provincial governments for improvements to income, employment and food security such as:

- Implementing a Universal Basic Income
- Increasing social assistance rates and benefits
- Increasing minimum wage to a living wage
- Making accreditation processes easier and more affordable to help newcomers with employment
- Implementing evidence-based policy solutions to reduce food insecurity

Funding

Adequate funding for outcome focused programs based on best practice is a critical component of any poverty reduction strategy. Addressing funding gaps and methods of funding applies to all levels of government and all funding bodies.

Brock University's report "Connecting the Pieces; An Evaluation of the Niagara Prosperity Initiative and Call for a Broader Poverty Reduction Strategy for Niagara" recommended:

- Increased funding investments in poverty reduction
- Longer funding terms for programs to help address the "unpredictability and fragmentary nature of services provided through time-limited contracts"¹⁵

Service providers noted the importance of collaborative funding opportunities and the need to break down competition among agencies.

15 Raddon, MB, Soron, D & Petrina S. (2021). Connecting the Pieces: An Evaluation of the Niagara Prosperity Initiative and Call for a Broader Poverty Reduction Strategy for Niagara. Report prepared for Niagara Region. Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. brocku.ca/npi-evaluation

Moving forward

Strategy in motion

During implementation, Niagara Region staff and members of the Poverty Reduction Steering Committee will invite interested and affected parties, such as United Way, Niagara Community Foundation and Ontario Trillium Foundation, to identify their role in helping to end poverty. Other interested and affected parties who are critical to successful implementation of this strategy include people with lived expertise, Indigenous peoples, and other residents, along with representatives from government, funders, businesses, health and educational institutions, non-profit organizations, service clubs and associations.

It is our hope that readers of this document will find inspiration to further align their work with actions identified in this strategy. Using Collective Impact, an approach used around the world to address complex issues such as poverty,¹⁶ we will explore with community champions ways to best implement actions listed in this report along with other actions that emerged during community engagement.

16 Tamarack Institute. (2019). Collective Impact in Practice.
www.tamarackcommunity.ca/library/tool-collective-impact-in-practice



Measuring change

How we will measure impact on poverty

Featured below are outcomes we can use to identify long-term success. We selected these indicators based on a scan of what other communities are using, reputability of the sources, availability of data for Niagara and the power of these indicators to tell the story of change.

Decrease the number and percentage of people who:

- Live in poverty
- Work but still live in poverty
- Experience homelessness
- Live in food insecure households
- Experience financial concerns as a primary stressor

How we will measure benefits of working together

In addition to reducing poverty, we expect that by working together in different ways, we can increase:

- Local capacity to implement community work, policies and practices
- Public support to end poverty

We will bring implementation champions together to determine methods such as facilitated conversation and client feedback to capture these benefits and better understand the impact of our collective work.

How we will create our evaluation plan

We recognize that poverty is a complex experience, making it difficult to determine success.

We will capture qualitative and quantitative measures during implementation to help tell the story of change in our community. We will create a theory of change to further articulate how and why we expect change will happen to increase well-being in Niagara.

How to get involved

Moving this strategy forward will involve many interested and affected parties. We invite YOU to join us on this journey and share your commitment to change. To learn more about how you can get involved or lend you skills, email endpoverty@niagararegion.ca or visit niagararegion.ca/community-safety/poverty-reduction-strategy/default.aspx

Together, we can end poverty in Niagara.

Resources consulted

This is a partial list of resources staff reviewed to inform recommendations. These resources complimented the direction staff received from residents on how to best address poverty in Niagara.

Poverty Reduction

Canadian Poverty Institute (n.d.). Poverty in Canada.

povertyinstitute.ca/poverty-canada

Employment and Social Development Canada. (2018). Opportunity for All-Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy.

National Advisory Council on Poverty. (2023) Blueprint for Transformation. Government of Canada.

Ontario Campaign 2000. (2020). Child Poverty Rates in Ontario.

Raddon, MB, Soron, D & Petrina S. (2021). Connecting the Pieces: An Evaluation of the Niagara Prosperity Initiative and Call for a Broader Poverty Reduction Strategy for Niagara.

Report prepared for Niagara Region. Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario.

brocku.ca/npi-evaluation

Vibrant Communities. (2022). The End of Poverty: Eight Pathways That Are Ending Poverty in Canada. Tamarack Institute.

tamarackcommunity.ca/guides/the-end-of-poverty-eight-pathways-that-are-ending-poverty-in-canada

Service Access, Coordination and Capacity

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). Preventing Adverse Childhood

Child and Parent Resource Institute. (n.d.). Trauma-informed care.

ontario.ca/page/trauma-informed-care-child-and-parent-resource-institute

Experiences: Leveraging the Best Available Evidence. Atlanta,

GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/82316/cdc_82316_DS1.pdf

Niolon, P. H., Kearns, M., Dills, J., Rambo, K., Irving, S., Armstead, T., & Gilbert, L. (2017). Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan: A Technical Package of Programs, Policies, and Practices. Atlanta,

GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

University of Alberta Centre for Healthy Communities, & Alberta Health Services. (2019).

Building Financial Well-Being: A Community Planning Toolkit.

Diversity Equity and Inclusion

Employment and Social Development Canada. (2021). Understanding Systems: The 2021 report of the National Advisory Council on Poverty. Government of Canada. canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/poverty-reduction/national-advisory-council/reports/2021-annual.html

Lived Expertise

Homer, A. (2019). 10 Engaging People with Lived/Living Expertise: A guide for Including People in Poverty Reduction. Tamarack Institute.

Sandu, B. (2017). The value of lived experience in social change: The need for leadership and organisational development in the social sector. thelivedexperience.org/report/

Changing Mindsets

Alliance for Healthier Communities. (2020). Rx Community - Social Prescribing in Ontario Final Report. allianceon.org/Rx-Community-Social-Prescribing-In-Ontario

World Health Organization. (2022). A toolkit on how to implement social prescribing.

Indigenous Well-being

Niagara Chapter – Native Women Inc. (2021). Mno Bmaadziwin: Living the Good and Healthy Life. niagararegion.ca/community-safety/pdf/mno-bmaadziwin.pdf

National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health. (2020). Poverty as a Social Determinant of First Nations, Inuit and Metis Health.

Housing

Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness. (n.d.). Built for Zero Canada. bfzcanada.ca/

The Homeless Hub. (n.d.). Housing First. Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. homelesshub.ca/solutions/housing-accommodation-and-supports/housing-first

Income

Cross, P. (2021). The Minimum Wage, Lost Jobs, and Poverty in Canada. Fraser Institute.

Lee, C. R., & Briggs, A. (2019). The Cost of Poverty in Ontario: 10 Years Later. Feed Ontario.

Ontario Living Wage Network. (n.d.). What is a living wage?
ontariolivingwage.ca/about

Employment

Block, S., Galabuzi, G.-E., & Tranjan, R. (2019). Canada's Colour Coded Income Inequality. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Ontario.

policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20office/2019/12/Canada's%20Colour%20Coded%20Income%20Inequality.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences: Leveraging the Best Available Evidence. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/82316/cdc_82316_DS1.pdf

National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health. (2022). Determining Health: Decent work issue brief. Antigonish (NS): NCCDH, St. Francis Xavier University.
nccdh.ca/resources/entry/determining-health-decent-work-issue-brief

Olsen, D., & MacLaughlin, J. (2020). When Training Works: Promising workforce development practices. Metcalf Foundation.
metcalfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/When-Training-Works.pdf

Stapleton, J., & Yuan, Y. (2021). Ending Working Poverty: How to get it Done. Tamarack An Institute for Community Engagement.
tamarackcommunity.ca/reports/ending-working-poverty-in-canada-how-to-get-it-done

The Conference Board of Canada. (2023). Opportunity for All: Improving Workplace Experiences and Career Outcomes for Canadians with Disabilities.
conferenceboard.ca/product/opportunity-for-all_2023/

University of Alberta Centre for Healthy Communities, & Alberta Health Services. (2019). Building Financial Well-Being: A Community Planning Toolkit.

Food Security

Feed Ontario. (2022). Hunger Report 2022: The Deepening Cracks in Ontario's Economic Foundation.

Ontario Dietitians in Public Health. (2020). Position Statement and Recommendations on Responses to Food Insecurity: Executive Summary.

National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health. (2017). Food Deserts and Food Swamps: A Primer.

PROOF Food Insecurity Policy Research. (2022). Food Security: A problem of inadequate income, not solved by food.

Early Child Development

Robinson, R., Tranjan, R., & Oliveira, T. (2021). Poverty in the Midst of Plenty: A report card on child and family poverty in Ontario. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Ontario Office.

Workforce Collective. (2022). Childcare workforce in crisis: Our economy won't work without ELCC workers. workforcecollective.ca/childcare-workforce-in-crisis-our-economy-wont-work-without-elcc-workers/

Transportation

Pei, N. (2023). Innovative Rural Transportation Strategies Aid in Poverty Reduction. Tamarack Institute. tamarackcommunity.ca/latest/innovative-rural-transportation-strategies-aid-in-poverty-reduction

University of Alberta Centre for Healthy Communities, & Alberta Health Services. (2019). Building Financial Well-Being: A Community Planning Toolkit.

Mental Health and Addiction

Association of Municipalities Ontario. (2022). An Integrated Approach to Mental Health and Addictions: AMO's Submission to the Ministry of Health. amo.on.ca/sites/default/files/assets/DOCUMENTS/Reports/2022/Integrated_Approach_to%20Mental_Health_and_Addictions_20220802_RPT.pdf

CAMH. (2023). Mental Illness and Addiction: Facts and Statistics. camh.ca/en/driving-change/the-crisis-is-real/mental-health-statistics

Appendix A: Locations of community engagement

Thank you to community organizations for hosting community conversations

Ailanthus CASTLE Community

Adverse Childhood Experiences
Steering Committee

Bethesda Clients

Children's Services Sector Network

Coalition to End Violence Against Women

Elmview CASTLE Community

Employment-Focused Roundtable
through Workforce Collective

Future Back Female

Housing and Homelessness Action
Plan Prevention Group, Lived Experience
Advisory and Taskforce

Human Service and Justice
Coordinating Committee

Lived Experience Advisory Network

Local Immigrant Partnership

Mental Health and Addictions Working Group

Newcomers through Social Assistance
and Employment Opportunities

Niagara Children's Planning Council

Niagara Emergency Medical Services Huddle

Niagara Food Security Network

Niagara Francophone Interagency Table

Niagara Ontario Health Team

Niagara Poverty Reduction Network

Niagara Region Mental Health
Client Advisory Committee

Niagara Suicide Prevention Coalition

Overdose Prevention and Education
Network of Niagara

Project Share Clients

Port Cares Clients

Queenston Neighbourhood Roundtable

St. Catharines Accessibility Advisory Committee

Stronger Fort Erie Neighbourhoods:
Lived Experience and Service Providers

Westview Centre 4 Women Clients

Youth Advisory Committee through
Niagara Region Public Health

Youth Advisory Committee and Lead
through the Youth Wellness Hub

Appendix B: Alignment to Regional reports

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy aligns with Niagara Region's:

Children's Services Service System Plan

Staff from Children's Services informed the Poverty Reduction Strategy to align with local efforts that address child care service system management.

niagararegion.ca/living/childcare/default.aspx

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Action Five of this plan calls for a local Poverty Reduction Strategy which sets local targets and aligns investments to measurably reduce poverty. The Poverty Reduction Strategy aligns with work identified in the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan such as Situation Tables, gender-based violence, mental health and addiction, housing and homelessness, income and systemic discrimination in Niagara.

niagararegion.ca/community-safety/plan.aspx

Consolidated Housing Master Plan

The affordable housing strategy brings together the work of many partners to address local need for affordable housing. Affordable housing is housing that fits the budget of low to moderate-income households while leaving enough money for them to meet other basic living costs such as food, clothing, transportation, medical care and education. The plan includes work to increase the number of affordable housing units and provide a mix of housing that is appropriate for the various sizes and incomes of households in Niagara.

niagararegion.ca/growing-better-together/growing-housing.aspx

Council Strategic Priority: Equitable Region

An action of this priority calls for a Poverty Reduction Strategy that ensures the Region is inclusive, welcoming and free of discrimination.

niagararegion.ca/priorities/default.aspx

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan

Staff from Niagara Region's, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Indigenous Relations team informed actions throughout the Areas of Focus in the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

niagararegion.ca/about/inclusive-communities/diversity-equity-inclusion.aspx

Economic Development Strategy

Staff from Niagara's Economic Development team informed the recommendation related to Employment to align with opportunities for future workforce around emerging sectors.

niagaracanada.com/about-us/economic-development-strategy/

Gun and Gang Prevention Strategy

The Poverty Reduction Strategy aligns with the work of the Gun and Gang Prevention Strategy to support an increase in youth and young adult-focused prevention and early intervention programs and services.

niagararegion.ca/community-safety/pdf/gun-and-gang-prevention-strategy.pdf

Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

The Poverty Reduction Strategy aligns with the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan's action to increase affordable housing and reduce homelessness. The Poverty Reduction Advisor and Homelessness Action Plan Advisor worked closely together to exchange research and results from community engagement.

niagararegion.ca/housing-homelessness/action-plan/default.aspx

How We Go – Transportation Master Plan

The Poverty Reduction strategy aligns with the Transportation Master Plan's action to address demand-responsive transit and pedestrian and cycling facilities.

niagararegion.ca/2041/transportation-master-plan/default.aspx

Indigenous Relations Action Plan

The Poverty Reduction Plan includes a recommendation for Indigenous Well-being. Staff from Niagara's Region's, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Indigenous Relations team and the Director of Housing from the Niagara Regional Native Centre led work to identify actions that address Indigenous Well-being. This action is driven by the voices of Indigenous peoples as led by the Director of Housing, Niagara Regional Native Centre. It is informed by The Joint Roundtable which continues to work on the Indigenous Relations Action Plan based on recommendations from the 2021 report, Mno Bmaadziwin: Living the Good and Healthy Life.

niagararegion.ca/about/inclusive-communities/indigenous-engagement.aspx

Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy

Niagara Region
Community Services
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
Thorold ON, L2V 4T7
905-980-6000 | 1-800-263-7215
endpoverty@niagararegion.ca

Citation: Niagara Region Community Services (2024).
Niagara Region Poverty Reduction Strategy 2024–2028.
Thorold, Ontario.

niagararegion.ca/community-safety/poverty-reduction-strategy/default.aspx



Subject: Rail Safety Week 2024 | Proclamation request

From: Stephen Covey <stephen.covey@cn.ca>
Date: 2024-07-12 10:47 a.m. (GMT-05:00)
To: Brian Grant <BGrant@wainfleet.ca>
Subject: Rail Safety Week 2024 | Proclamation request

Dear Mayor Grant,

As neighbours and partners in our shared commitment to rail safety, we are inviting you to join us in raising awareness for this important issue by adopting this proposed [proclamation](#). This proclamation helps communities like yours officially recognize Rail Safety Week 2024 and its significance in your area.

Rail Safety Week will be held in Canada and the United States from September 23-29, 2024.

Your council's leadership is key to increasing public awareness about the dangers around tracks and trains. We are asking for your support by signing the proclamation and taking the time to engage with your community about rail safety. We will be proud to recognize your commitment publicly.

Rail safety is a shared responsibility and together, we can achieve our common goal of eliminating incidents and saving lives in the communities where we live, work and play.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Daniel Salvatore, your local CN Public Affairs representative, at daniel.salvatore@cn.ca.

For more information:

- Questions or concerns about rail safety in your community, contact our Public Inquiry Line at [1-888-888-5909](tel:1-888-888-5909)
- For additional information about Rail Safety Week 2024 visit cn.ca/railsafety or operationlifesaver.ca
- Let us know how you promote rail safety in your community by visiting cn.ca/RSW2024
- For any questions about this proclamation, please email RSW@cn.ca

Thank you in advance for your support.



Janet Drysdale
CN Senior Vice-President and
Chief Stakeholder Relations Officer



Stephen Covey
CN Chief of Police and
Chief Security Officer



Chris Day
Operation Lifesaver
Interim National Director





English



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RAIL SAFETY WEEK

WHEREAS Rail Safety Week is to be held across Canada from September 23 to 29, 2024;

WHEREAS, 229 railway crossing and trespassing incidents occurred in Canada in 2023; resulting in 66 avoidable fatalities and 39 avoidable serious injuries;

WHEREAS, educating and informing the public about rail safety (reminding the public that railway rights-of-way are private property, enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway rail grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws) will reduce the number of avoidable fatalities and injuries cause by incidents involving trains and citizens; and

WHEREAS Operation Lifesaver is a public/private partnership whose aim is to work with the public, rail industry, governments, police services, media and others to raise rail safety awareness;

WHEREAS CN and Operation Lifesaver have requested City Council adopt this resolution in support of its ongoing efforts to raise awareness, save lives and prevent injuries in communities, including our municipality;

It is proposed by Councillor (first name & last name):

Seconded by Councillor (first name & last name):

“Via Email: Premier@ontario.ca”

Received July 12, 2024
C-2024-336

July 12th, 2024

The Honorable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Re: Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box for ‘Ineligible’ Sources

This will serve to advise you that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Cochrane, at its regular meeting held Tuesday, July 9th, 2024, passed the following resolution pertaining to the above noted:

“Resolution No. 402-2024

Moved by: Councillor Sylvie Charron-Lemieux

Seconded by: Councillor Marck Recoskie

WHEREAS under Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box producers are fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed of, for 'eligible' sources only;

WHEREAS 'ineligible' sources which producers are not responsible for including businesses, places of worship, daycares, campgrounds, public-facing and internal areas of municipal- owned buildings, and not-for-profit organizations, such as shelters and food banks;

WHEREAS should a municipality continue to provide services to the 'ineligible' sources, the municipality will be required to oversee the collection, transportation, and processing of the recycling, assuming 100% of the costs;

WHEREAS The Town of Cochrane has approximately 191 or more "non-eligible" sources that will not be provided service from the Producer Responsibility Organization after transition begins;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cochrane hereby request that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from all sources;

AND FURTHER THAT Council hereby request the support of all Ontario Municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the Honourable John Vanthof, MPP Timiskaming-Cochrane, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED.”



Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated!

Yours truly,

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COCHRANE



Alice Mercier
Clerk

AM/ed

c.c: Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, Hon. Andrea Khanjin;
Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP, John Vanthof;
Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
Federation of Canadian Municipalities;
All Ontario Municipalities



From: [Samantha Girhiny](#)

Mail received time: Fri, 12 Jul 2024 21:09:05

Sent: Fri, 12 Jul 2024 21:08:49

To: [Amber Chrastina](#)

Subject: Request Stop Sign

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Hello Amber,

Please see below the request for a 4 way stop to be directed to the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Brian Grant & Council,

I am writing to request a 4 way stop at the corner of O'Reilly's Road and Regional Road 27 in the town of Wainfleet. Since we moved in a few months ago, it has been made clear how busy this intersection is. I believe a 4 way stop is necessary at this intersection for the following reasons:

- safety for the children that live on the street
- safer access for walking to the mailboxes
- ensures vehicles come to a complete stop to deter excessive speeding

I look forward to hearing back regarding the steps to review this intersection.

Many thanks,
Samantha Girhiny



City of Stratford, Corporate Services Department

Clerk's Office

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

Tel: 519-271-0250, extension 5237

Email: clerks@stratford.ca

Website: www.stratford.ca

July 12, 2024

Sent via email –bthornton@pecounty.on.ca

Ben Thornton,
Council and Committee Coordinator
Prince Edward County

Re: Resolution - Call to Action to Meet the Deadline of an Accessible Ontario by 2025

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated March 28, 2024, regarding the above-mentioned matter.

The said correspondence was provided to Stratford City Council for their information as part of the April 8, 2024, Council meeting Consent Agenda (CA-2024-055). Council adopted the following resolution:

THAT CA-2024-005, being a resolution from Prince Edward County regarding a call to action to meet the deadline of an accessible Ontario by 2025, be endorsed.

Sincerely,

A. Pascual

Audrey Pascual, Deputy Clerk

/mf

cc: Premier of Ontario
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario municipalities

March 28, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of March 26, 2024 the following resolution regarding support for 'a call to action' to meet the deadline of an Accessible Ontario by 2025 was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-151

DATE: March 26, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Pennell

WHEREAS the Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act (AODA) is ground-breaking legislation, created to help people with disabilities fully participate in society, bring them to the table in crafting regulations, and build mechanisms to enforce standards;

WHEREAS Rich Donovan, an expert in accessibility issues, was appointed as the Independent Reviewer of the Act in 2022, and in his 2023 legislative review declared a crisis as a necessary catalyst to get Ontario back on track for accessibility;

WHEREAS at least 2.9 million Ontarians currently live with a disability, representing at least 22% of the consumer base and the workforce, but due to barriers, Ontarians with disabilities are too often falling short of their full potential;

WHEREAS the AODA aims to develop, implement and enforce standards related to goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings before Jan. 1, 2025, and municipalities, as the level of government closest to the people are at the front lines, developing, implementing and enforcing these standards without meaningful guidance on its implementation and/or enforcement by the Province;

WHEREAS people with disabilities and advocates, including Prince Edward County's Accessibility Advisory Committee, note the slow pace of current and previous Ontario governments in implementing the AODA and there are growing concerns there will be no renewed push to keep accessibility issues at the forefront after 2025;

WHEREAS Prince Edward County is dedicated and committed to creating a welcoming environment so that all people may have equitable access to programs, goods, services and facilities, but making investments to achieve the AODA

standards has been challenging given the lack of consistent and stable funding for municipalities to remove accessibility barriers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Prince Edward County strongly encourages action on the part of the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) create a "Municipal Accessibility Fund" for municipalities to develop, implement and enforce AODA standards related to goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings. Such a fund could be modeled after the Canada Community-Building Fund or the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund on a per household basis;
- b) to commit to working with municipalities to implement the Donovan Review immediate crisis recommendations;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor write a letter in support of this resolution to the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

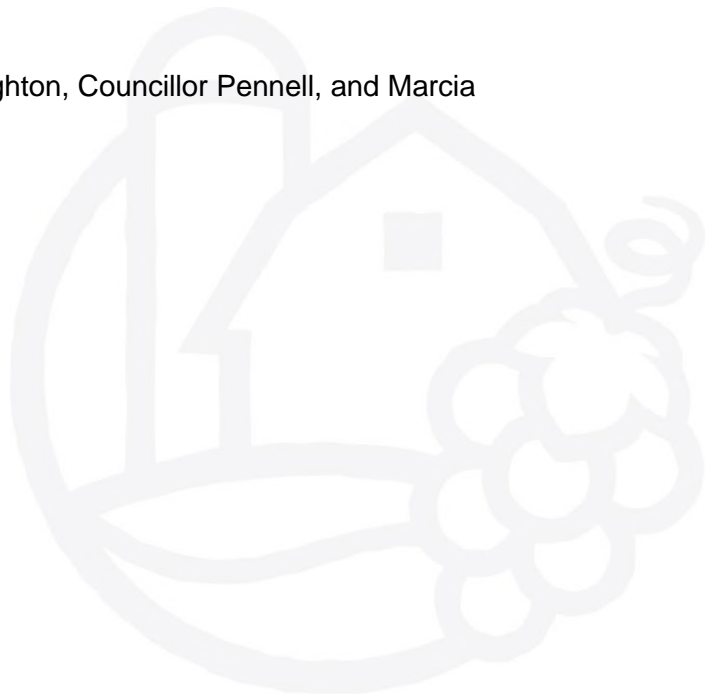
CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor MacNaughton, Councillor Pennell, and Marcia Wallace, CAO



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 Fourth Avenue, Larder Lake, ON
 Phone: 705-643-2158 Fax: 705-643-2311



MOVED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

SECONDED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

Motion #: 7

Resolution #: 7

Date: July 9, 2024

Received July 16, 2024
 C-2024-339

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life: And

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 Billion a year: AND WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation; And

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure: And

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges - like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers, and addressing the mental health and addictions crises; And

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity; And

WHEREAS property taxpayers - including people on fixed incomes and small businesses - can not afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need; And

WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities: And

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration:

BE IT T RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Township of Larder Lake requests that the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

AND BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford; Minister of Finance; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

Recorded vote requested:

	For	Against
Tom Armstrong	✓	
Patricia Hull	✓	
Paul Kelly	✓	
Lynne Paquette	✓	
Patty Quinn	✓	

I declare this motion

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carried
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost / Defeated
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest*

Chair:

*Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.

July 17, 2024

Dear Municipal Councillors,

Subject: Niagara Region Waste Management Strategic Plan Phase One Update and Upcoming Phase Two Engagement Opportunities

This purpose of this letter is to provide an update regarding the completion of phase one of the Niagara Region Waste Management Strategic Plan (the Plan), a brief synopsis of what phase two entails and avenues to provide feedback.

The first phase of the Plan involved assessing the existing system and understanding how the community views our current programs. The valuable input from the phase one survey and open houses laid the groundwork for establishing the Plan's mission, vision, goals and guiding principles, as well as new programs and initiatives for consideration.

In phase two the draft vision statement, mission statement, goals and guiding principles were presented to the WMPSC and PWC in a collaborative workshop session on June 24, 2024. The final statements, goals and guiding principles will be presented to interested parties and feedback will be sought on proposed waste management options. Public engagement begins September 10, 2024, through another survey that will be open until September 30. In addition to the survey, the following virtual open houses are scheduled:

- Public Open House on Tuesday **September 10, 2024, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**
- Public Open House on Monday **September 16, 2024, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Please visit niagararegion.ca/future-of-waste for more information on the Plan, to register for one of the open houses, and to take the survey.

If you have any questions, please contact us at wmstratplan@niagararegion.ca or phone Project Manager Jennifer Mazurek at 905-980-6000 ext. 3236.

Sincerely,

Catherine Habermebl (she/her)
Director, Waste Management Services
Public Works, Niagara Region
Phone: 905.980.6000, ext. 3204
Email: catherine.habermebl@niagararegion.ca

Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The Regional Municipality of Niagara stands with all Indigenous peoples, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.