



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COUNCIL WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION

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Friday, June 5, 2026

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Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - May 26, 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 2026-125

Subject: Summary of Active Bid Solicitations

Date: Friday, June 5, 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-T-50	Roads Resurfacing Program - 2026 Part 1 - Region Wide - Multi-year	June 04, 2026
2026-RFSQ-49	Tow Rotation List for Niagara Region / Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS)	June 05, 2026
2026-RFSQ-55	Sewage Pumping Station and Forcemain Upgrades	June 05, 2026
2026-T-56	Roads Resurfacing 2026 Part 2 - Multi Year	June 08, 2026
2026-T-59	Construction of Two (2) Pedestrian Crossovers (PXOs) in the City of Welland	June 08, 2026
2026-T-80	2026 Annual Asphalt Patching Program Various Locations	June 08, 2026
2026-T-82	Avaya Phone License and System Support Agreement	June 08, 2026
2025-T-43	Proposed Thorold West Flume	June 10, 2026
2026-RFP-3	Remote Patient Monitoring Program and Provisional Complementary Software Solution for Niagara Emergency Medical Services - Community Paramedicine Program	June 10, 2026
2026-T-57	2026 Roads Resurfacing Program - Part 3 - Multi-year	June 10, 2026
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

Bid Number	Name	Closing Date
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-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-70	Reconstruction of Regional Road 10 (Casablanca Boulevard) Corridor Phase 1 Between the Regional Road 39 (North Service Road) to Regional Road 512 (Livingston Ave)	July 07, 2026
2025-T-189	Road Reconstruction of Regional Road 49 (McLeod Road) between Oakwood Drive and Wilson Crescent in the City of Niagara Falls	July 09, 2026

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-126

Subject: South Niagara Wastewater Treatment Solutions- Natural Environment and Species at Risk

Date: Friday, June 5, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Lindsay Jones, Associate Director Water and Wastewater Engineering

The purpose of this memo is to provide information regarding the natural environment and Species at Risk (SAR) considerations related to the South Niagara Wastewater Treatment Solutions (SNWTS) project. This information is being provided in response to a Councillor information request made at the Public Works Committee meeting on April 14, 2026.

Background

The South Niagara Wastewater Treatment Solutions project includes a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), associated trunk sewer infrastructure, and a treated effluent outfall to the Welland River East (locally known as Chippawa Creek). The project was completed as a Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) in 2022 and is now advancing through detailed design, with anticipated construction start in 2027 provided Provincial and Federal funding is received.

Protection of the natural environment has been a core consideration from site selection through detailed design and will continue through construction. The project has been planned and is being implemented in accordance with applicable provincial legislation, Regional and municipal planning policies, and best management practices.

For background information on the EA activities related to natural environment and SAR assessments, please refer to Appendix 1.

Species at Risk Screening and Field Investigations

Extensive Species at Risk (SAR) screening was undertaken for the project. More than 60 provincially and federally protected species were reviewed as part of desktop studies and field investigations. Species groups assessed included:

-
- Birds, such as barn swallow, bobolink, and eastern meadowlark;
 - Bats, including little brown myotis and northern myotis;
 - Reptiles and amphibians, such as Blanding's turtle;
 - Fish and mussels, including lake sturgeon and American eel; and
 - Rare plants, including swamp rose-mallow.

Where SAR habitat may be affected, the project has been designed to comply fully with the Endangered Species Act (which has been replaced by the Species Conservation Act, 2025), including required registrations, timing restrictions, and mitigation measures.

Policy and Regulatory Context

Natural environment planning for the project is guided by, and compliant with, the following legislation and policy documents:

- Provincial Planning Statement;
- Fisheries Act;
- Migratory Birds Convention Act;
- Species Conservation Act
- City of Niagara Falls Official Plan;
- Region of Niagara Official Plan; and
- O. Reg. 41/24 (Conservation Authorities Act).

The project team is actively coordinating and tracking approvals with all relevant agencies, including:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) – migratory birds;
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) – fish and fish habitat;
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) – regulated works near watercourses and shorelines;
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) – Provincially Significant Wetlands; and
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) – Species at Risk.

Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation

Avoidance and minimization remain guiding principles during detailed design:

- Significant woodlands were largely avoided, and construction footprints were designed to limit encroachment.
- Infrastructure layouts incorporate appropriate setbacks from wetlands, watercourses, and habitats, consistent with provincial policy, NPCA, and municipal requirements.

Where impacts cannot be fully avoided, detailed mitigation measures are included, such as:

- Timing restrictions on vegetation clearing to avoid breeding seasons;
- Pre-construction nesting and habitat surveys;
- Sediment and erosion control measures;
- Site fencing and habitat delineation; and
- Restoration and re-naturalization of temporarily disturbed areas.

With these measures in place, no significant long-term negative impacts to natural heritage features or ecological functions are anticipated.

Recent and Ongoing SAR Management

- Niagara Region received Letter of Assurance from the MECP for eastern meadowlark and bobolink accommodations that have been ongoing prior to field preparation activities for geotechnical and archaeological investigations.
- Breeding bird surveys were completed in summer 2025 prior to the plowing for Stage 2 archaeological assessments and geotechnical and hydrogeological investigations.
- Areas requiring Stage 3 and potentially Stage 4 archaeological assessments were mowed in March 2026 to reduce suitability for breeding birds prior to the nesting season. These areas will be restored following the assessments.

Upcoming Activities

- Conduct species-specific bat surveys to confirm use of potential habitat by little brown myotis. If habitat use is confirmed, authorization under the Species Conservation Act may be required in consultation with the MECP.

- Complete fish and fish habitat field surveys during detailed design of the outfall pipe to confirm potential impacts and determine any requirements under the Fisheries Act, Species Conservation Act, 2025, or Species at Risk Act.

Closing

Natural environment and SAR protection is fully integrated into the planning, design, and implementation of the SNWWTS project. Through a comprehensive Environmental Assessment, detailed field investigations and robust mitigation measures, the project meets all applicable provincial, federal, and conservation authority requirements.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Lindsay Jones, MSc., P.Eng, PMP
Associate Director, Engineering
Water & Wastewater Services

Appendices

Appendix 1 - EA information related to natural environment and SAR assessments

CWCD 2026-126 - Appendix 1

Environmental Planning and Assessment Approach

- The project was planned and approved through a Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, the most detailed level under Ontario's Municipal Class EA process. As part of the EA, a series of dedicated natural environment studies were completed and documented within the Environmental Study Report (ESR).
- These studies assessed the WWTP site, trunk sewer alignments, the treated effluent outfall, and adjacent lands within up to 120 metres, as required by applicable policies and regulations.
- **Natural Environment Baseline Report (Golder Associates, now WSP Canada, April 2020)**, which identified potential natural environment constraints across the broader study area and informed site selection.
- **Natural Environment Assessment Report (Golder Associates, now WSP Canada, April 2022)**, which characterized existing conditions at the preferred project components, assessed potential impacts, and identified mitigation measures.
- Together, these studies ensured that natural heritage features and ecological functions were fully considered prior to finalizing preferred solutions.

