



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COUNCIL WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION

INDEX

Friday, February 6, 2026

	Pages
1. <u>CWCD 2026-16</u> Notification to System Owner of Spill	1
2. <u>CWCD 2026-17</u> Safe Drinking Water Act - Standard of Care Training	3
3. <u>CWCD 2026-18</u> Plow Accident Reporting	5
4. <u>CWCD 2026-19</u> Ministry of Education Correspondence - Water Safety Education in Ontario Schools	6
5. <u>CWCD 2026-20</u> City of Thorold Resolution February 4, 2026 - Intimate Partner Violence	10
6. <u>CWCD 2026-21</u> AMO Watchfile February 5, 2026	13

Women's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - January 27, 2026

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 2026-16

Subject: Notification to System Owner of Spill

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Dawn MacArthur, Supervisor, Wastewater Compliance and Enforcement

Purpose

This memorandum is being provided to ensure timely communication to Regional Council regarding a spill in connection with the collection/treatment of wastewater in Niagara Region.

A spill of digester biogas occurred intermittently over the period of January 9 to 11, 2026, in the City of Port Colborne at the Seaway wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

Situation

Under normal operating conditions, excess biogas produced in the anaerobic digester at the Seaway WWTP is ignited and flared through the Waste Gas Burner (WGB) before being released to the environment.

On January 9, 2026, operations staff observed that the WGB pilot light was not lit, resulting in non-ignited biogas being released to the environment. Although the pilot was relit, it failed to remain consistently operational between January 9 and 11, causing intermittent releases of unignited biogas through the WGB.

A release of non-ignited biogas to the environment is classified as a spill under the Ontario Environmental Protection Act and was reported to regulatory authorities. No adverse impacts were observed, as the biogas dispersed immediately into the atmosphere.

Corrective Action

An electrical issue in the control panel was discovered and repaired. Normal system operation was restored on January 11, 2026.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Dawn MacArthur, B.Sc., C.Chem.
Supervisor, Wastewater Compliance and Enforcement

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-17

Subject: Safe Drinking Water Act – Standard of Care Training

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Holly Philbrick, Water Compliance Program Manager (Acting), Water and Wastewater Quality Management Specialist

Purpose

This memo is to inform Regional Councillors of the opportunity for training on the Standard of Care provisions under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*.

Background

Standard of Care Provisions are given under Section 19 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 (Act). These provisions came into force on January 1, 2013 and require that every person who, on behalf of the municipality exercises decision making authority, to exercise the level of care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would be expected to exercise in a similar situation and act honestly, competently and with integrity, with a view to ensuring the protection and safety of the users of the municipal drinking-water system. For the purposes of the Act, Niagara Region Councillors exercise decision-making authority over the Regional Drinking Water System which consists of six (6) Water Treatment Plants, 38 water reservoirs/elevated tanks, 23 booster/chlorine stations, 312 km of trunk water mains, and associated appurtenances. A person who fails to carry out that duty, could be guilty of an offence under the Safe Drinking Water Act. More information regarding the legal obligations of Council under the Safe Drinking Water Act was previously reported to Council in Memorandum CWCD 2024-172 from Legal Services.

Training Opportunity

Training is available to provide more information to Councillors of their oversight responsibilities under the Safe Drinking Water Act. It is recommended that Councillors take the training at least once during the term of Council.

The training, Responsibilities Under the Statutory Standard of Care - Safe Drinking Water Act, is offered by the Walkerton Clean Water Centre online and may be taken at any convenient time. The training is in the form of an e-learning module and quiz.

Should you have any questions or wish to register, please email the Region's Water and Wastewater Training Specialist, Carrie Brunet, at carrie.brunet@niagararegion.ca.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Holly Philbrick, B.Sc., MPH
Water Compliance Program Manager (Acting), Water and Wastewater Quality
Management Specialist

Other Pertinent Reports

[CWCD 2024-172](#)

(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=40035>)

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-18

Subject: Plow Incident Reporting

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026

To: Council Weekly Correspondence Distribution

From: Frank Tassone, Director Transportation Services

This memo is being provided to inform Region Council of an incident that occurred on Wednesday January 28, 2026 during normal snow-plowing operations in the Township of West Lincoln.

A Region plow operator performing regular duties in line with Region practices and guidelines was involved in a single vehicle incident (plow only).

While plowing, the plow wing caught a soft spot on the road shoulder and this pulled the truck off the road and ultimately into the ditch on its side. This was an incident that could not have been avoided as the plow operator was operating the plow according to all Region practices and guidelines.

The plow driver was unharmed and the plow sustained minor damage that was repaired in-house by our Fleet team, the plow resumed regular operations the following day.

Given that the appearance of the incident may have been misconstrued to be severe and photos of the incident may have been taken by motorist passing by, Council is being notified of this occurrence for awareness and transparency.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Frank Tassone, C.E.T.
Director, Transportation Services

Ministry of Education

Minister

315 Front Street West
Toronto ON M7A 0B8**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

315, rue Front Ouest
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Ontario

Sandra Easton
Acting Regional Chair
Niagara Region
jennifer.sparks-zahn@niagararegion.ca

Dear Sandra Easton:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Niagara Regional Council advocating for province-wide water safety education in Ontario schools. It was upsetting to hear of your Niagara resident's tragic losses, please accept my condolences to their family and to the Niagara community. Events such as these underscore the devastating impact that water-related tragedies can have on families and communities. I agree that it's important that children be equipped with vital water safety and survival skills.

In Ontario, students learn about personal safety and injury prevention in every grade of the mandatory elementary (Grades 1 to 8) Health and Physical Education curriculum and in the secondary (Grades 9-12) Health and Physical Education curriculum. As part of these curriculum students learn skills to recognize, assess, and manage potentially dangerous situations, which may include water-based situations.

While the curriculum does not mandate water safety specifically, educators are encouraged to provide opportunities for students to develop these skills through a wide variety of activities. This may include aquatic activities such as swimming and programs like the Swim to Survive.

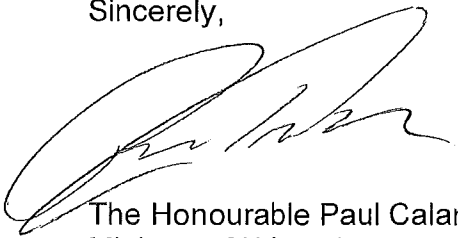
Since 2006, the Ministry of Education has partnered with the Lifesaving Society on their program *Swim to Survive*. And educators are encouraged to connect with their school principals to find out if their school can offer the Swim to Survive program, which focuses on the essential skills needed to prevent drowning.

-2-

The Lifesaving Society's objective is to provide free access to in-pool and in-class lessons to students that cover the essential skills needed for the prevention of drowning upon an unexpected fall into the water. They also provide readily available resources for parents, educators, and instructors to support water safety education.

Thank you again for writing and for your thoughtful advocacy on this important issue. I have shared your feedback with ministry staff to inform future curriculum revisions. We want to assure you that we share your dedication to this important priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Calandra', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education



Office of the Regional Chair

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

Telephone: 905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-685-6243

www.niagararegion.ca

November 20, 2025

The Hon. Paul Calandra

Sent via e-mail: minister.edu@ontario.ca

Minister of Education

5th Flr, 438 University Ave

Toronto ON M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Calandra,

On behalf of Niagara Regional Council, I would like to thank you and your government for your continued commitment to strengthening Ontario's education system. I am writing today to request that mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training be incorporated into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario students.

As you know, the incorporation of water safety training into the curriculum is uncoordinated, and varies from school board to school board. It is essential for the safety of our children and our communities that a consistent, robust and province-wide program be implemented to teach Ontario's children the basic skills they need to prevent drownings.

Regional Council recently heard the testimony of Mr. Michael Williams, a resident of Niagara whose two grandchildren, Jocelyn and Kayden Grant, perished in a tragic accident in July of this year – an accident that could have been prevented had Jocelyn and Kayden received basic water safety and survival training.

We must do everything we can to give Ontario's children the tools they need to avoid these very preventable tragedies. Niagara Region joins with other Ontario municipalities, including the City of St. Catharines and the City of Dryden, in calling for this basic training to be incorporated in all of Ontario's school boards.

Yours Sincerely,

Sandra Easton, Acting Regional Chair
Niagara Region

To: The Hon. Paul Calandra
Re: Mandatory Water Safety Training

November 20, 2025

Cc: Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Hon. Sam Oosterhoff, Associate Minister of Energy-intensive Industries, Niagara
West MPP



Thorold

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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

February 4, 2026

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

To the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Re: 14.3 Motion respecting intimate partner violence, and expanded recognition of licensed private investigators and security professionals

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Thorold, at its meeting held on February 3, 2026, considered the aforementioned topic and passed the following resolution:

The Corporation of the City of Thorold enacts as follows:

WHEREAS Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) includes physical violence, coercive control, psychological and financial abuse, post-separation harassment, and the misuse of legal processes to maintain control;

WHEREAS survivors of abuse experience significant mental health impacts and financial hardship, which are often worsened by prolonged family court proceedings, housing instability, and uncertainty around personal safety;

WHEREAS delays in family court, inconsistent enforcement of protection orders, and limited judicial capacity leave survivors and children exposed during high-risk periods such as custody exchanges and order breaches;

WHEREAS *Ontario's Private Security and Investigative Services Act* has not kept pace with modern public safety and court enforcement needs, resulting in an underutilized private security and investigations sector despite its growing professionalism;

WHEREAS licensed private investigators and security professionals possess skills directly relevant to family court support, including documentation, compliance verification, supervised access support, and real-time reporting;

WHEREAS courts lack sufficient resources to respond quickly to time-sensitive, non-police matters such as order compliance, harassment documentation, and court-directed safety checks;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have a moral and public safety obligation to advocate for reforms that close protection gaps and improve timely intervention for those at risk;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the City of Thorold enacts as follows:

That Thorold City Council **FORMALLY ADVOCATES** for the following:

1. That the Province of Ontario **UNDERTAKES** comprehensive reform of abuse-related family court processes, including:
 - a) Accelerated timelines
 - b) Faster issuance and enforcement of protection orders
 - c) Stronger consequences for order breaches
2. That the Province of Ontario **FORMALLY RECOGNIZE** the mental health, financial, and housing impacts of abuse-related litigation and pursue reforms that reduce re-victimization and prevent homelessness.
3. That the Province of Ontario **REVIEW AND MODERNIZE** the *Private Security and Investigative Services Act* to recognize licensed private security and investigative professionals as court-authorized support resources for clearly defined, time-sensitive, non-police matters.
4. That courts **BE PERMITTED** to contract licensed private investigators and security professionals to:
 - a) Verify court order compliance
 - b) Monitor and document breaches or harassment
 - c) Support supervised access and custody exchanges
 - d) Conduct court-directed welfare and safety checks
 - e) Provide timely, admissible reporting to the court
5. That the Province of Ontario **REVIEW** narrowly defined authority for specially trained private security or municipal safety agents to “mandate” a temporary detention individuals involved in verified IPV incidents until police arrival, subject to strict training, oversight, and accountability.
6. That all proposed reforms **SHALL BE** survivor-centered, prioritizing safety, dignity, autonomy, and long-term stability; and
7. That City Staff **BE DIRECTED** to forward this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Attorney General of Ontario, the Minister of the Solicitor General, local Members of Provincial Parliament, and Niagara Regional Council.



Thank you,



Nicholas Debono
City Clerk, City of Thorold

cc. Attorney General of Ontario
Minister of the Solicitor General
Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Niagara Regional Council





February 05, 2026

In This Issue:

- AMO Board meeting recap from President Robin Jones.
- AMO's Public Affairs and Advertising Campaign.
- Asset Management Plan Map.
- Guidance for Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence.
- Ontario Land Tribunal Announces AI Practice Update.
- New funding: Rural Ontario Development Fund: Second intake is now open.
- Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative.
- OSUM Conference: Register Today!
- Free Information session for Youth Considering running for Municipal Office.
- AMO Regional and Single-Tier Caucus Virtual Meet-Up: 2026.
- New year, new skills: Navigating Conflict Relationships.
- Lead Where You Live - A Guide to Running for Municipal Council.
- More Dates! Free workshop series for those seeking re-election & first-time candidates.
- LAS/IPE All Risk Municipal Grant.
- Free Webinar: Why Privacy Impact Assessments Matter & How Digital Management Can Reduce Risk.
- Blog - Car Accident Guide: Safety Steps and Claim Tips.
- Webinar: Demystifying Job Order Contracting.
- Municipal Student Survey.
- Ready to Take Your Career To the Next Level?
- OPPI Employer Readiness Workshop.
- HelpSeeker Technologies Webinar Recording on Updated Homelessness Report.
- Free Intersectoral Action Training Series.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

The AMO Board met on January 30th at the AMO office in Toronto. The Board was introduced to this year's Youth Fellows and discussed AMO's continued efforts in support of your key priorities. Watch AMO President, Robin Jones's recap of key [board meeting updates here](#).

Join us on March 3, 2026, for a [free webinar](#) on how you can leverage the resources of AMO's new public affairs and advertising campaign, '[Make Your Municipal Move](#)'.

Discover brand new campaign assets and ready-made templates you can use to boost the campaign reach and drive local engagement. For more information email WGardiner@amo.on.ca.

A recent update to our [Asset Management Map](#) providing links to all asset management plans found that municipalities report in their plans owning and managing \$1 trillion (2025 CAD) of infrastructure.

Provincial Matters

The Information and Privacy Commissioner in partnership with the Ontario Human Rights Commission have [released recommendations](#) for responsible public sector use of artificial intelligence.

Effective March 30, 2026, the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) is implementing [a new Practice Direction](#) on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in OLT proceedings.

The Ministry of Rural Affairs is [accepting applications](#) for the Rural Ontario Development Fund until February 26. Register for [an information session](#) being held February 12.

Under the Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative, the governments of Canada and Ontario will be accepting applications from February 17 to March 17 for [new funding](#) to help local businesses grow international and domestic sales.

Education Opportunities

Join your Ontario Small Urban colleagues for at the OSUM 2026, April 29 – May 1 in Parry Sound. [Click here](#) for registration and hotel details. (note: link will be live this evening but you can login to view).

Many young people are inspired to run for municipal council, not everyone understands the ins and outs of doing so. Facilitated by current young municipal leaders, these sessions provide insights and strategies to build your understanding and confidence on becoming a candidate and how to run a campaign. View [full workshop details and register here](#).

You can now register for the AMO Regional and Single Tier Caucus Virtual Meet-Up meet. Scheduled for Monday, February 23 from 10am-12noon. This interactive session provides an opportunity for questions and answers on AMO's strategic policy and government relations priorities and approach. If you have top of mind questions, you can submit them in advance to events@amo.on.ca. [Register here](#).

Gain skills in building collaborative relationships and negotiating difficult ones. This 2 part, interactive workshop will explore the constructs, traps and pitfalls of conflict

relationships, and how to approach, plan and execute relationships successfully. [Register here to save your spot.](#)

The [Lead Where You Live Resource](#) provides key information for anyone running in the 2026 municipal election. This guide will introduce you to some of the key steps in that process. It will also give you a sense of what life is like as an elected member of a municipal council.

If you missed AMO's *Healthy Democracy Leadership Series: Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities* workshop registration, we are offering more dates to register. It's designed to equip you with the tools, resilience, and confidence to meet the challenges of the political landscape head-on. It's offered at no charge in two streams: first time candidates, and those considering re-election in 2026. [Full details and registration information here.](#)

LAS

The *All Risk Municipal Grant – Investing in Municipal Risk Resiliency* was such a success in 2025 that LAS and Intact Public Entities are offering it again to Ontario municipalities in 2026. To learn more, please [follow this link](#).

Managing privacy risk has become increasingly important for Ontario municipalities, particularly with the growing use of AI-enabled technologies. [Join a free webinar on February 11](#) hosted by LAS' Freedom of Information and Privacy Impact Assessments services partner, Vayle.

[This car accident guide](#) - contributed by Cowan Insurance - LAS' Personal Home and Auto Insurance partner, offers some practical preparation tips and outlines the details you should gather to help protect your insurance claim and yourself.

Job Order Contracting (JOC) is a new method of construction project delivery in Canada. Join the Canoe Procurement Group on February 12 at 2PM EST to learn how and why JOC works. [For more information and to register, click here.](#)

Municipal Wire*

AMO is partnering with the University of Waterloo's Work-Learn Institute to better understand how municipalities can more effectively attract and retain the next generation. If you've supervised a student in a municipal setting – or know someone who has – please forward them this short, [anonymous survey](#) to share their experiences. If you have any questions, please contact WGardiner@amo.on.ca.

OPPI is opening registration for a free in-person workshop that gives employers and managers practical tools to support newly hired planners. The course includes an

Employer Handbook (supported by AMO) on management practices that promote inclusion, retention, and long-term success. [Register Here!](#)

On January 27th, HelpSeeker Technologies hosted a webinar for policymakers, public servants, and sector leaders to discuss the recently updated Municipalities Under Pressure report. [View the recorded presentation on YouTube.](#)

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Tamarack Institute are offering public health units, governments, and others a [virtual learning series](#) on strengthening collaboration to enhance well-being in Ontario.

Join your peers in Kitchener on April 17 for a dynamic, full-day professional development event hosted by the Ontario Municipal Administrators Association to help you sharpen your skills, expand your network, and gain practical insights from. The day will feature lessons from seasoned municipal executives and help position you for long-term success. [Register Here.](#)

Careers

[Program Manager - Association of Municipalities of Ontario.](#) Closing Date: February 20, 2026.

[Manager, Fleet and Transit - City of Kawartha Lakes.](#) Closing Date: February 25, 2026.

[Equipment Repair Technician - Town of Oakville.](#) Closing Date: February 9, 2026.

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

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
WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**WAC 1-2026
Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Meeting held by electronic participation**

Committee: Councillors Ganann, Morocco (Committee Chair); S. Corcoran, M. Holm, D. Katsmar, L. Littleton, S. Stemplowski, R. Unrau (Committee Vice-Chair), E. Zimmermann

Absent/Regrets: V. Brown

Staff: Y. Al-Harazi, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist, K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, S. Madder, Associate Director, Strategic Initiatives, C. Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Indigenous Relations

Others Present: Councillor Craitor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Morocco, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Cassie Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Indigenous Relations, read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Niagara Region Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2023-2027) Mid-Term Review Results

Cassie Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Indigenous Relations, provided information respecting Niagara Region Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2023 - 2027) Mid-Term Review Results. Topics of the presentation included:

- Research Input
- Focus Area A: Inclusive Workplace Culture, Leadership & Accountability
- Focus Area B: Learning & Humility

- Focus Area C: Diverse Workforce Reflective of Niagara's Community
- Focus Area D: Programs & Services Meet Everyone's Needs
- Focus Area E: Addressing Discrimination
- Focus Area F: Inclusive Communication

4.2 Niagara Region Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2023-2027) 2026 Priorities

Yusuf Al-Harazi, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist, provided information respecting Niagara Region Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2023-2027). Topics of the presentation included:

- Overall Plan Progress
- Focus Area A: Inclusive Workplace Culture, Leadership & Accountability
- Focus Area B: Learning & Humility
- Focus Area C: Diverse Workforce Reflective of Niagara's Community
- Focus Area D: Programs & Services Meet Everyone's Needs
- Focus Area E: Addressing Discrimination
- Focus Area F: Inclusive Communication
- Summary of Priorities

5. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

5.1 WAC 6-2025

Women's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - November 11, 2025

Moved by Councillor Ganann

Seconded by E. Zimmermann

That Minutes WAC 6-2025, being the minutes of the Women's Advisory Committee meeting held on November 11, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Equal Voice Niagara Workshop Updates

Lori Littleton, Committee member, provided an overview of the webinar hosted by Equal Voice Niagara in collaboration with the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce on January 13, 2026, titled Government 101: Understanding Roles, Jurisdictions, and Civic Participation, and information on topics being considered for future webinars.

7. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Councillor Morocco
Committee Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Deputy Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk