



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COUNCIL WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION

INDEX

Friday, July 24, 2026

	Pages
1. <u>CWCD 2026-172</u> Summary of Active Bid Solicitations	1
2. <u>CWCD 2026-173</u> Community Services Update	3
3. <u>CWCD 2026-174</u> Effects of Rising Oil Costs on Hot Mix Asphalt Contracts	7
4. <u>CWCD 2026-175</u> AMO Watchfile July 23, 2026	12

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 2026-172

Subject: Summary of Active Bid Solicitations

Date: Friday, July 24, 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-RFSQ-98	Winter and Summer Grounds Maintenance for Niagara Region facilities	July 27, 2026
2026-T-88	Rehabilitation of Bridges and Culverts in the Niagara Region	July 28, 2026
2026-RFP-94	Consulting Assignment to Undertake a Comprehensive Environmental Assessment for the Niagara Escarpment Crossing in the Towns of Grimsby and Lincoln and the Township of West Lincoln	August 04, 2026
2026-Q-107	Biggar Lagoons SPS Piping Replacement Design	August 05, 2026
2026-RFP-114	Railway Grade Crossing Safety Assessment	August 11, 2026
2026-T-103	Removal and Replacement of Wooden Stairs and Ramp on Buildings at the Humberstone and Niagara Road 12 Landfill sites	August 11, 2026
2026-RFP-90	Employee and Family Assistance and Critical Incident Response Program for The Regional Municipality of Niagara, Niagara Regional Police Service, and Niagara Transit Commission	August 21, 2026

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-173

Subject: Community Services Update

Date: Friday, July 24, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Henri Koning, Commissioner, Community Services

This memorandum is in response to a request made by the Acting Regional Chair and Co-Chairs of Public Health and Social Services Committee for an overview of examples of service modernization and community impact in Community Services.

Service Modernization and Innovation

- Developed the Early Years and Child Care Service System Plan 2025 to 2030, a comprehensive multi-year roadmap to guide investments in high-quality early years and child care programs and services across Niagara.
- Completed an external Special Needs Resource Program Review and advanced a new service delivery model to increase direct service delivery for children with special needs.
- Successfully implemented the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care plan (CWELCC), with over 95 per cent of eligible child care operators participating and 10,757 child care spaces enrolled.
- Expanded child care spaces across Niagara by 47 per cent from 2023 to the end of 2026 under the federal-provincial CWELCC Expansion Plan.
- Refreshed the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan 2025-2029 to respond to emerging community needs and focus efforts upstream to reduce over-reliance on emergency services.
- Launched a community substance use strategy and action table to advance prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and community safety.
- Developed the Consolidated Housing Master Plan – Implementation Plan.
- Developed a local supportive housing strategy and launched the first expression of interest for supportive housing, supported by a Council-approved implementation plan with provincial funding over three years.

-
- Implemented an End of Mortgage strategy for 51 non-profit and co-op providers, increasing operating subsidies and supporting necessary capital repairs.
 - Implemented an online portal for digital housing applications, improving access for residents applying for affordable housing.
 - Established and implemented a Bridge Housing Program, a leading practice supporting high-needs clients to stabilize in a short-term intensive program before moving to independent living.
 - Completed a third party Shelter Capacity Review, to inform investments in diversion, a transition of seasonal shelters to full-day/full-service models, and broader shelter system improvements.
 - Supported the Niagara Lived Expert Committee, which received a national bright spot award and contributed to policy and program design, including 10 recommendations for the Region.
 - Advanced pilot programs through the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Innovation grant program, including Aging with Dignity and youth-focused supports.
 - Opened the new Gilmore Lodge, a 160-bed state-of-the-art long-term care home in Fort Erie.
 - Launched the Vibrant Model of Care, a made-in-Niagara model that is value-driven, relationship-based, person-centred, and delivered in a home-like environment.
 - Implemented technology and digital modernization initiatives including WELBI, PCC Document Manager, VidCruiter, AMPLIFI electronic health record exchange, cybersecurity planning, Point-of-Care Testing, MealSuite, Tendable, and medication safety barcode scanning.
 - Expanded Point-of-Care Testing from two long-term care homes to all homes, avoiding 150 emergency department visits in 2025.
 - Met the legislated four hours of direct care requirement in long-term care and achieved a 98 per cent compliance rate with Accreditation Canada.
 - Expanded the Adult Day Program from a half-day to a full-day model to provide more support to seniors in the community and their caregivers.
 - Implemented Provincial modernization initiatives - Centralized Intake, Integrated Employment Services, and electronic document management
 - Completed Lean Six Sigma reviews that centralized functions, streamlined processes, and increased capacity.

-
- Expanded digital services through online applications, automation, and electronic records to improve access
 - Launched the Niagara Transit Benefit Pass and Niagara Utility Benefit Program.

Community Impact and Partnerships

- Expanded EarlyON Child and Family Centres by five new sites over the term of Council, increasing access and supports for families and young children.
- Continued collaboration with Niagara College to support early years and child care workforce initiatives and increase system capacity.
- Enhanced partnership with Niagara Regional Police Service to expand situation tables across the region to support individuals and families at acutely elevated risk.
- Successfully implemented the Welcoming Streets Initiative pilot program in downtown St. Catharines, with funding continuity to the end of 2026.
- Mobilized the Gun and Gang Prevention Youth Crime Prevention Strategy through the federal Building Safer Communities Grant Program, supporting nine community-based organizations.
- Received provincial funding for the Homelessness Addiction Recovery and Treatment Hub (HART Hub) demonstration project, implemented 2026.
- Secured federal Rapid Rehousing Initiative funding for the Port Cares housing development of 42 units, including 12 rent supplement agreements placed from Niagara's housing waitlist.
- Received federal funding for an 18-unit transitional housing development supporting Indigenous women and children fleeing violence, construction completed and opened in 2025.
- Received funding from federal, provincial, and regional partners for a 49-unit supportive housing development, construction in progress, anticipate a Q4 2026 opening.
- Secured federal funding to launch a Veterans Homelessness Program.
- Partnered with Niagara Region Native Centre to offer Indigenous outreach services and Indigenous Housing First case management.
- Created a Recuperative Care program with Ontario Health funding to support people experiencing homelessness for six to eight weeks while recovering from a hospital stay when shelter is not appropriate.

-
- Supported internationally educated nurses through the Supervised Practice Experience Partnership Program, helping 13 nurses in 2023 and 15 nurses in 2024 transition to registered nurse or registered practical nurse employment.
 - Launched the first embedded Behavioural Supports Ontario Program model in long-term care in Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand and Brant.
 - Partnered with Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre to deliver digital literacy programming for seniors.
 - Launched the Partners in Care Program with technical support from Cornell University to strengthen communication among residents, families, and staff.
 - Opened the Gilmore Community Hub in Fort Erie.
 - Supported significant community program delivery, including 2,600 unique individuals served in Seniors Community Programs, 89,094 units of service, and 10,500 respite companion home visits.
 - Launched the Living Classroom Program for Practical Nursing in partnership with Fleming College and Centres for Learning, Research and Innovation in Long-Term Care (CLRI).
 - Expanded access through 35 community service locations and community partnerships.
 - Supported housing stability through Canada Ontario Housing Benefits (COHB) and related initiatives.
 - Developed Niagara's community-led Poverty Reduction Strategy.
 - Continued leadership of the Niagara Prosperity Initiative, funding community-based poverty reduction solutions.
 - Led the Niagara Local Immigration Partnership to advance immigrant attraction, settlement, inclusion, and workforce integration.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Henri Koning, MHSc
Commissioner, Community Services

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-174**Subject:** Effects of Rising Oil Prices on Hot Mix Asphalt Contracts**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2026**To:** Regional Council**From:** Graeme Guthrie, Associate Director, Transportation Engineering

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Council information on what effects rising oil prices have on the cost of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) in Region contracts.

Recent global oil price volatility has increased cost risk in Niagara Region's contracts that include significant quantities of HMA, particularly for the annual pavement preservation program. Asphalt cement escalation provisions help maintain competitive bidding, however, they can also create final-cost variability after award.

Oil price volatility has increased the cost risk in Hot Mix Asphalt contracts

Hot Mix Asphalt is directly tied to petroleum markets because asphalt cement, also referred to as PGAC, is a petroleum-derived product. While aggregates, labour, trucking, equipment, and plant operations all contribute to the final unit price, the binder component is the portion most directly affected by global oil and refining market changes.

For Niagara Region, this means recent HMA contracts are not just affected by local construction inflation. They are also impacted by broader global oil supply, refinery capacity, exchange rate, and regional asphalt cement supply conditions.

Ontario asphalt cement prices rose sharply in early 2026

The most relevant Ontario benchmark is the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) Asphalt Cement Price Index, which is commonly referenced by Ontario road authorities and industry. The Ontario Asphalt Pavement Council's published index shows a significant increase in 2026. May 2026 is listed at \$1,530 per tonne, compared with \$1,191 per tonne in May 2025. The majority of that escalation occurred between February and May 2026, where the industry saw the index increase \$463 or approximately 43 per cent.

Larger resurfacing contracts carry the greatest risk

Niagara Region's Annual Pavement Preservation Program includes milling and paving, base course asphalt repairs, curb replacement where required, selected culvert work, pavement markings, and granular shoulders. The Region also maintains approximately 1,738 kilometres of roadway, making annual resurfacing a significant recurring infrastructure activity.

The larger the asphalt tonnage, the greater the potential impact of binder price movement. A relatively small change in the asphalt cement component can translate into a material budget impact across a regional resurfacing program. Smaller patching or localized repair contracts may have less total exposure, but they can still experience higher unit rates because of mobilization, smaller quantities, and contractor uncertainty.

Recent contracts such as 2026-T-50 Roads Resurfacing Program - 2026 Part 1 – Multi Year, 2026-T-57 Roads Resurfacing Program – 2026 Part 3 – Multi-year, and 2026-T-83 2026 Roads Resurfacing Program – Part 4 saw bid prices exceed estimates by \$1,267,425, \$99,900, and \$407,425 respectively. These exceedances over the estimated costs were mainly attributed to the cost of the HMA.

The impact of rising HMA costs affects program delivery choices

Higher asphalt costs can affect the amount of road work the Region can deliver within an approved budget. Niagara Region's approved budget for the 2026 Annual Pavement Preservation Program is \$13 million. When asphalt costs rise materially, the same capital allocation may deliver fewer lane-kilometres of pavement preservation work.

Each year resurfacing candidates are selected based on the previous year's bid prices with a suitable escalation allowance added. Appendix 1 identifies the planned resurfacing program based on the 2025 bid prices.

Following receipt of bids for Part 1 of the 2026 program, it became clear that tendered prices were materially higher than anticipated. As a result, the available 2026 resurfacing budget could no longer support the full scope originally planned across both Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, and Part 4. Proceeding with the full program under these market conditions would have created a risk of exceeding the approved budget.

Accordingly, Niagara Region cancelled the contract for Part 2 of the 2026 program and deferred a portion of the roadway sections, identified under Part 2, to a future program year, with other segments being added to Part 4 during the tender period. This decision

was not based on a change in the technical need for the work. The roadway sections remain part of the Region's asset management planning. Rather, the cancellation reflects a financial and procurement response to unusually high tender pricing and the need to manage the approved capital budget responsibly. Appendix 2 identifies the adjusted resurfacing program implemented in response to increased asphalt bid prices, with revisions made to ensure the program remained within the approved budget.

Price adjustment clauses help manage risk but do not eliminate budget pressure

Niagara Region contracts include asphalt cement price adjustment provisions, where the Region and contractor share the risk of significant price movement after a tender closes. This can produce more competitive bids because contractors do not need to fully price worst-case escalation into their unit rates.

However, escalation clauses do not make the cost pressure disappear. They shift some uncertainty from the bid price into the final contract payment. If the asphalt cement index rises after award, the Region may owe additional compensation under the contract. If the index falls, the Region may benefit from a downward adjustment.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Graeme Guthrie
Associate Director, Transportation Engineering

Appendices

Appendix 1 Proposed 2026 Road Resurfacing Sections – Initial Program

Appendix 2 Adjusted 2026 Road Resurfacing Sections – Due to HMA Price Escalation

CWCD 2026-174

Appendix 1

Proposed 2026 Road Resurfacing Sections – Initial Program

2026 Hot Mix			
STREET	TO	FROM	MUNICIPALITY
021 THOMPSON RD	021 BOWEN RD	021 PHIPPS ST	Fort Erie
021 PHIPPS ST	CROOKS ST	NIAGARA BLVD	Fort Erie
057 THOROLD STONE RD	DRUMMOND RD	102 STANLEY AV WEST LEG	Niagara Falls
029 WEBBER RD	036 SOUTH PELHAM RD	027 RIVERSIDE DR	Welland
003 GARRISON RD	ROSE HILL RD	PETTIT RD	Fort Erie
003 GARRISON RD	PETTIT RD	KRAFT RD	Fort Erie
003 GARRISON RD	KRAFT RD	122 HELENA ST	Fort Erie
116 GORHAM RD	001 DOMINION RD	NIGH RD	Fort Erie
			Total:
073 MUD ST E	014 THIRTY RD	LIMIT GR/LI	Grimsby
073 FLY RD	LIMIT GR/LI	018 MOUNTAIN ST	Lincoln
023 FORKS RD	FEEDER RD	PORT COLBORNE WAINFLEET T	Wainfleet
039 NORTH SERVICE RD	THIRTY RD N	SANN RD N	Lincoln
			Total:
021 BOWEN RD	RIDGEMOUNT RD	LAUR RD	Fort Erie
021 BOWEN RD	LAUR RD	SUNSET DR	Fort Erie
021 BOWEN RD	QEW RAMP E SIDE	PETIT RD	Fort Erie
007 MARSHAGAN RD	CONCESSION 6 RD	045 REGIONAL RD 45	Wainfleet
			Total:
050 MERRITTVILLE HWY	067 BEAVERDAMS RD	DECEW RD	Thorold
050 MERRITTVILLE HWY	DECEW RD	SCHMON PKWY	Thorold
020 LUNDY'S LANE	KALAR RD	MONTROSE RD	Niagara Falls
Bridge St Landfill			Fort Erie

CWCD 2026-174

Appendix 2

Adjusted 2026 Road Resurfacing Sections – Due to HMA Price Escalation

STREET	TO	FROM	MUNICIPALITY	Program
021 THOMPSON RD	021 BOWEN RD	021 PHIPPS ST	Fort Erie	2026 Part 1
021 PHIPPS ST	CROOKS ST	NIAGARA BLVD	Fort Erie	2026 Part 1
057 THOROLD STONE RD	DRUMMOND RD	102 STANLEY AV WEST LEG	Niagara Falls	2026 Part 1
003 GARRISON RD	ROSE HILL RD	PETTIT RD	Fort Erie	2026 Part 1
003 GARRISON RD	PETTIT RD	KRAFT RD	Fort Erie	2026 Part 1
003 GARRISON RD	KRAFT RD	122 HELENA ST	Fort Erie	2026 Part 1
Welland Canals Parkway	Port Weller WWTP		St. Catharines	2026 Part 3
021 BOWEN RD	RIDGEMOUNT RD	QEW RAMP W SIDE	Fort Erie	2026 Part 3
021 BOWEN RD	QEW RAMP E SIDE	PETIT RD	Fort Erie	2026 Part 3
007 MARSHAGAN RD	CONCESSION 6 RD	045 REGIONAL RD 45	Wainfleet	2026 Part 3
050 MERRITTVILLE HWY	2929 MERRITTVILLE HWY	2745 MERRITTVILLE HWY	Thorold	2026 Part 4
081 MAIN ST	OAKES ST	CASABLANCA BLV	Grimsby	2026 Part 4
020 LUNDY'S LANE	KALAR RD	MONTROSE RD	Niagara Falls	2026 Part 4
020 Highway 20	South Grimsby Rd 8		West Lincoln	2026 Part 4
023 FORKS RD	FEEDER RD	PORT COLBORNE WAINFLEET	Wainfleet	2026 Part 4
039 NORTH SERVICE RD	RR18 Ontario St	SANN RD N	Lincoln	2026 Part 4
Humberstone Landfill			Welland	2026 Part 4
Bridge St Landfill			Fort Erie	2026 Part 4



Watchfile

July 23, 2026

Community Infrastructure Funding Deadline Extended to August 6

Southern Ontario municipalities now have until August 6 to submit projects for community infrastructure funding from the Build Communities Strong Fund Local Impact Stream.

[Learn More](#)

Harmony in Leadership with Georgia Municipal Association

Join us at the 2026 AMO Conference as AMO's sister municipal organization in Georgia delivers an inspiring leadership workshop that invites you to lead with greater intentionality, civility, kindness, and emotional intelligence.

[Program Info](#)

AMO is Hiring: Senior Advisor Apply by July 30

Are you, or someone you know, an experienced economist and policy professional to lead the research, analysis, and advocacy efforts that advance municipal priorities. Click below to learn more about the role and how to apply.

[Learn More](#)

Help Inform AMO's Local Leadership Foundations (LLF) Program

At the AMO Conference this year, we're inviting delegates to share your experiences and insights to help to inform the new program. Be sure to visit and chat with LLF

program facilitator Kate Graham at the "Chat with Kate" interview corner. [Click here for program information.](#)

Get the AMO Conference Template Media Advisory

This template makes it easy to showcase your municipality's priorities, initiatives, and conference participation through your local media channels. [Click here to access the template](#) (& the rest of the Conference communications resources).

Provincial Updates

Municipal Energy Plan Grant Program Review

The Ministry of Energy and Mines is consulting on how to improve the [Municipal Energy Plan](#) grant program so municipalities can advance energy infrastructure initiatives. [Comment by August 22.](#)

Ministry of Natural Resources Project Evaluation Changes

The Ministry is seeking feedback on a new [Project Evaluation Policy](#) to replace the Class Environmental Assessment for Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects ([EA-RSFD](#)) by August 24, 2026. [Register for the July 30 virtual information session](#) to learn more.

Events & Education

- **AUG 16 - 19 - 2026 AMO Annual Conference**

The municipal voice is strongest when united and the AMO Conference is where the strength of this work meets direct access to decision makers. If you haven't already, be sure to register. Your participation matters. [Register here.](#)

LAS AMO Business Services

New Canoe Procurement Invoicing Process

[Invoicing through Canoe](#) is changing on August 1. Instead of sending ETFs/Cheques to LAS they will go directly to Canoe. Check your invoices to make sure payment goes to the right place. Contact Sherry at (825) 319-2444 to update your payment details.

Careers

[Senior Advisor - Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#). Closing Date: July 30, 2026.

[Deputy Fire Chief - Township of Selwyn](#). Closing Date: August 4, 2026.

[More Careers](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

AMO Calls for Bill 100 Reversal

AMO calls for the province to restore local voice and keep local governance accountable to the communities they serve by reversing the appointment of Regional Chairs through Bill 100, *Better Regional Governance Act*. [Read the AMO Policy Update](#).

Canada-Ontario Development Charges Reduction Program

On June 1, the federal and Ontario governments launched The Canada-Ontario Development Charge Reduction Program. Municipalities have until June 19, 2026 to submit projects for funding consideration. [Read AMO's Policy Update for more information](#).

New Code of Conduct Bill Passes,

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

[Read More Past Issues](#)



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

AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

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

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

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