Identification of Sensitive Natural Features

The project team identified and mapped relevant natural heritage features and designated areas within and surrounding the project area, including:

- Provincially Significant Wetlands, such as the Welland River East and Grassy Brook wetland complexes;
- Watercourses and fish habitat, including the Welland River, Grassy Brook, Lyon's Creek, and Warren Creek;
- Significant woodlands, valleylands, and wildlife habitat;
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) regulated lands; and
- Sensitive groundwater areas.

These features directly influenced both site selection and infrastructure layout, including the location of the WWTP, trunk sewers, and the treated effluent outfall.

For the outfall, an assimilative capacity screening assessment was undertaken to evaluate four potential discharge locations. The preferred outfall location in the Welland River (Chippawa Creek) was selected based on its capacity to convey projected flows and achieve appropriate mixing and dilution while meeting regulatory requirements.

Mapping (Natural Environment Assessment Report (Golder Associates, now WSP Canada, April 2022), Figures 1, 2, 3, 4):

[South Niagara Falls Wastewater Solutions - Vol. 3.1 Natural Environment](#)

(<https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/south-niagara-falls-treatment-plant/pdf/esr-v3-1.pdf>)

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-127

Subject: Municipal Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS)

Date: June 5 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Beth Brens, Director of Finance/Deputy Treasurer

The purpose of this memorandum is to address Councillor Olson's request at May 13, 2026 Corporate Services Committee related to the Municipal Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) online tool offered through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and whether or not it could be considered as a tool to measure the effects on amalgamation of services.

MIDAS is a web-based tool that provides, free of charge, access to the Financial Information Returns (FIR) to all Ontario municipalities. The FIR is the main data collection tool used by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to collect financial and statistical information on municipalities. MIDAS converts FIR data into meaningful reports and identifies multiple year trends. MIDAS is a program of AMO and can be found here [MIDAS - Home Page](https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-information-data-analysis-system). (<https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-information-data-analysis-system>)

FIR data from the Province's MIDAS system indicates that, on a combined basis, Niagara Region and the 12 area municipalities currently represent approximately \$2.6 billion in annual revenues and \$2.2 billion in expenditures based on the 2024 FIRs. Details are in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – 2024 Total Revenue and Expenditures by Municipality

Municipality	2024 Total Revenue	2024 Total Expenditures
Region of Niagara	\$1,462,161,000	\$1,333,684,054
City of Niagara Falls	265,898,079	207,454,280
City of Port Colborne	58,996,708	51,023,312
City of St. Catharines	261,763,076	231,459,060
City of Thorold	80,664,747	52,388,180
City of Welland	168,038,452	102,695,078
Town of Fort Erie	88,799,972	62,075,131
Town of Grimsby	52,110,084	44,462,554
Town of Lincoln	54,652,905	47,909,947
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake	57,121,456	45,520,241
Town of Pelham	39,893,344	31,578,347
Township of Wainfleet	13,261,287	11,202,117
Township of West Lincoln	21,861,925	20,818,564
Total	\$2,625,223,035	\$2,242,270,865

This provides a high-level view of the existing financial framework within the two-tier system. The estimates could reflect the overall financial position; however, additional analysis would be required to support further comparison and any assessment of future potential amalgamation impacts.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Beth Brens
Director of Finance/Deputy Treasurer

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-128

Subject: Update on Bill 98, *Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act, 2026*

Date: Friday, June 5, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Alexandria Tikky, Senior Project Manager

On March 30, 2026, the Province introduced Bill 98, the *Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act, 2026*, which proposed several legislative and regulatory amendments related to infrastructure, growth, transit, and housing.

A summary of the omnibus bill and the postings made by the Province through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) and the Ontario Regulatory Registry (RRO) for the purpose of consultation is outlined within [CWCD 2026-73](https://www.niagararegion.ca/council/Council%20Documents/2026/council-correspondence-april-17-2026.pdf) (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/council/Council%20Documents/2026/council-correspondence-april-17-2026.pdf>).

Niagara Region Staff reviewed the ERO/RRO postings for matters of Regional interest, related to proposed changes to the *Municipal Act, 2001*, *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, and *Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025*, *Planning Act, 1990*, *Development Charges Act, 1997* and related regulations. Staff comments were provided to the Province in advance of the identified deadlines and are included in **Appendix 1** to **Appendix 5** of this memo.

On May 14, 2026, Bill 60 received Royal Assent. The final version of the changes implemented through this approval can be found on the website for the [Legislative Assembly of Ontario](https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-44/session-1/bill-98) (<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-44/session-1/bill-98>).

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Alexandria Tikky, MCIP, RPP
Senior Project Manager

Appendices

Appendix 1 Niagara Region Staff Submission for ERO 026-0301

Appendix 2 Niagara Region Staff Submission for ERO 026-0302

Appendix 3 Niagara Region Staff Submission for ERO 026-0304 and 026-0313

Appendix 4 Niagara Region Staff Submission for ERO 026-0300, 026-0310, and 026-0315

Appendix 5 Niagara Region Staff Submission for RRO 26-MMAH009

Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215

Sent via e-mail: LocalGov@ontario.ca

May 13, 2026

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Local Government Policy Branch
13th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Subject: Niagara Region Staff Comments
**Response to Bill 98, *Building Homes and Improving Infrastructure Act*,
ERO Posting 026-0301**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes introduced as part of Bill 98, the *Building Homes and Improving Infrastructure Act, 2026*. Please accept this submission in response to Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) #026-0301 regarding proposed changes to the *Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025* and *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*.

This cover letter is accompanied by an attached comment matrix, which contains feedback offered by the Niagara Region Public Works Department, Water Wastewater Services Division, as well as the Niagara Region Financial Management and Planning Division as it relates to matters that may impact Regional infrastructure and related strategies.

If you require further details or have any questions about this submission, please contact the undersigned at Angela.Stea@niagararegion.ca or 905-980-6000 ext. 3518, or Phill Lambert, Director of Water Wastewater Services at Phill.Lambert@niagararegion.ca or 905-980-6000 ext. 3244.

Respectfully,

Angela Stea, MCIP, RPP
Director, Strategic Initiatives
Niagara Region

cc. Phill Lambert, Director of Water Wastewater Services
Attachments:

- Appendix 1: Niagara Region Staff Comment Matrix for ERO Posting 026-0301

Appendix 1: Niagara Region Staff Comment Matrix

ERO 026-0301

May 13, 2026

Legislation	Section	Niagara Region Staff Comment
<i>Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025</i>	2 (2)	Regional Staff are generally supportive of the amendments Section 2 (2) of the Act, which provide that shares of a Water and Wastewater Public Corporation (WWPC) can only be issued, transferred or shared to a municipality, the Province of Ontario, Government or Canada or an agent of any of them. Staff note, however, “who” can be appointed as agent remains unclear, and the issuance of shares and, consequently, effective control of the WWPC remains unclear. At this time, the Act provides that this shall be in accordance with regulations which are not yet released. Regional Staff request the Ministry clarify whether it is the intention that WWPCs would remain under municipal control. Further, Staff recommend that future regulations address the resolution process should disputes arise between municipalities and the WWPC.
<i>Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025</i>	9.1	A new section 9.1 prohibits a water and wastewater public corporation from transferring part or all of an asset used to provide water and sewage services unless the board of directors of the corporation has declared, by resolution, that the asset is no longer needed for the purposes of providing those services. There is currently a lack of clarity regarding the appointment and general composition of the Board, which are to be outlined in forthcoming regulations. Further information is needed to understand the governance structure more fully especially as, in the case of the board of directors, the Act notably does not guarantee the municipality any board representation. Regional Staff would respectfully recommend that the regulations provide for meaningful governance representation.
<i>Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025</i>	10 (1.1)	Amendments are proposed to section 10 to provide that a transfer by-law shall not transfer liabilities, rights or obligations arising under certain debt-related financial instruments or agreements entered into by the municipality for the purpose of long-term borrowing. In the event that Niagara Region were to be compelled to transfer its water and wastewater assets/infrastructure to a WWPC, we would have concerns regarding any requirement to retain water and wastewater liabilities without supporting revenues or other appropriate mitigation mechanisms. Regional Staff request further clarity on this matter, and welcome further municipal consultation.

Appendix 1: Niagara Region Staff Comment Matrix

ERO 026-0301

May 13, 2026

<i>Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025</i>	20	Additional powers are identified under section 20 of the Act, including the ability to define the legal effect of a transfer under a transfer by-law, which includes existing contracts, property rights, obligations, and employees and regulation-making powers prescribing the content of agreements, as well as the power to require parties to enter into, modify, terminate, extend, or suspend those agreements. Regional Staff are concerned that the proposed expansion of Ministerial regulation making powers could reduce municipal autonomy and the ability for local negotiations between municipalities and a water and wastewater public corporation. Given the Region's continued role in regional infrastructure planning and financing, clearly defined safeguards should be in place that protect municipal interests and ensure meaningful local input before agreements are imposed or changed. Regional Staff also advise that municipalities should retain the discretion to determine whether a WWPC model is appropriate, based on local conditions such as service needs, cost structures, risk, system efficiency, and affordability. A uniform Provincial approach risks overlooking these differences. While the WWPC model may be appropriate in some contexts, regional delivery models already provide efficient, transparent, and accountable service.
<i>Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002</i>	2 (1)	While treating WWPC owned systems as municipal drinking water systems under the <i>Safe Drinking Water Act</i> maintains regulatory continuity, clarity is required on responsibility for compliance to ensure municipalities are not exposed to residual regulatory or legal risk where ownership and operational control reside with a separate public corporations.

Sent via e-mail: irpb-mmah@ontario.ca

May 13, 2026

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Intergovernmental Relations and Partnerships Branch
13th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Subject: Niagara Region Staff Comments
Response to Bill 98, *Building Homes and Improving Infrastructure Act*,
ERO Posting 026-0302

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes introduced as part of Bill 98, the *Building Homes and Improving Infrastructure Act, 2026*. Please accept this submission in response to Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Posting #026-0302 regarding proposed changes to the *Municipal Act, 2001* and *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* for non-municipal communal drinking water and wastewater systems.

Regional Staff recognize that alternative servicing models, including communal systems, may have a role in specific and limited circumstances where traditional municipal servicing is not feasible in the near term to support the Ministry's objective of facilitating housing development.

Staff, however, have significant concerns regarding the proposed framework, particularly where it may compel municipal consent and reduce the ability of municipalities to align servicing decisions with long-term infrastructure planning, financial sustainability, and public health protection. The proposed framework, which may require municipalities to provide consent where prescribed conditions are met, risks undermining this integrated planning function and create inefficiencies in service delivery. Communal systems also introduce potential risks that may ultimately fall to municipalities, including system failure or underperformance, long-term monitoring and enforcement obligations, and pressure for municipal assumption of private systems.

Respectfully, Staff request that this type of consent remain discretionary, or at minimum, regulations explicitly preserve the ability to refuse proposals based on:

- Infrastructure capacity constraints;
- Financial impacts; and

- Inconsistency with approved growth and servicing plans

Further, Staff recommend that clear provisions be established regarding ownership, lifecycle responsibility, and financial liability, and that no obligation be imposed on municipalities to assume communal systems without full cost recovery

Regional Staff would appreciate the ability to provide further comments on the detailed criteria to be provided by the Ministry. If you require further details or have any questions about this submission, please contact the undersigned at Angela.Stea@niagararegion.ca or 905-980-6000 ext. 3518, or Diana Morreale, MCIP, RPP, Director of Infrastructure Planning and Development at Diana.Morreale@niagararegion.ca or 905-980-6000 ext. 3367.

Respectfully,

Angela Stea, MCIP, RPP
Director, Strategic Initiatives
Niagara Region

cc. Diana Morreale, MCIP, RPP, Director of Infrastructure Planning and Development

Sent via e-mail: GrowthPlanning@ontario.ca

May 13, 2026

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Provincial Land Use Plans Branch
13th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Subject: Niagara Region Staff Comments
**Response to Bill 98, *Building Homes and Improving Infrastructure Act*,
ERO Postings 026-0304 and 026-0313**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes introduced as part of Bill 98, the *Building Homes and Improving Infrastructure Act*, 2026. Please accept this submission in response to the subject postings on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO).

This letter is accompanied by two (2) attachments, which contain detailed feedback regarding the Draft Projection Methodology Guidelines. In addition, the following comments are provided by the Niagara Region Public Works Department, Infrastructure Planning and Development Division with regards to the proposed regulations to streamline the requirements for information that must be submitted as part of a complete application under the *Planning Act*, 1990,

Terms of Reference for Core and Contingent Studies (ERO #026-0313)

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has posed a range of discussion questions within ERO #026-0313, seeking feedback on particular areas for implementation, including the following question regarding “terms of reference”:

“Should planning authorities maintain the ability to develop terms of reference to specify the breadth of information required for each of the types of studies included in the provincial list?”

Regional Staff strongly recommend that the Ministry continue to allow municipalities to establish terms of reference for any core and/or contingent study identified during the development approvals process.

The development of terms of reference is a collaborative effort undertaken between developers, local and regional municipalities, and other agencies, where appropriate, to clearly outline the requirements and expectations for a study's submission. In doing so, the number of circulations needed between the municipality and developer to ensure all information has been appropriately provided for is reduced, and consequently, delays in the approvals process can be avoided.

Further, terms of reference are drafted based on the individual details of the development and site-specific conditions of the lands to be developed, and as such, municipalities often use this tool to narrow the scope of study requirements for an overall faster approvals process.

Conclusion

If you require further details or have any questions about this submission, or the detailed comments on the Draft Projection Methodology Guidelines outlined in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**, please contact the undersigned at Angela.Stea@niagararegion.ca or 905-980-6000 ext. 3518, or Diana Morreale, MCIP, RPP, Director of Infrastructure Planning and Development at Diana.Morreale@niagararegion.ca or 905-980-6000 ext. 3367.

Respectfully,

Angela Stea, MCIP, RPP
Director, Strategic Initiatives
Niagara Region

cc. Diana Morreale, MCIP, RPP, Director of Infrastructure Planning and Development

Attachments:

- Appendix 1 – Niagara Region Response to Revised Draft Projection Methodology Guidelines (ERO #026-0304)
- Appendix 2 – Previous Niagara Region Response to Draft Projection Methodology Guidelines (ERO #025-0844)

Sent via e-mail: growthplanning@ontario.ca

May 13, 2026

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)

Provincial Land Use Plans Branch

13th Floor, 777 Bay Street

Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3

Subject: Draft Projection Methodology Guideline (PMG) to support the implementation of the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 (PPS, 2024)

The Niagara Region appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Projection Methodology Guideline (PMG) supporting implementation of the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 (PPS, 2024). Niagara Region staff previously provided comments through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO 025-0844) and acknowledge the substantive revisions made to the methodology. While these changes are appreciated, concerns remain regarding the coordination of infrastructure planning and growth projections.

The 2026 draft PMG emphasizes the importance of aligning infrastructure and planning projections, identifying key areas requiring coordination such as water and wastewater servicing, public service facilities, regional housing needs, cross-boundary employment areas, and the integration of infrastructure and population forecasts. It also recognizes that upper-tier municipalities, even where no longer responsible for allocating growth, continue to play a critical role in infrastructure planning and service delivery—reinforcing the need for effective coordination to avoid service gaps or capacity constraints.

The draft, however, does not provide sufficient direction on how this alignment should be operationalized. While it encourages coordination through tools such as Ministry of Finance (MOF) updates, coordinated census division (CD) to census subdivision (CSD) disaggregation, and voluntary information-sharing or intermunicipal agreements, it does not establish a clear or consistent process. Notably, it lacks defined sequencing, minimum consultation requirements, and a standardized approach for reconciling planning projections with infrastructure capacity and servicing plans.

This gap is compounded by the flexibility provided in the draft PMG, which allows municipalities to proceed on different official plan review cycles and apply varying five-year

growth trends. Although the PMG encourages alignment with MOF update timing, it does not provide guidance for situations where planning cycles, infrastructure studies, and projection updates are misaligned.

In its current form, the draft PMG clearly articulates the need for alignment but provides limited implementation guidance. It does not define roles and responsibilities, establish timing expectations, outline mechanisms for developing shared assumptions, or provide processes for resolving discrepancies—particularly where local population projections differ from regional infrastructure capacity. For municipalities operating within upper- and lower-tier systems, this represents a significant implementation gap that may affect long-term planning and service delivery.

To address these issues, it is recommended that the Province establish a clear minimum framework for coordination, including defined roles and responsibilities, guidance on timing and sequencing, and mechanisms for dispute resolution. This would support more consistent implementation while maintaining flexibility for local context.

Previous comments submitted for ERO 025-0844 are attached for reference and remain applicable to the latest draft PMG.

Sent via e-mail: growthplanning@ontario.ca

October 10, 2025

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
Provincial Land Use Plans Branch
13th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3

Subject: Proposed Updates to the Projection Methodology Guideline to support the implementation of the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 (PPS, 2024)

The Niagara Region appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed updates to the Projection Methodology Guideline (PMG) to support the implementation of the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 (PPS, 2024).

Niagara Region staff offer the following comments and recommendations for consideration.

Comment 1: *It is necessary that coordination on future forecasts with ‘Upper-tier Municipalities without Planning Authority’ continues to occur where the upper-tier is responsible for overseeing and/or providing essential services including water and wastewater, Regional transit and waste management, to ensure cohesive and fiscally responsible growth planning.*

Niagara Region is an upper-tier municipality without planning authority but remains responsible for critical services such as regional water and wastewater infrastructure, regional roads, and waste management. While lower-tier municipalities manage local water distribution and sewer systems, the Region plans and funds major infrastructure projects that serve 11 of its 12 municipalities.

Despite recent changes removing formal planning authority from some upper-tier municipalities, Niagara Region still plays a vital role in coordinating population and employment projections with its lower-tier partners when updating regional infrastructure master plans. This coordination ensures responsible service delivery and infrastructure planning.

The 2024 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) offers minimal guidance on how upper- and lower-tier municipalities should coordinate planning. It uses “should” instead of “shall,” weakening requirements for integrated infrastructure planning. The proposed Provincial Methodology Guideline (PMG) further shifts projection responsibilities to lower-tier municipalities, even though Ministry of Finance (MOF) forecasts are only provided at the upper-tier (Census Division) level. Given the permissive language in Section 6.2 of the PPS (2024), the PMG must provide clearer direction on how upper- and lower-tier municipalities are to work together in the projection process to support fiscally responsible and serviceable growth.

Lower-tier municipalities making projections without understanding regional infrastructure capacity can lead to consequences, such as misaligned projects, under- or over-collection of development charges, and delayed or unnecessary infrastructure investments. The PMG does not adequately address the financial risks of uncoordinated planning in a two-tier system.

Finally, coordination with the Region is essential to properly identify and adjust for developable lands, infrastructure constraints, and timing lags in development. Without this, lower-tier growth planning may occur in areas without servicing capacity, or fail to optimize existing infrastructure

Recommendation: The PMG needs to require the involvement of upper-tier municipalities—regardless of their planning authority—in the disaggregation of Ministry of Finance (MOF) projections to lower-tier municipalities. This coordination is essential to ensure that growth projections at the local level align with upper-tier infrastructure capacity and financial planning.

Comment 2: Multiple population projection methods are not ideal in a two-tiered system where lower-tier municipalities have substantially different populations, growth rates and infrastructure planning outlooks.

The PMG provides two methods for establishing population projections and suggests a lower-tier municipality use both methods to determine the “upper and lower parameters of the range of reasonable growth projections for each municipality” and then select a growth projection within the projection range.

Table 1 shows each lower-tier municipality in Niagara and applies the two population projection methods to 2051. The difference between the low and high range scenarios across Niagara is over 75,000 people. The high range scenario is 58,000 persons higher

than the MOF projection, assuming all lower-tier municipalities project from the same MOF projection year (see Comment #3 for additional discussion).

At the lower-tier municipal level, the two methods produce a wide range of projections in only two municipalities: Thorold and St. Catharines. In the 2021 Census, Thorold was the eighth-fastest growing municipality in Canada and the fourth-fastest in Ontario with a growth rate of 26.7%. St. Catharines, alternatively, is the largest municipality in Niagara but had the lowest growth rate in the 2021 Census at only 2.77% but represents 28.6% of the Region's population share. From a servicing perspective, both municipalities would aim for the higher projected method to ensure sufficient services are available and financed.

Table 1: Population Projection Methodology Results Across Niagara Municipalities

Municipality	Method A	Method B	Low Range	High Range
Fort Erie	47,431	48,817	47,431	48,817
Grimsby	41,639	45,253	41,639	45,253
Lincoln	37,077	43,477	37,077	43,477
Niagara Falls	136,112	148,052	136,112	148,052
Niagara-on-the-Lake	27,518	34,633	27,518	34,633
Pelham	26,226	26,868	26,226	26,868
Port Colborne	28,880	30,892	28,880	30,892
St. Catharines	197,220	178,228	178,228	197,220
Thorold	34,334	54,513	34,334	54,513
Wainfleet	9,929	10,307	9,929	10,307
Welland	80,371	84,705	80,371	84,705
West Lincoln	22,279	22,463	22,279	22,463
2051 Population Total	689,016	728,208	670,024	747,200

Recommendation: *As previously recommended in the first comment, requiring an upper-tier municipality (regardless of planning authority) in assisting with the disaggregation of the MOF projections will ensure better alignment of lower-tier growth potential and upper-tier infrastructure availability and financing.*

Comment 3: *Select a single Ministry of Finance population projection year for the purpose of lower-tier population projections.*

By removing the Provincial Growth Plan (2020), and associated Schedule 3 forecasts, the Province has simplified long-range planning projections by identifying a single authoritative source of population projections for Official Plans. However, directing lower-tier

municipalities to use a projection that changes annually will create further inconsistency, especially in a two-tiered system.

As shown in Table 1, the population projection method chosen by a lower-tier municipality directly impacts the overall upper-tier or Census Division projection, likely exceeding the MOF projection. Similarly, when (i.e. what year) a municipality completes their projection work will have an impact on the overall projection total. Since lower-tier municipalities are directed to use the most current MOF projections when they complete their population projections, there will be additional variation in what the total Census Division population projection is because MOF projections are updated annually.

For example, in 2020 the MOF projected Niagara's 2046 population to be 619,950. In 2024, the MOF projection for 2046 was increased to 686,998. Finally, the most recent MOF projection update in 2025 dropped the 2046 projection to 658,578. Between 2020 and 2024, the MOF projection for 2046 increased by 10% (nearly 75,000 people), followed by a drop of 30,000 in one year alone.

Since upper-tier municipalities will need to select a single 2051 population projection to support regional infrastructure master plans (e.g. water and wastewater, transportation) and Development Charges, the variation in annual MOF population projections, compounded by which method a municipality chooses for their own population projections, infrastructure planning and DC purposes, will result in projection misalignment between lower- and upper-tier municipalities.

Recommendation: The PMG should consider using a single MOF projection for the purpose of Official Plan projections, most suitably being the 'major' update issued by the MOF that incorporates the most recent census data and extends the outer range of the MOF projections. The 'major' update projection would remain unchanged for 5 years, allowing lower- and upper-tier municipalities a consistent Census Division projection to use similar to the Schedule 3 forecasts from the Growth Plan. Finally, this would eliminate the short-term variations between annual MOF projection updates.

Comment 4: Case Study Scenario Recommendation

While the PMG repeatedly notes the importance of collaboration between lower-tier municipalities in distributing the Census Division population growth, it does not consider the impact on upper-tier services including roads, water and wastewater treatment plants and pumps. Consultation with the upper-tier municipality, regardless of planning authority,

should be required when distributing MOF Census Division projections across lower-tier municipalities.

Recommendation: The PMG should include a scenario, and stronger direction, for establishing projections in a two-tier system with lower-tier municipalities with planning authority and an upper-tier municipality without planning authority but with shared infrastructure and public services.

Comment 5: *No detail is provided on how the Province will evaluate the appropriateness of a Municipality's "unusual" population projection.*

The PMG identifies issues that can arise from unusual growth scenarios (Page 11). There is inherent risk in the proposed approach when lower-tier municipalities are suggested, but not required, to engage each other and coordinate the distribution of MOF projections. Lack of coordination between municipalities can lead to over inflated projections, disagreement on "shares" of growth, and misalignment to the MOF projections.

The guideline identifies circumstances where a municipality may opt to project growth outside the projection range, suggesting "it should document the approach and data sources used and provide the rationale and methodology behind the calculation". However, the draft PMG addresses this only briefly and in vague terms, which may lead to inflated projections based on insufficient evidence.

Recommendation: The Province should be more specific in the PMG on how they will address lower-tier growth forecasts that are either above or below the projection limits resulting from methods A and B.

Comment 6: *Provide consistent datasets to municipalities.*

Throughout the PMG, the onus is put upon municipalities to purchase datasets from Statistics Canada. It is more inexpensive to purchase data from Statistics Canada as a consortium (e.g. the Regional Information Systems Working Group or Canadian Data Program) than it is for individual municipalities.

Recommendation: Rather than require all lower-tier municipalities in the Province purchase the same data to complete the PMG, the Province should simply purchase the required datasets and provide them to municipalities in Ontario through the Ontario Data Catalogue.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. If you require further details or have any questions about this submission, please contact Diana Morreale, MCIP,

RPP, Director of Infrastructure Planning and Development at
Diana.Morreale@niagararegion.ca or 905-980-6000 x3367.

Respectfully,



Diana Morreale, MCIP RPP
Director Infrastructure Planning and Development
Infrastructure Planning and Development
Niagara Region

Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215

Sent via e-mail: PlanningConsultation@ontario.ca

May 13, 2026

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Housing Provincial Planning Branch
13th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Subject: Niagara Region Staff Comments
**Response to Bill 98, *Building Homes and Improving Infrastructure Act*,
ERO Postings 026-0300, 026-0310, and 026-0315**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes introduced as part of Bill 98, the *Building Homes and Improving Infrastructure Act*, 2026. Please accept this submission in response to the subject postings on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO).

This cover letter is accompanied by an attached comment matrix that provides feedback from the Niagara Region Public Works Department, Infrastructure Planning and Development Division, as it relates to matters that may impact Regional infrastructure and related strategies.

If you require further details or have any questions about this submission, please contact the undersigned at angela.stea@niagararegion.ca or 905-980-6000 ext. 3518, or Diana Morreale, MCIP, RPP, Director of Infrastructure Planning and Development at Diana.Morreale@niagararegion.ca or 905-980-6000 ext. 3367.

Respectfully,

Angela Stea, MCIP, RPP
Director, Strategic Initiatives
Niagara Region

cc. Diana Morreale, MCIP, RPP, Director of Infrastructure Planning and Development

Attachment:

- Appendix 1 – Niagara Region Staff Comments, ERO Postings 026-0300, ERO 026-0310, and ERO 026-0315

Appendix 1: Niagara Region Staff Comment Matrix
 ERO 026-0300, ERO 026-0310, and ERO 026-0315
 May 13, 2026

ERO No.	Topic Area	Niagara Region Staff Comment
026-0300	Proposed changes to the <i>Planning Act</i> to streamline and standardize Official Plans	Regional Staff previously commented on the initial consultation introduced through Bill 60, <i>Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025</i>, on simplifying and standardizing Official Plans (i.e. ERO #025-1099). Niagara Region Staff requested that the Province ensure that policies and mapping related to matters in the Region's jurisdiction (i.e. growth forecasting, infrastructure planning, etc.) would continue to be considered in the structure, word count, and related standards for local Official Plans. Staff also noted that most local municipalities were in the process of reviewing and/or adopting their local Official Plans for conformity and consistency with Provincial plans. As such, we recommended that any new Official Plan standards or requirements be communicated to municipalities as soon as possible to inform on-going reviews. Following the consultation period, Staff were invited to meet with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) to provide further insight regarding proposed Official Plan standards and other related planning instruments (i.e. secondary and neighbourhood-level plans). Regional Staff are generally supportive of the updates being made to refine the standardized Official Plan structure and process for approval, including the introduction of transition provisions that would allow local municipalities to avoid further delays in the current review and approval of their Plans.
026-0310	Removal of site plan control as a land use planning tool in the <i>Planning Act</i> and the <i>City of Toronto Act, 2006</i> .	Staff are not supportive of proposed changes to outright eliminate site plan control as a land use planning tool, which may preclude upper-tier municipalities from identifying and ensuring infrastructure and other interests are addressed for the development or redevelopment of lands that were not subject to a previous <i>Planning Act</i> approval process (e.g. through a draft plan of subdivision, etc.).

Appendix 1: Niagara Region Staff Comment Matrix
 ERO 026-0300, ERO 026-0310, and ERO 026-0315
 May 13, 2026

		This may result in delays later in the development and/or building permit process that may require approvals under other legislation or regulations (e.g. ECA approvals for servicing, road access permits, etc.).
026-0310	Requirement for a maximum of three circulations after which a mandatory meeting is triggered with all relevant municipal department representatives and the applicant to work through and resolve all outstanding issues.	Staff are supportive of imposing the proposed maximum three site plan circulations and requiring a mandatory meeting to resolve outstanding issues as this would motivate proponents to submit higher quality/fulsome submission materials, which is often lacking. Pre-consultation/pre-submission meetings are strongly encouraged in order to identify issues and submission requirements prior to preparation of submission materials by the proponent's consulting team. It should be noted that often developers request that land use matters to be deferred to site plan, so that they may secure quicker zoning approvals and required financing. An overly prescriptive site plan control process could have the unintended consequence of extending the overall land use approvals process.
026-0310	Scoped site plan review process to a standard site plan approval checklist of functional aspects of a site, with use of certified professionals for acceptance and approval of reports and studies.	Staff are not opposed in principle to a standard site plan approval checklist subject to ensuring that the checklist covers applicable upper-tier interests per the comments above regarding development or redevelopment of lands that were not subject to a previous <i>Planning Act</i> approval process.
026-0310	Requirements for an arbitration process/site plan review panel for site plan applications that have exceeded the government's 60-day timeline and a specified number of circulations.	As stated above, allowing for pre-consultation/pre-submission meetings is strongly encouraged in order to identify issues and submission requirements prior to preparation of submission materials by the proponent's consulting team resulting in better submissions and reduce delays in the approval process as a result of deficiencies in submission materials. Participants should also include applicable external agencies, where required, to ensure their interests are addressed.

Appendix 1: Niagara Region Staff Comment Matrix
 ERO 026-0300, ERO 026-0310, and ERO 026-0315
 May 13, 2026

026-0310	Requirements for municipalities to establish different site plan approval streams for different kinds of proposed development, with corresponding scope of matters that may be controlled.	Determining different site plan approval streams should not be based on the scale of a development initiative, i.e. “larger” developments, but should instead be determined based on the complexity of the proposal. Small-scale developments may also be subject to complex issues.
026-0315	Proposed reform to the Secondary Plan process and approvals	Regional Staff previously commented on the initial consultation introduced through Bill 60, regarding potential reforms and/or prohibitions for secondary plans (i.e. ERO #025-1099). Staff identified the benefits secondary plans serve municipalities by allowing a detailed review of land use and infrastructure needs within a defined area to be undertaken more quickly. Consequently, this allows municipal works and upgrades to also be undertaken at a faster pace, which in turn, provides opportunities to create “shovel-ready” sites for development and support for transit connections. Staff are supportive of approaches that would expedite secondary plan approvals, including certain exemptions from Ministerial approval, provided that regional municipalities without planning authority, like the Niagara Region, will continue to have the ability to provide input on matters related to infrastructure, growth and related services. The Ministry may wish to also consider further methods for expediting approvals, including requirements for underlying zoning to be completed simultaneously, or placing further limits on appeals.

Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215

Sent via e-mail: MFPB@ontario.ca

May 13, 2026

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Local Government Policy Branch
13th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Subject: Niagara Region Staff Comments
**Response to Bill 98, *Building Homes and Improving Infrastructure Act*,
RRO Posting 26-MMAH009**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes introduced as part of Bill 98, the *Building Homes and Improving Infrastructure Act, 2026*. Please accept this submission in response to Regulatory Registry of Ontario (RRO) #26-MMAH009 regarding proposed changes to the *Development Charges Act, 1997* that would exempt non-profit retirement homes from development charges and correct cross-references “which are consequential to changes made by previous Bills”.

Niagara Region is supportive of the Province’s objective of increasing the supply of housing in our Region. This particular amendment to the DC Act would reduce upfront costs for non-profit long term care providers which may make these projects more financially viable for the non-profit organizations undertaking these projects.

The Province should consider the broader financial and implementation impacts of this exemption. Development charges are the main source of funding used by municipalities to fund growth related infrastructure. Exemption of a specific class of development requires municipalities to fund their reserves for DCs exempted to not shift the burden of the exemption onto other classes or types of development. This places the burden of funding these exemptions on the existing taxpayers and puts added financial pressure on the tax levy.

In terms of implementation consideration should be given to whether conditions should be attached to the exemption to ensure public benefit. For example, the Province could explore linking the exemption to demonstrated affordability, provision of below-market units, or long-term non-profit operation.

Overall, the Niagara Region is supportive of efforts to increase housing but believe careful design and clear parameters are essential to ensure the exemption achieves its intended outcomes without placing undue strain on municipal finances.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. If you require further details or have any questions about this submission, please contact Beth Brens, CPA, CA, Director of Finance/Deputy Treasurer at beth.r.brens@niagararegion.ca or 905-980-6000 ext. 3293.

Respectfully,

Beth Brens, CPA, CA
Director of Finance/Deputy Treasurer
Corporate Services
Niagara Region

cc. Angela Stea, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Niagara Region

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-129

Subject: Competitive Procurement Awards Between \$100,000 and \$10,000,000
– May 2026

Date: Friday, June 5, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Bart Menage, Director, Procurement Services

Please be advised that the Competitive Procurements included in Appendix 1 have been awarded.

As per the Procurement By-law 2025-57, section 19, Reporting, item 19.1 the Director of Procurement Services shall: (b) report to Council on a monthly basis via the Councillor Weekly Correspondence Distribution, all Competitive Procurement Awards between \$100,000 and \$10,000,000 excluding VAT.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Bart Menage
Director, Procurement Services

Appendices

Appendix 1 Competitive Procurement Awards Between \$100,000 and \$10,000,000 –
May 2026

**Listing of Competitive Procurement Awards Between \$100,000 and \$10,000,000
May 2026**

**CWCD 2026-129
Appendix 1**

BID NUMBER	PROJECT NAME	AWARD VALUE (PRE-TAX)	SUPPLIER	REGISTERED SUPPLIERS	COMPLETED SUBMISSIONS
2025-T-213	Regional Road 38 (Martindale Rd) – Replacement of J.R. Stork Bridge (Structure 038205) Over Richardson’s Creek in the City of St. Catharines	\$6,783,425.00	Rankin Construction Inc.	49	5
2025-T-37	Dain City Sewage Pumping Station Rehabilitation	\$6,536,015.18	Industra Construction Corp.	5	3
2025-T-44	Port Colborne Water Treatment Plant UV Upgrades	\$2,098,500.00	Procon Constructors Inc.	40	5
2026-T-22	6271 Glengate St., Branscombe Child Care, Interior/Exterior Renovation for Service Expansion	\$346,170.00	Stolk Construction Ltd.	6	6

NOTES

NRPS, NRH and NTC are not included in the datasets outlined herein as these agencies operated under their own Procurement By-law and/or Governing Bodies.

Registered supplier data is unaltered and includes construction agencies as registered suppliers.

Completed submission data includes all submissions received, including those that were determined to be non-compliant.

Competitive procurements are counted based on the procurement process rather than the number of suppliers awarded. A single competitive process that results in multiple supplier awards is reported as one competitive procurement in the *Corporate Competitive Procurement Awards Between \$100,000 and \$10,000,000* report. However, each individual award is identified in the appendix for reference.

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-130

Subject: Update on new federal/provincial Development Charge Reduction Program

Date: Friday, June 5, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Ron Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer

On Monday, June 1, Ontario formally launched a new program to reduce building costs and speed up the construction of new homes, in partnership with the Federal Government. The Development Charge (DC) Reduction Program provides a total of up to \$8.8 billion for large municipal infrastructure projects that unlock new housing development. Funding will be prioritized for municipalities that make significant reductions to development charges (minimum 30 to 50 per cent for at least three years).

Early analysis suggests this could be a significant opportunity for the Region to secure funding for the South Niagara Wastewater Treatment Solution (SNWTS) project. If successful, Niagara Region could receive up to 90 per cent of eligible costs under the program. For more information on the project, see [PWC-6-2026](https://pub-niagararegion.escibemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=3ff8e395-9da8-4ebe-a493-fb7e35aa1d5a&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=14&Tab=attachments) (<https://pub-niagararegion.escibemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=3ff8e395-9da8-4ebe-a493-fb7e35aa1d5a&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=14&Tab=attachments>).

Completed applications must be submitted to the Province no later than June 19. Staff are currently doing a full analysis of the program requirements as well as the financial implications of reducing DCs to meet the program requirements. The Region is coordinating with the Area Municipalities as appropriate. More information will be provided in a report to Council next week.

While no formal Council action is required before applications are due, should the project be approved, Council would have to make key decisions later this summer prior to any funding agreements being ratified. Staff are preparing recommendations for Council's consideration at the July Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
POLICE SERVICE BOARD**

5700 VALLEY WAY, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO L2E 1X8

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

June 4, 2026

SENT BY EMAIL

Ann-marie.Norio@niagararegion.ca

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk
Niagara Region
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
Thorold, ON
L2V 4T7

Dear Ms. Norio:

Re: NRPS 2025 Annual Report and Strategic Plan Update (Year 4)

At its meeting held on May 28, 2026, the Niagara Regional Police Service Board considered a presentation and Service report regarding the 2025 Annual Report and Strategic Planning Update (Year 4) for the Niagara Regional Police Service.

In compliance with Section 41 of the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA) and in accordance with the reporting requirements set out in the Police Service Board's By-law 535-2025, Framework for Strategic Planning and Annual Reporting, the 2025 Annual Report and Strategic Plan Update (Year 4) is submitted to Regional Council for its information.

A copy of the presentation, Service report and 2025 Niagara Regional Police Service Annual Report is attached, which is also available on the Niagara Regional Police Service website at: [2025 Annual Report and Strategic Plan Update \(Year 4\)](#)

I would ask that you take the necessary action to place this information before Council. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

Deb Reid
Chief Governance Officer

Encl.

- c. T. Ellis, Commissioner, Corporate Services, Niagara Region
Chief of Police B. Fordy, Niagara Regional Police Service



NOTICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Beamer Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) is entering the next phase of engagement for the Beamer Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan, continuing a collaborative process to help shape the future of this important natural area in the Town of Grimsby.

About the Project

Located in the Town of Grimsby, Beamer Memorial was acquired by NPCA in the late 1960s for escarpment protection and nature study. Beamer Memorial is 63 hectares in size and offers breathtaking, panoramic views of the Niagara Escarpment and Lake Ontario. The conservation area is popular for observing the annual spring hawk migration as they pass over the Niagara Peninsula watershed.

The development of the updated management plan is guided by [NPCA's Conservation Areas Strategy](#), with a strong focus on collaboration and community engagement.

In Fall 2025, NPCA undertook an initial round of engagement activities to better understand how community members use and experience the conservation area and what they value most about it. Through surveys, a community open house, an online project page, and discussions with key partners, more than 850 contributions were received.

Feedback gathered during the first phase identified five key themes that will guide future planning and concept development:

- Improved trails and amenities
- Visitor management and parking
- Education and community engagement
- Protection of natural heritage
- Support for passive recreation

Public Engagement Session

Community members and interested parties are encouraged to attend an upcoming public engagement session to learn more about this initiative, ask questions, and provide feedback.

The Public Information Session will be in-person only, held at the following date and location:

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Location: Major Refrigeration Peach King Centre
 162 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby ON L3M 5P7

Register to attend by [clicking here](#).

Get Involved

Additional information on the Beamer Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan can be found on NPCA's [Get Involved Portal](#), subscribe for project updates to follow along!



NOTICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Four Mile Creek Watershed Plan

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) in collaboration with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is advancing a science-based initiative focused on improving our understanding of the Four Mile Creek watershed and supporting informed decision-making related to flooding, erosion, water quality, watershed function, and future land-use considerations under changing climate conditions.

The Four Mile Creek watershed drains a large landscape extending from the City of Niagara Falls to the Town of Niagara-on-the-lake before it outlets to Lake Ontario. The watershed area primarily consists of agriculture and two urban areas in St. David's and Virgil.

About the Project

This multi-year initiative includes several interconnected projects and activities designed to better understand watershed conditions and inform future actions to address flooding and erosion risks, including:

- Enhanced surface water quality monitoring
- Watershed background characterization studies
- Geomorphic assessments
- Updated floodplain mapping

Public Engagement Session

Community input and local knowledge are critical components of this initiative, and residents are encouraged to participate throughout the process.

Community members and interested parties are encouraged to attend an upcoming public engagement session to learn more about the initiative, ask questions, and provide feedback.

The Public Engagement Session will be in-person only, held at the following date and location:

Date: June 17, 2026
Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Location: Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre
 14 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake ON, L0S 1J0

Register to attend by [clicking here](#).

Get Involved

Additional information on the Four Mile Creek Watershed Plan can be found on NPCA's [Get Involved Portal](#), subscribe for project updates to follow along!



June 04, 2026

Canada-Ontario Development Charge Program Launches

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.

[Read More](#)

AMO's Post-Election Local Leadership Foundations

Designed to help municipal elected officials hit the ground running. A limited number of bursaries will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration opens soon.

[Join the Waitlist](#)

Time is Running Out: AMO Board of Directors Nominations

Interested in running for the AMO Board of Directors? Submit your nomination before June 22 at 12:00 p.m. Visit our webpage for more information.

[More Information](#)

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](#). Remember to register to access this opportunity.

New Dates: Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities – Free Workshop Series

AMO has released new dates for the *Healthy Democracy Leadership Series: Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities* workshops. 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](#).

Webinars & Tools: Using Housing Needs Assessments Strategically

AMO has published new resources to help municipalities use their Housing Needs Assessments. Two recorded webinars and additional tools can help guide the process. [Click here for materials](#).

Federal Matters

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 Matters

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. [Apply here](#).

Building Ontario Fund Market Sounding

The Building Ontario Fund has launched a market sounding seeking input on approaches to support the development of sports and recreation facilities. It is open until June 5. [Share your feedback](#).

On-Site and Excess Soil Management Regulation Webinar

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is hosting a session on June 18, 2026 to provide information about how to interpret and apply changes to the Excess Soil Regulation coming into effect in January. [Register here](#).

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. [Register here](#).

Energy Reporting Deadline approaching fast

Less than a month until the annual [BPS energy reporting](#) deadline. Be sure to report your annual energy use and greenhouse gas emissions to the province by July 1.

Events & Education

- **JUN 9 - Underrepresented Candidates Considering Running for Office**

AMO's free information session on what to expect as an underrepresented candidate, plus tips for developing effective messaging, utilizing community engagement & more. [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 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 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](#).

Careers

[Member of the Municipal Election Compliance Audit Committee - Town of Caledon](#).
Closing Deadline: June 18, 2026.

[Financial Analyst \(24 Month Contract\) - Town of Newmarket](#). Closing Date: June 15, 2026.

[Chief Building Official - City of Kenora](#). Closing Date: July 3, 2026.

[See More Careers](#)



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

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

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**AAC 2-2026
Tuesday, May 26, 2026
Meeting held by electronic participation**

Committee: Councillor Bateman (Committee Chair); L. Hay (Committee Vice-Chair), V. Leitch, N. Qureshi, D. Whipple

Absent/Regrets: M. Abdelmaksoud, A. Hernandez, R. Walker

Staff: T. Dumas, Accessibility Advisor, K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, A. Stea, Director, Strategic Initiatives

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Bateman called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Committee Chair Bateman read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

4.1 AAC-C 1-2026

2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) Status Update

Tammy Dumas, Accessibility Advisor, provided information respecting Accessibility Plan 2025 Status Update. Topics of the presentation included:

- Multi-year Accessibility Plan (MYAP)
- Focus Areas:
 - General
 - Customer Service
 - Information and Communication
 - Employment
 - Public Spaces
 - Transportation
- Upcoming Activities

Moved by D. Whipple
Seconded by N. Qureshi

That Memorandum AAC-C 1-2026, dated February 24, 2026. respecting
2025 Accessibility Compliance Report and Status Update, **BE RECEIVED**
for information.

Carried

4.2 AAC 4-2025
Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - October 21, 2025

Moved by L. Hay
Seconded by D. Whipple

That Minutes AAC 4-2025, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory
Committee meeting held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, **BE RECEIVED**
for information.

Carried

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Niagara Region Accessible Taxi Survey Update

Tammy Dumas, Accessibility Advisor, provided an update respecting the
Niagara Region Accessible Taxi Survey conducted from March 3 to March
16, 2026. She advised that, as a result of the low response rate, the
Region would be conducting another survey.

At the conclusion of the discussion on this item, Committee Chair
Bateman announced that quorum had been lost; therefore, the meeting
was adjourned.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Councillor Bateman
Committee Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Deputy Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk