



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COUNCIL WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION

INDEX

Friday, June 12, 2026

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If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or events, please contact the Accessibility Advisor at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 (office), 289-929-8376 (cellphone) or accessibility@niagararegion.ca (email).

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-135

Subject: Summary of Active Bid Solicitations

Date: Friday, June 12, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Bart Menage, Director, Procurement Services

Please be advised that the Bid Solicitations included in Appendix 1 are currently active.

As per the Procurement By-law 2025-57, section 19. Reporting, item 19.1 The Director, Procurement Services shall:

(a) report to Council on a weekly basis via Councillor Weekly Correspondence Distribution:

(i) a summary of active Bid Solicitations.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Bart Menage
Director, Procurement Services

Appendices

Appendix 1 Summary of Active Bid Solicitations

Bid Number	Name	Closing Date
2026-RFP-63	DeCew Falls Water Treatment Plant No. 2 Condition Assessment	June 11, 2026
2026-RFP-72	Baker Road WWTP Secondary Digester Upgrade	June 12, 2026
2026-RFP-54	Landscaping, Grubbing, Tree and Shrub Trimming/Removal, Hardscaping, Mulching and Flowerbed Maintenance at the Niagara Region Water and Wastewater Locations	June 15, 2026
2026-T-5	16 Mile Creek Bridge Rehabilitation on Regional Road 39 (North Service Road) in the Town of Lincoln	June 15, 2026
2026-T-71	2026 Pavement Preservation Program - Multi-year	June 15, 2026
2026-T-83	2026 Roads Resurfacing Program - Part 4	June 16, 2026
2026-T-66	Supply and Delivery of OEM Cummins Engine Parts and Filters	June 17, 2026
2026-RFI-91	E-Signature Platform	June 22, 2026
2026-RFP-62	Feasibility Study for the Preliminary Treatment Upgrades at the Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant	June 22, 2026
2026-T-85	Supply and Delivery of Sodium Bisulphite (37% - 41%) for Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities	June 22, 2026
2026-RFP-7	Road & Weather Information System (RWIS) and Operation Maintenance Services	June 23, 2026
2026-T-79	Supply and Delivery of Two (2) Crew Cab Dump Trucks	June 23, 2026
2026-RFP-17	Emergency Management Software	June 24, 2026
2026-RFSQ-87	Campbell West Roof Replacement	June 29, 2026
2026-T-65	Snow Clearing & Removal for Niagara Transit Commission (NTC) Bus Stops & Shelters	June 29, 2026
2026-T-64	Consulting Services – Structural Analysis and Demolition of Regional Road 512 (74 Main Street West) in the Town of Grimsby	June 30, 2026
2026-T-52	Window Cleaning Services	July 02, 2026
2026-T-48	Perimeter Ditch Lining – Humberstone Landfill, Regional Municipality of Niagara	July 03, 2026

Bid Number	Name	Closing Date
2026-T-89	Contract Administration and Inspection Services - Annual Strengthening and Resurfacing Programs - All Parts – Night Work – Region Wide	July 06, 2026
2026-RFP-86	Microwave Radio Replacement Project for the Niagara Regional Police Service	July 07, 2026
2026-T-70	Reconstruction of Regional Road 10 (Casablanca Boulevard) Between Regional Road 39 (North Service Road) and Regional Road 512 (Livingston Avenue) in the Town of Grimsby	July 07, 2026
2026-RFP-81	Operations of the Re-usable Materials Drop-Off Depot, Niagara Road 12 Landfill Site in West Lincoln and/or Humberstone Landfill Site in Welland	July 08, 2026
2025-T-189	Road Reconstruction on Regional Road 49 (McLeod Road) from Oakwood Drive to Wilson Crescent in the City of Niagara Falls	July 09, 2026
2026-T-95	Supply and Delivery of Liquid Aluminum Sulphate	July 09, 2026
2026-RFP-94	Consulting Assignment to Undertake a Comprehensive Environmental Assessment for the Niagara Escarpment Crossing in the Towns of Grimsby and Lincoln and the Township of West Lincoln	July 13, 2026
2026-T-93	7835 McLeod Rd Public Health Business Licensing Amalgamation	July 13, 2026

Memorandum**CWCD 2026-136**

Subject: Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build - Development Charge Reduction Program

Date: Friday, June 12, 2026

To: Niagara Regional Council

From: Ron Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer

The purpose of this memo is to provide Regional Council with additional information regarding the Government of Ontario's Development Charge Reduction Program (part of the [Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build](https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1007226/details-of-the-canada-ontario-partnership-to-build) <https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1007226/details-of-the-canada-ontario-partnership-to-build>) further to CWCD 2026-130, provided last Friday.

Key Facts

- On June 1, 2026, the Government of Ontario launched its Development Charge Reduction Program (DCRP) in partnership with the Government of Canada under the [Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build](https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1007226/details-of-the-canada-ontario-partnership-to-build). The \$8.8 billion fund will support municipalities in introducing large scale housing-enabling infrastructure.
- To be eligible, project construction must start no later than July 31, 2030, and be completed by October 31, 2035. Successful applicants can receive up to 90 per cent of eligible costs in provincial and federal funding for local projects, and in return must commit to reducing all residential Development Charges (DCs) by at least 30 to 50 per cent for three years. This can include previously approved/planned incentives and DC reductions.
- Municipalities are not required to implement their proposed DC rate reduction at the time of application; however, reductions must be in place at the time of Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) execution.
- It is important to note that DCRP funding is tied to DC reductions, meaning the program serves to offset part of the cost of growth associated with the project(s) under the funding application. It does not provide incremental funding to municipalities.
- It is important to note that DCRP funding is only tied to growth components of capital infrastructure projects. It does not provide incremental funding to municipalities. Staff

are awaiting clarification on whether funding will be capped at the three-year DC rate reduction or if all growth costs are deemed eligible.

- Based on staff analysis of program criteria, Phase 1 of the South Niagara Wastewater Treatment Solutions (SNWTS) project has been identified as the strongest candidate for the program. Staff are preparing an application for submission in close collaboration with the City of Niagara Falls.
- Should the Region receive funding approval, the matching Regional contribution must be funded by non-growth/DC related own source of revenue (i.e. tax levy or utility rate).
- **Applications are due by 10:00 a.m. June 19th** and successful applicants are required to have a **TPA executed by August 15th. If the application is successful, Council will have to make key decisions prior to the execution of the TPA.**
- Reports will be presented at the July 14th Public Works Committee to seek approval in principle (pending application approval) for the proposed DC rate reduction, required budget adjustments, DC by-law amendments if applicable and DC Background Study updates in advance of the TPA deadline.

Financial Considerations

SNWTS Project Costs

The SNWTS Phase 1 project budget presented to Council through PWC-C 6-2026 was \$450 million in 2026 dollars based on 30 per cent design information available earlier this year. This was reflective of construction costs only. In support of drafting a DCRP application, the Region's project consultant, Stantec, has provided an updated growth percentage and total cost for Phase 1.

Based on ongoing detailed design work, the growth percentage for Phase 1 of the SNWTS project has been identified as 90 per cent, with the remaining 10 per cent being post period benefit¹. Updated project costs reflect these changes as well as costs expended and committed to date including environmental assessment, investigations, land acquisition and design costs. An annual four per cent escalation has also been

¹ In the Development Charges context, a post-period benefit refers to the portion of a growth-related capital project that will provide capacity for development occurring beyond the development charge forecast period and therefore cannot be recovered through current development charges.

added through to 2030 to reflect anticipated cost at the time of construction. The chart below details updated Phase 1 costs.

	Costs Estimate	Total Combined Cost
New South Niagara (SN) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)	\$524,000,000	\$688,000,000
New SN WWTP Outfall	Included in above	
New South West Trunk Sewer	\$164,000,000	

DCRP Funding Scenarios

Through the DCRP, applicants must submit a proposed DC reduction plan that will be fully implemented and in effect immediately following the execution of TPAs, no later than August 15th. The proposed DC rate reduction must be 30 to 50 per cent or greater, effective retroactively as of March 30, 2026, and must be maintained for a period of three years without annual indexing. While a minimum reduction of 30 per cent is required to meet eligibility criteria, municipalities offering higher DC reduction rates will receive higher scores in the evaluation process.

Staff are seeking clarification on certain eligibility criteria requirements as well as the DCRP funding model to ensure a clear understanding of the DCRP's financial implications and optimize the Region's application. The scenarios below outline financial implications based on the amount of DCRP received.

	Current Budget (Phase 1 Only)	Scenario 1 (DCRP; 90% Growth) *Proposed	Scenario 2 (DCRP; 80% Growth)	Scenario 3 (DCRP; 70% Growth)	Scenario 4 (DCRP; 50% Growth)	Scenario 5 (DCRP Est. 3 Yr DC Rev Loss)	Scenario 6 (No DCRP 90% Growth)
Grants	144.67	-	-	-	-	-	-
DCRP	-	520.26	462.46	404.65	289.04	160.60	-
WW Reserves	14.60	14.60	14.60	14.60	14.60	14.60	14.60
Non DC Debt	60.97	60.97	60.97	60.97	60.97	60.97	60.97
DC's	1.96	-	-	-	-	-	1.96
DC Debt	152.89	-	-	-	-	-	152.89
Incremental Non-DC Debt	-	92.17	149.97	207.78	323.40	451.83	-
Incremental DC Debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	457.58
Total Funding Required	375.09	688.00	688.00	688.00	688.00	688.00	688.00
Total Debt	213.86	153.14	210.94	268.75	384.37	512.80	671.44

To support a competitive application, staff are proposing a 50 per cent DC reduction for three years and requesting a 45/45/10 federal-provincial-municipal funding split under the DCRP application. If approved, this reduction would result in an estimated \$160.6 million in lost revenue under the DCRP, not including current DC incentives. This is based on forecasted growth of 4,732 new housing starts annually over the three-year DC rate reduction period. This loss in revenue however would ideally be outweighed by the provincial and federal monies proposed, which is estimated to be up to a total of \$520.26 million (Scenario 1 above).

It is important to note that the proposed 50 per cent residential DC reduction across the board would be in addition to the statutory and non-statutory DC Incentives that are currently in place.

The 10 per cent municipal contribution of the growth component must be funded through non-growth/DC related own source revenues (i.e. tax levy or utility rate). If the program funds 90 per cent of total growth costs, this will result in an incremental operating budget pressure of \$5.7 million in financing charges. If program funding is capped at lost DC revenue, an incremental operating budget pressure of \$28.1 million will be absorbed by taxpayers. Clarification has been requested from program administrators.

Analysis

To meet the June 19th deadline, staff and senior leadership are meeting regularly to:

- Assess which projects within the SNWTS program meet eligibility timelines.
- Update 2021 project cost estimates.
- Identify required by-law and/or policy changes to support the three-year DC reduction.
- Facilitate discussions with the City of Niagara Falls (CNF) regarding a potential joint submission.
- Ensure the financial modelling proposed in the application maximizes benefits for both local developers and existing taxpayers.
- Engage in direct advocacy with Provincial decision-makers to strengthen Niagara's application.

The DCRP is the most promising opportunity so far to fund the SNWTS project. As one of the Region's core advocacy priorities, advocacy efforts have been focused on raising awareness of the growth-enabling project across upper levels of government, emphasizing the importance of federal and provincial partnership, and detailing the significant long-term social and economic benefits the project will bring once realized.

Next Steps

Application Submission

Given the significant role of the SNWTS in unlocking housing across Niagara, as well as the project's substantive capital costs, staff are endorsing the SNWTS to be submitted under the DCRP.

To maximize the likelihood of success, CNF will submit complementary applications for two local infrastructure projects that are dependent on the SNWTS being operational. Staff from both teams are working to align the submissions, emphasizing the connectivity between projects and the critical role the SNWTS has in enabling local housing development, economic growth and the Government of Ontario's Destination Niagara Strategy.

Council Approval

In advance of application approval, the amendments and decisions outlined below will be presented at the July 14 Public Works Committee meeting for approval in principle. Staff propose that changes only be implemented if the Region is successful in its DCRP submission and the proposed funding scenario is approved.

- **Budget Amendment** to reflect 2026 SNWTS project cost adjustments.
- **Residential Development Charge Reductions** reflective of a 50 percent reduction for three years. Staff are reviewing the best mechanism for supporting this change. This may include updating the DC rates in the current DC By-law using the streamlined process introduced through Bill 17, the *Protect Ontario by Building Smarter and Faster Act*, 2025, or any other mechanism consistent with the requirements of the TPA to capture the required three year period for the DC reduction, which will overlap with the next term of Council's DC By-law.
- **Increasing Growth Percentage for the SNWTS project** to reflect updated analysis based on the detailed design.
- **Delegated Authority** to give the CAO authority to sign the TPA by the required August 15 deadline.

Alternatives Reviewed

If an application is not made under the DCRP, it is highly unlikely that another external funding opportunity will materialize to support the SNWTS project cost and timelines.

Given that the growth percentage for the project has increased to 90 per cent based on the detailed design, if DCRP funding is not approved, the majority of project costs would fall on developers through increased DC rates. This would pose a significant barrier to local builders unlocking new housing.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

Securing funding for the SNWTS project directly supports Council's Green and Resilient priority. It also supports Council's strategic lens of fiscal responsibility.

Other Pertinent Reports

- [PWC-C 6-2026 South Niagara Wastewater Treatment Solution: Progress Update](#)

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.

Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Rachael Ball-Condron, Government Relations Program Manager, and reviewed by Mike Iafrate, Financial and Special Projects Consultant; Lucia Chen, Associate Director Budget Planning and Strategy; Beth Brens, Director of Finance and Planning; Brian Wilson, Senior Legal Counsel; Donna Gibbs, Regional Solicitor/Director of Legal and Court Services; Karen Costantini, Manager of Growth Management and Analytics; Lindsay Jones, Associate Director of Water Wastewater Engineering; Phill Lambert, Director of Water Wastewater; Andrew Korchok, Senior Communications Project Manager.

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-137

Subject: Rabies Vaccination Clinics 2026

Date: Friday, June 12, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Joe DeGiuli, Environmental Health Manager

Niagara Region Public Health is hosting its third annual free rabies vaccination clinic for cats and dogs on Monday, June 22, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Anglican Church (77 Division Street, Welland).

This year's clinic has seen strong community interest, with pre-registration already full.

This clinic is part of our ongoing work to reduce the risk of rabies in the community by improving access to preventive vaccination for pets.

A poster is available and is included with this memo. As registration for the clinic is already full, this information is being provided for awareness only and does not require further promotion.

Respectfully submitted and signed by,

Joe DeGiuli
Environmental Health Manager

Appendices

Appendix 1 Poster for Free Rabies Vaccine Clinic for Cats and Dogs



Free Rabies Vaccine Clinic for Cats and Dogs

Rabies can be deadly. To protect yourself
and your pets, get them vaccinated.

Monday, June 22, 2026 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church - 77 Division Street, Welland

Priority will be provided to those that pre-register by emailing inspect@niagararegion.ca or calling **905-688-8248 ext. 7273** – please include your name, phone number and number of animals by: June 12, 2026 and we will be in touch to finalize your registration!

- Those pre-registered will be prioritized and given a timeslot
- Walk-ins welcome while supplies last
- Limited quantity of free pet food available
- Parking available on-site
- Bring your previous vaccination certificate if you have it



Memorandum

CWCD 2026-138

Subject: Details of Accounts Receivable and Planning and Development
Financial Statement Figures

Date: Friday, June 12, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Nora Charette, Associate Director Corporate Accounting and Reporting

Accounts Receivable Summary – Statement of Financial Position

The purpose of this memo is to respond to a query at the May Audit Committee. The overall change in Accounts Receivable per the Consolidated Financial Statements, Statement of Financial Position, for 2025 shows an increase of \$54.27 million over 2024. The primary drivers of this increase are accrued revenue and subsidy grants receivable.

The increase in accrued revenue in 2025 relates primarily to cost sharing agreements. Due to the nature of these projects these accrual balances fluctuate widely between years due to the status of projects and year-end. Major receivables for this in 2025 include the Ontario Street Watermain Sanitary Sewer and St Paul Street West Bridge projects.

The increase in subsidy grants receivable in 2025 relates primarily to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for the Niagara Transit Commission. Funding under this project is received after costs are incurred. Major receivables for this in 2025 relate to the receipt of 40-foot busses.

Receivable (in \$ millions)	2025	2024	Net Change
Accrued Revenue	47.688	28.393	19.295
Subsidy Grant Receivable	45.901	25.094	20.807
Other	99.587	85.414	14.173
Total Accounts Receivable	193.176	138.901	54.275

Planning and Development – Financial Statement Note 18

Note 18 in the Consolidated Financial Statements presents segmented information disclosures that are aligned with the service-based structure used in the Province's Financial Information Return (FIR), ensuring consistency between audited reporting and provincial submissions. Under Public Sector Accounting Standards, these disclosures require municipalities to report financial results by major service areas (e.g. protection, transportation, environmental services) rather than only in aggregate to enhance transparency and accountability. This allows Council and the public to clearly understand how resources are allocated and how each service is performing, supporting more informed decision-making and oversight. While the financial statements provide a summarized segment view, the FIR captures the same segments in a more detailed, standardized format for provincial analysis, benchmarking, and funding decisions – making alignment between the two critical.

Included in the Planning and Development section of our Consolidated Financial statements in note 18 are departments involved with grants, infrastructure planning, and economic development. Most expenditures for this segment are for external transfers which represents \$40.12 million that is primarily associated with mandatory exemption grants for development charges, brownfield grants, as well as the hospital contribution for West Lincoln (CSD 36-2021). Other expenses for this segment include \$5.34 million in salary related expenses which are primarily associated with infrastructure planning, and economic development as well as \$1.46 million in operating expenses which are primarily associated with advertising (both sponsorship and marketing) in economic development, along with legal and consulting activities in infrastructure planning.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Nora Charette

Associate Director Corporate Accounting and Reporting

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-139

Subject: Niagara Escarpment Crossing Comprehensive Environmental Assessment – Release of Request for Proposals

Date: June 12, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Jill Stephen, Associate Director, Infrastructure Planning

The Terms of Reference for the Niagara Escarpment Crossing Comprehensive Environmental Assessment were approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, with no conditions, in late summer 2025.

[Report PW 29-2024 Niagara Escarpment Crossing Comprehensive Environmental Assessment – Terms of Reference Submission](https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=39061) (<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=39061>) provides an overview of the Terms of Reference development process and other pertinent reports regarding the Niagara Escarpment Crossing project.

Previous studies have identified the challenges and concerns with the existing escarpment crossings in West Niagara, particularly with respect to heavy truck traffic and commercial goods movement. The purpose of the Comprehensive Environmental Assessment is to confirm the location and preliminary design of a new north-south transportation corridor crossing of the Niagara Escarpment connecting the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) and Regional Road 20 that:

- Provides for safe and effective commercial vehicle movements and operations;
- Accommodates commercial vehicles and other transportation modes;
- Provides greater safety for local communities;
- Provides for additional transportation system capacity, redundancy and resiliency; and,
- Improves the economy vitality with the efficient movement of goods and people.

Further to the Council Weekly Correspondence memo of September 12, 2025, staff have completed their review of the approval notice and have prepared the Request for Proposal package to solicit consultant team proposals to undertake this study.

The Request for Proposals will be released in mid-June 2026.

Project initiation is planned for Q4 2026, with background information review. Engagement with Council, the local area municipalities, Indigenous Communities and First Nations, agencies, the public and other interested parties will occur in advance of key milestones throughout the project. The work plan includes enhanced levels of engagement with the Town of Grimsby, the Town of Lincoln, and the Township of West Lincoln as the most directly involved local area municipalities.

Engagement activities are expected to begin in Q1 2027.

Staff will provide Council with an update on the successful consultant team, project schedule and engagement plan once the procurement process is complete.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Jill Stephen, P.Eng.
Associate Director, Infrastructure Planning
Infrastructure Planning and Development

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-140

Subject: Supportive Housing Enhancement

Date: Friday, June 12, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Cathy Cousins, Director, Homelessness Services

Effective June 28, 2026, Gateway Residential and Community Support Services will assume management of operations and provision of services at the Wayne Campbell building on Victoria Avenue in Niagara Falls.

This change will see the enhancement of the site from its current bridge housing model to an enhanced service model that will include 15 units of highly supportive housing funded through Niagara's HART Hub Initiative, as well as continuing to offer the existing 10 bed Recuperative Care Unit.

These changes represent an important step in expanding Niagara's housing and homelessness service options for residents with complex needs. The highly supportive housing program will provide housing combined with intensive, coordinated supports for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, including those living with significant mental health, substance use and other health challenges that have not been successful in traditional treatment options.

The recuperative care unit will continue to provide short-term recovery support for individuals experiencing homelessness who require medical and related care following hospital discharge or other acute health events. Gateway will operate the recuperative care unit in partnership with REACH Niagara, which will continue as the onsite medical care provider.

This partnership with the HART Hub will strengthen the impact of the project by better meeting the needs of residents.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Cathy Cousins, CPA, CA
Director Homelessness Services

May 29, 2026

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-244

DATE: May 26, 2026

MOVED BY: Councillor Roberts

SECONDED BY: Councillor Nieman

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Nieman

May 29, 2026

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-246

DATE: May 26, 2026

MOVED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Branderhorst

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor MacNaughton, Councillor Branderhorst





Age-Friendly Flag Raising Across Niagara

Today we raise the Age-Friendly flag across Niagara as a reminder that creating communities where people can age well is everyone's responsibility.

The Age-Friendly movement began with a simple idea: communities work better when they are designed for people of all ages. As our population ages, we have an opportunity to rethink how we support health, participation, housing, transportation, social connection, volunteerism, and lifelong contribution.

For Niagara, this is about much more than aging. It is about building stronger communities. Older adults contribute every day as volunteers, caregivers, mentors, workers, community leaders, and active citizens. Their experience, knowledge, and leadership are important assets that help strengthen our neighbourhoods, organizations, and local economy.

The Age-Friendly flag represents a commitment by municipalities, community organizations, businesses, and residents to work together to remove barriers and create opportunities for people to remain active, connected, and engaged throughout their lives.

At the Age-Friendly Niagara Council, we believe Niagara has the opportunity to become a leader in what is increasingly being called the longevity economy. Longer lives are changing our communities, our workforce, and our local economy. The question is not whether this change is coming. The question is whether we are prepared to embrace the opportunities it presents.

Today's flag raising recognizes the work already underway across Niagara and serves as a call to action for all of us. Building age-friendly communities is not a project. It is an ongoing commitment to creating places where people can live well, contribute meaningfully, and remain connected at every stage of life.

Together, we can make Niagara one of the best places in Canada to grow older and to grow stronger as a community.

The ceremony will take place on:

Date: Monday June 15 2026

Time: 1:30 pm

Location: Regional Headquarters, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold



Watchfile

June 11, 2026

A Framework for Navigating the Development Charges Reduction Program

With the June 19 application deadline fast approaching, AMO has developed a primer to help councils navigate the key fiscal and community impact considerations of participating in the Development Charges Reduction Program.

[Get the Resource](#)

Opposition Party Delegation Meetings at the AMO Conference

Registered participants at the AMO Conference can request delegation meetings with the Ontario NDP, the Ontario Liberal Party, and the Green Party of Ontario. Details on how to submit requests for delegations here.

[Request a Meeting](#)

Don't Miss Wednesday at the 2026 AMO Conference

It's where key conversations on Civility in Leadership and Affordable Housing come together to close out the conference. Plan your travel arrangements accordingly to make the most of your experience. If you haven't already, register here.

[Register Now](#)

Key Updates

Last Chance: Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities – Free Workshop Series

Join AMO for the final set of Healthy Democracy Leadership Series: Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities workshops, starting June 16. They're designed to equip you with the tools, resilience, and confidence to meet the challenges of the political landscape head-on. [Full details and registration information here](#).

AMO's Post-Election Local Leadership Foundations

AMO's post-election education program, developed with the Institute on Governance, will be delivered by municipal experts to help AMO members be informed, confident local leaders, and get the best possible start to the new term. A limited number of bursaries will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. For earliest access, [join the waitlist today](#).

Last Call: AMO Board of Directors Election Nominations

Don't miss your chance to submit nominations for the 2026–2028 AMO Board of Directors election. The nomination window closes June 22 at 12:00 p.m. Visit the [Elections webpage for more information](#).

Federal Updates

Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits

Certain municipal-owned corporations are now eligible to apply to the CRA for a [15% refundable tax credit](#) for clean energy investments. The CRA is [hosting webinars](#) on June 9 and 11th for more information.

Provincial Updates

Nominations Call: Medal of Distinction in Public Administration

Nominations for the Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration, Ontario's highest honour for public servants, are [open until June 8](#).

MECP Excess Soil Webinar – Jan. 2027 Landfilling Restriction

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is holding an [educational webinar on June 18th](#) for the January 2027 provision restricting landfilling of cleaner excess soil, under O. Reg. 406/19.

Applications Open - 2026/27 MHS4PSP Grant Program

Applications for the MHS4PSP Grant are now open to eligible Ontario Public Safety Organizations in the EHS, fire, and police sectors. Interested applicants can [register for info sessions here](#).

Events & Education

- **JUN 23 - Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities - Session Two (Community Members)**
 - For community members considering running for office, this free workshop is session two in the series and will cover how to manage conflict and build relationships. [Register here](#).
- **JUN 23 - Strengthening the Municipal Talent Pipeline**
 - Learn what draws students to municipal careers, practical ideas for creating meaningful placements that support recruitment, workforce planning, and long-term career pathways in local government. [Register here](#).
- **JUN 24 - Webinar: Less Time in Spreadsheets, More Time Managing Risk**
 - Join AMO/LAS on June 24 at 11:00am for an exclusive session with ClearRisk focused on helping Ontario public sector risk professionals streamline risk and claims management processes. [Register Here](#).
- **JUN 25 - Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities - Session Three (Community Members)**
 - For community members considering running for office, this free workshop is session two in the series and will cover how to prioritize and protect mental health and well-being. [Register here](#).

[See the Full Event Calendar](#)

MUNICIPAL PARTNERS*

Applications Open – Hydro One Community Partnership Grant

Municipalities and municipality-endorsed charitable partners are invited to apply for Hydro One's Community Partnership Grant, supporting initiatives enhancing emergency preparedness, critical infrastructure, or community well-being.

[Applications close on June 30.](#)

2026 Western Ontario Municipal Conference in Guelph

[Registration is now open](#) for the 2026 Western Ontario Municipal Conference (WOMC), taking place October 16, 2026, at the Delta Guelph Conference Centre in Guelph.

Applications Open - Maureen McCauley Bursary

Applications are now open for the Maureen McCauley Bursary from OMAA (now Civic Ontario), in partnership with AMO and ROMA. This program offers three \$5,000 awards to support Ontario students pursuing municipal careers. If you know a student who would benefit, encourage them to apply by September 24, 2026. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

LAS AMO Business Services

Key Changes under Bill 97

If you missed the June 2 Bill 97 webinar hosted by our Streamlined FOI and Privacy Program Management partner, Vayle, you can [reach out to them for a copy of the deck.](#)

Careers

[Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief - City of Stratford](#). Closing Date: June 19, 2026.

[Data Analysis Coordinator \(Temporary Full-Time\) - Regional Municipality of Durham](#). Closing Date: June 14, 2026.

[Human Resources Coordinator \(Temporary Full-Time\) - Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board \(DSB\)](#). Closing Date: July 8, 2026.

[See More Careers](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Canada-Ontario Development Charges Reduction Program

On Monday, the federal and Ontario governments launched The Canada-Ontario Development Charge Reduction Program. Municipalities have until June 19, 2026 to submit projects for funding consideration. [Read AMO's Policy Update for more information](#).

New Code of Conduct Bill Passes,

Bill 9, the Municipal Accountability Act, passed third reading, a significant achievement for the municipal sector. Read the [AMO Policy Update](#).

June is Pride Month

Find a list of municipalities celebrating and raising flags for the month [here](#).

[Read More Past Issues](#)



Uniting Ontario's 444 municipalities, AMO supports strong, resilient municipal governments by tackling shared goals, together.

AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

[Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions](#)

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
AGRICULTURAL POLICY & ACTION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

APAC 2-2026

Friday, May 29, 2026

Meeting will be held by electronic participation only

Committee: Councillors Bateman, Easton, Kaiser, Seaborn, Steele; C. Hamilton, S. Marshall, C. Mullet Koop (Committee Vice Chair), J. Schonberger, K. White, K. Wiens

Absent/Regrets: Olson, Witteveen (Committee Chair), G. Janes

Staff: R. Hill, Legislative Coordinator, K. Lotimer, Deputy Regional Clerk, M. Marino, Associate Director, Economic Development, M. McGinty, Economic Development Officer, S. McPetrie, Senior Planner, S. Mills, Manager, Operations Programs and Performance, S. Norman, Manager Strategic Initiatives, A. Stea, Director, Strategic Initiatives

Others Present: E. Baldin, Manager, Land Planning, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, W. McFadden-Smith, Tender Fruit and Grape IPM Specialist, E. Posteraro, Program Development Coordinator, Invasive Species Centre, K. Vallier, Chief Executive Officer, Agritourism Ontario

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee

Vice Chair Chris Mullet Koop called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Councillor Seaborn read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 Agritourism Ontario

Kevin Vallier, Chief Executive Officer, Agritourism Ontario, provided information respecting Agritourism Ontario. Topics of the presentation included:

- Vision and Mission
- Who and How
- What our Members Offer
- What and Why
- Opportunities and Challenges
- The Growing Agritourism Act Bill 186
- ON Farm Fun
- Fields of Opportunity

4.2 Niagara Phragmites Management Area Collaborative (PMAC)

Eric Baldin, Manager, Land Planning, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, provided information respecting Niagara Phragmites Management Area Collaborative. Topics of the presentation included:

- About Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
- Terminology
- Common Reed-Two Species
- Agricultural Context
- Ontario Phragmites Action Program
- Purpose of Ontario Phragmites Action
- Phragmites Management Areas
 - What are they?
 - Working Groups/Collaboratives
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority as a Phragmites Management Action Lead
- Niagara Phragmites Management Area Collaborative Terms of Reference
- Resources Available
- Project Highlight
- Goal
- Potential Invasive Phragmites Locations Based on Model
- New and Emerging Threats
- Invasive Species Strategy

4.3 Spotted Lanternfly

Emily Posteraro, Program Development Coordinator, Invasive Species Centre, provided information respecting Spotted Lanternfly: A Novel Threat to Niagara Region. Topics of the presentation included:

- What is Spotted Lanternfly
- Risk of Spotted Lanternfly
- Observations of Spotted Lanternfly
- Impacts of Spotted Lanternfly
- Spotted Lanternfly Life Cycle
- Spotted Lanternfly Masses
- Pathways of Spread
- How to Report Spotted Lanternfly
- Spotted Lanternfly Work at Invasive Species Centre

Wendy McFadden-Smith, Tender Fruit and Grape IPM Specialist, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, provided information respecting Spotted Lanternfly in Niagara. Topics of the presentation included:

- Two Highly Preferred Host Plants
- Is Tree of Heaven Necessary for Spotted Lanternfly to Survive?
- Common Spotted Lanternfly Hosts in the Niagara Escarpment
- Proximity of Niagara Vineyards to Escarpment
- Spotted Lanternfly Dispersal
- Are Spotted Lanternfly Capable of Flying Long Distances?
- Seasonality of Common Landscape Hosts
- Impacts of Spotted Lanternfly
- CFIA Decision Making Framework (Draft)
- Spotted Lanternfly Monitoring in Niagara
- Spotted Lanternfly Outreach
- Management of Spotted Lanternfly
- Want More Information?
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness Best Management Practices for Vineyards

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no items for consideration.

6. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

6.1 **APAC-C 2-2026**

Greenbelt Foundation Report Overview

Moved by Councillor Kaiser

Seconded by Councillor Bateman

That Memorandum APAC-C 2-2026, dated May 29, 2026, respecting Greenbelt Foundation Report Overview, **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried

6.2 **APAC 1-2026**

Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2026

Moved by Councillor Bateman

Seconded by Councillor Seaborn

That APAC 1-2026, dated February, 2026, respecting Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meeting Minutes, **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

7.1 **Salt Management Plan Update**

Sabrina Mills, Manager, Operations Programs and Performance, provided a salt management plan update. Ms. Mills advised Committee members that Niagara Region Transportation Operations has retained LGL Consulting, in collaboration with Terra-Dynamics Inc., to update Niagara Region's Salt Management Plan. As part of this work, the consultants will also conduct a Salt Vulnerable Area Study to identify locations with high, moderate, and low levels of risk related to salt impacts. Based on the findings, a response program will be developed for high-risk locations, including stakeholder engagement and consultation. Recommendations for managing moderate-risk locations will also be provided. The project was initiated earlier this year and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

7.2 Irrigation Project Update

Sean Norman, Manager, Strategic Initiatives, provided an update on the irrigation program. He advised that Niagara Region staff met with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Irrigation Committee and presented at the Niagara-on-the-Lake All Growers meeting respecting a detailed design for improvements, cost, and feasibility of proposed system improvements. Mr. Norman noted that Niagara Region staff and the AECOM consultant team have commenced the design phase and are working closely with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake staff. Mr. Norman shared that the Project Steering Committee, with support from Niagara Region and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will be hosting a Public Information Centre (PIC) on June 10, 2026, at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre. He also reported that work on the new piped irrigation system serving Lincoln and west St. Catharines is progressing with the consultant team. A workshop is tentatively scheduled for July 2026, with the date to be announced.

7.3 Soil Health Working Group Update

Chris Hamilton, Committee member, shared that the Soil Health Working group continues to advance its work plan. At its most recent meeting, members discussed the current status of site alteration by-laws across Niagara, noting that several local municipalities are in the process of reviewing and updating their by-laws. The Working Group will continue to monitor these developments and explore opportunities to engage with municipal by-law enforcement staff to gain a better understanding of current enforcement practices, challenges, and areas for improvement. Mr. Hamilton shared that, the Working Group reviewed existing soil health resources, including the proposed National Soil Health Strategy and the Provincial Soil Health and Conservation Strategy, as potential framework to inform a regional approach. Areas of particular interest include soil health testing, as well as opportunities to enhance the accessibility, coordination, and sharing of soil health data across the Niagara Region.

7.4 Economic Development Update

Matt McGinty, Economic Development Officer, provided an update respecting recent engagement initiatives, including Innovation Norway during which Niagara Economic Development hosted an agrifood and agritech delegation from Norway, as well as Niagara Funder Forum, and the NICHE Agriculture Innovation Forum. Mr. McGinty advised Committee members that Niagara Economic Development has formally launched its partnership with Niagara College. The initiative is focused on engaging students in Grades 8-12 and strengthening connections between industry and educational partners. Mr. McGinty further advised that a report and

accompanying presentation would be brought forward to the July Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting.

7.5 Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Future Consideration

Sarah Marshall, Committee Member, enquired about the future of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee. Rebecca Hill, Legislative Coordinator, advised that with the appointment of a new Regional Chair and changes to the composition of Regional Council following the upcoming municipal term, it is not yet known what direction Regional Council may choose to take regarding the Committee.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date is to be determined.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Chris Mullet Koop
Committee Vice Chair

Rebecca Hill
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk