



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COUNCIL WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION

INDEX

Friday, July 31, 2026

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Memorandum

CWCD 2026-176

Subject: Summary of Active Bid Solicitations

Date: Friday, July 31, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Bart Menage, Director, Procurement Services

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

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

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

(i) a summary of active Bid Solicitations.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Bart Menage
Director, Procurement Services

Appendices

Appendix 1 Summary of Active Bid Solicitations

Bid Number	Name	Closing Date
2026-RFP-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-Q-110	Consulting Services to Update the Niagara Region Waste Collection Design Standards and Development Review Process	August 07, 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-112	DeCew Spillway Rehabilitation Design – Phase 3	August 20, 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 2026-177

Subject: Duty to Consult for Regional Capital Projects

Date: Friday, July 31, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Angela Stea, Director, Strategic Initiatives

The purpose of this memorandum is to address Councillor Insinna's request raised during the Public Works Committee meeting on July 14, 2026 for clarification regarding the Region's role and responsibilities in relation to the Crown's Duty to Consult with Indigenous communities.

Background

Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights. The Province, as the Crown, has a constitutional duty to consult, and where appropriate a duty to accommodate, Indigenous communities when it has knowledge, real or constructive, of asserted or established Aboriginal or treaty rights and contemplates conduct that may adversely affect those rights. The scope and content of the duty are proportionate to the strength of the asserted or established rights claim and the seriousness of the potential adverse effect on those rights.

The Region's Role

While the Province ultimately retains responsibility for ensuring the constitutional duty has been fulfilled, procedural aspects of consultation may be delegated to municipalities or project proponents.

For Regional infrastructure and capital projects, the Region routinely engages with Indigenous communities as part of project planning, environmental assessment, design and construction. This engagement is undertaken:

- to satisfy legislative and regulatory requirements applicable to the project;
- to fulfill procedural consultation responsibilities that may be delegated or expected by the Province;

- to identify, understand and address potential impacts on Indigenous interests, including cultural heritage, archaeological resources and the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights; and
- to build and maintain respectful government-to-government relationships with Indigenous communities.

Accordingly, while the Region plays an important role in carrying out consultation activities for many projects, it does not independently bear the constitutional duty to consult in the absence of delegated procedural responsibilities or specific statutory obligations.

Environmental Assessments

For municipal Environmental Assessments (EAs), confirmation on who to consult with typically comes from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for EAs. In Niagara, the Province has consistently required consultation with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council, and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council (via the Haudenosaunee Development Institute (HDI)).

As part of this process, Indigenous communities whose rights or interests may be affected are identified and provided opportunities to participate throughout project planning. Depending on the project, consultation may include:

- notification of the proposed undertaking;
- sharing technical studies and project information;
- meetings with Indigenous communities;
- responding to questions and concerns;
- consideration of Indigenous Knowledge where voluntarily shared; and
- identifying opportunities to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential impacts.

The Region typically undertakes these consultation activities in accordance with applicable provincial environmental assessment requirements and any direction provided by the Province.

Archaeological Assessments

Archaeological assessments for Regional capital projects are undertaken by licensed archaeologists under the Heritage Act (Ontario) and must follow provincial Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. Archaeological assessments are often completed in support of EAs and other activities that will result in the disturbance of land with archaeological potential. Similarly, those Standards require consultation with Indigenous communities. Licensed archaeologists must demonstrate that appropriate consultation has occurred as part of the archaeological assessment process in order to obtain Provincial approval. In practice, this consultation includes notifying Indigenous communities of archaeological investigations, providing opportunities to review archaeological reports, identifying areas of cultural significance, and participating in discussions regarding archaeological findings

Where archaeological resources of Indigenous cultural significance are identified, additional consultation may occur regarding appropriate avoidance, mitigation, protection or commemoration measures. Depending on the circumstances, Indigenous community representatives may also participate in field monitoring or other agreed-upon activities during archaeological investigations. The Region has standardized agreements with all three Indigenous communities that we engage with for the review of archaeological reports and on-site field monitoring. The costs for these works are being incorporated into the budget for Regional capital projects.

The Region does not determine whether the Crown's duty to consult has been satisfied; rather, it supports the Province by completing the procedural steps advising the Province of the record of consultation, issues raised, responses provided, and any proposed mitigation or accommodation measures incorporated as a result of the consultations.

Respectfully submitted and signed by:

Angela Stea, MCIP, RPP
Director, Strategic Initiatives

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-178**Subject:** Recent Significant Weather Events**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2026**To:** Regional Council**From:** Lisa De Angelis, Commissioner of Public Works

Recently, several communities in the Niagara Region have experienced significant weather events. On July 21, 2026, over 110mm of rain fell in one area in just a few hours, causing localized flooding and temporary road closures in the Town of Grimsby and Town of Lincoln. Earlier this week following the event we partially activated our Regional Emergency Operations. Rain started falling in the Town of Grimsby, Town of Lincoln, City of St. Catharines, and Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake late Monday evening, with a heavy downpour overnight into the morning of July 28, 2026. Over an estimated six-hour period, Environment Canada reports 127mm fell in parts of St. Catharines, and up to 146mm in adjacent Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The rainfall measurements at Niagara Region's internal weather stations for July 21, 2026, and July 28, 2026 are included as Appendix A. From the July 28, 2026 data, the communities on the south side of the peninsula, namely the Town of Fort Erie, the Town of Pelham, the City of Port Colborne and parts of the Township of West Lincoln received no precipitation while those on the northern side experienced varying amounts of rainfall.

Impact on Regional Wastewater Infrastructure

During both significant flood events, regional infrastructure was functioning as it should. The recent storms were extreme and, in discussion with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, they estimate the July 21, 2026 event exceeded a 1:100 year storm in parts of the region while the July 28, 2026 storm ranged between 1:100 year and 1:200 year. Municipal infrastructure, however, is designed for more frequent and lower intensity events, typically in the range of 1:5 year to 1:10 year. However, sewage pumping stations and wastewater treatment plants are typically designed with an overflow or bypass that will allow excessive wastewater to pass if the capacity of the facilities is exceeded. This prevents wastewater from backing up into the system and causing a flood.

During the July 21, 2026 event, several sewage pumping stations in Grimsby and Lincoln were pumping at maximum capacity and overflowing to the environment as designed, due to the excessive wet weather flows. The Baker Road Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was at maximum flow capacity and in secondary treatment bypass, which receives primary treatment and disinfection. On this same day, the Port Weller WWTP was at maximum flow capacity and in both primary and secondary treatment bypass.

On July 28, 2026, Baker Road, Niagara Falls, Port Dalhousie and Port Weller WWTPs were at maximum flow capacity and in secondary treatment bypass, with the Port Weller facility being the hardest hit with primary bypass as well. Several sewage pumping stations in Grimsby, Lincoln, St. Catharines, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Niagara Falls were pumping at maximum capacity and overflowing to the environment as designed, due to the excessive wet weather flows. Although the Niagara-on-the-Lake WWTP did not bypass, the Lakeshore Road Sewage Pumping Station was pumping at maximum capacity and overflowing to the environment, as designed, due to the excessive wet weather flows.

All spills and wet weather overflows are reported by staff to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and Niagara Region Public Health, as required. Regulatory non-compliances are reported to the MECP. In addition, staff report spills to Council by way of the Council Weekly Correspondence reports.

Impact on Regional Road and Bridge Infrastructure

Throughout the flood events, rainfall volumes were in excess of capacity for much of the Region's stormwater infrastructure; however, management of these flows was reasonable.

Regional staff attended several locations where water had exceeded the infrastructure capacity to review operations and assess condition. There has been some damage recorded to a few isolated locations that have been temporarily repaired but will ultimately require permanent repairs.

As a result of the significant flow observed, staff will be conducting a visual review of all bridges and culverts in the affected areas. If these visual inspections highlight any areas of concern, our structural engineer will be called in for a detailed inspection.

Public Works Response

Following the July 21, 2026 storm, localized basement flooding in Beamsville was reported along the Ontario Street area. Arrangements were made with the Niagara Region's waste collection contractor for additional waste pickup on the impacted streets. In collaboration with the Town of Lincoln, regional staff attended locations where there was water over the road, closed the roads, and cleaned up the aftermath within 24 hours of the storm's conclusion.

At 11 a.m. on July 28, 2026, the City of St. Catharines partially enacted its Emergency Operations Centre to coordinate its response to the significant weather event. Niagara Region is supporting the City's efforts. Communications to the community are being coordinated by both organizations, including notification of closed roads, information for those who have experienced basement backup, and arrangements for temporary lodging.

In addition, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake did activate its Emergency Operations Centre, staff is coordinating and supporting recovery in that community as well.

At the time of writing this memorandum, regional staff have assessed the condition of all regional roads, identifying and prioritizing remedial works. Cleanup is underway with particular attention to clearing ditches, culverts and catchbasins, to provide unfettered drainage in anticipation of further rainfall. Inflow into wastewater pumping stations and treatment facilities is subsiding. Staff are assessing any damage to equipment as a result of the high flow. Staff are currently developing plans to provide additional waste collection services in the affected areas.

Storm Frequency Explained

Terms such as 1:5 year or 1:100 year storm are often used to describe the frequency of a storm but are not necessarily fully understood. Rain events are assessed against standard Intensity-Duration-Frequency, or IDF, rainfall information that is used for municipal infrastructure planning and design. These statistics estimate how often rainfall of a given intensity and duration may be expected to be equaled or exceeded.

A 1:100 year storm does not mean such a storm occurs only once every 100 years. It means the rainfall intensity has approximately a one per cent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Similarly, a 1:200 year storm has a 0.5 per cent annual chance, and a 1:500 year storm has a 0.2 per cent annual chance.

The classification of a storm depends on both the amount of rain and the duration over which it falls. A short, intense burst of rainfall can exceed the 1:100 year threshold for a one-hour duration even if the total daily rainfall is lower than a 1:100 year 24-hour event. Impacts can also vary across the Region, as observed on July 28, 2026, because extreme rainfall is often highly localized.

These return-period values are planning and design tools, not guaranteeing that flooding will not occur. During severe events, particularly where rainfall exceeds infrastructure design capacity, or where ground conditions are already saturated, stormwater and wastewater systems may experience surcharge, overland flow, and basement flooding impacts.

This was the case in October of 1954 when the City of Toronto was hit with its worst natural disaster. Hurricane Hazel dropped over 200mm of rain in a 24-hour period with winds up to 124 km/hr. It is reported that the storm left nearly 2,000 families homeless and 81 people lost their lives. When the eye of the storm hit Toronto, the ground was already saturated by rain that fell in the preceding days, and the resulting torrent waterways wiped out everything in their path. Hurricane Hazel led to the development of comprehensive flood control measures in Ontario through Conservation Authorities and restrictions on new development in floodplains.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Lisa De Angelis, RPP, P. Eng.
Commissioner, Public Works

Appendices

Appendix 1 Niagara Region's Internal Rain Gauges

Niagara Region's Internal Rain Gauges
Rainfall (in millimeters) For July 21st and July 28th

		July 21		July 28	
Weather Station	Municipality	Peak Hr	Total	Peak Hr	Total
Crystal Beach	Fort Erie	1.3	2.8	0.0	0.0
Stevensville Lagoon	Fort Erie	5.8	18.8	0.0	0.0
Thompson Road SPS	Fort Erie	6.3	11.8	0.0	0.0
Baker Road	Grimsby	59.5	78.0	22.5	48.8
Laurie Ave. SPS	Lincoln	62.8	81.8	35.3	72.5
Lincoln Town Hall	Lincoln	75.0	105.3	30.0	65.0
Garner Road	Niagara Falls	40.8	60.0	2.8	5.3
Kalar Road SPS	Niagara Falls	34.8	54.8	21.5	35.3
Niagara Falls WWTP	Niagara Falls	25.0	45.0	13.3	38.3
SS High Lift SPS	Niagara Falls	43.8	63.3	4.0	7.0
SS Low Lift SPS	Niagara Falls	47.3	67.5	3.5	6.3
Line 2 Landfill	NOTL	34.8	41.5	62.8	139.0
Pelham Office	Pelham	31.0	41.8	0.5	1.0
Seaway WWTP	Port Colborne	2.8	5.3	0.0	0.0
Port Dalhousie	St. Catharines	48.3	61.3	39.0	112.8
Port Weller	St. Catharines	27.5	38.0	42.0	111.3
Environmental Centre	Thorold	28.8	42.0	23.3	40.5
Humberstone	Welland	3.0	8.5	1.3	1.3
Ontario Road SPS	Welland	4.8	11.3	1.8	2.3
River Road	Welland	6.3	15.3	1.8	2.3
NR 12 Landfill	West Lincoln	55.3	77.0	2.5	4.0
Smithville SPS	West Lincoln	35.3	50.0	6.5	6.8



July 30, 2026

Ready, Set, Run! Tips for Running for Local Office

This 4-part video series hosted by Steve Anderson and Jasvinder Sandhu explores reflections from their own experiences in public office, discussions of the role municipalities play in residents' daily lives and why local leadership remains one of the most direct ways to make a difference. Watch now.

[Watch Now](#)

Make the Most of Your Delegation Meetings at the AMO Conference

A successful delegation meeting starts with preparation. Learn how to define your objectives, present your issue effectively, and maximize your time with provincial representatives at the AMO Conference. Get the full guide below.

[Get the Guide](#)

Reserve Local Leadership Foundations Seats, Assign Later

Clerks and CAOs can reserve seats now for AMO and IOG's Local Leadership Foundations program and assign participants after the election. Give incoming council members the tools, knowledge and confidence to start their term strong.

[Learn More](#)

Get the AMO Conference Communications Toolkit

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 toolkit](#).

Federal Updates

Community infrastructure funding deadline extended

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

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

Join Us for Breakfast on August 18 at the AMO Conference

Join the LAS-AMO Business Services team for an interactive breakfast workshop at the AMO Conference on August 18 in the Ontario Room at the Westin Hotel. [Please complete this survey](#) to help shape future programs. We'll share the results at the breakfast session.

Group Benefits for All Needs and Budgets

The [AMO/LAS Group Benefits program](#) offered by Mosey & Mosey helps reduce your employee group benefit costs. The plan offerings are customizable to your

municipality's needs. For more information, you can visit their booth #325 at the AMO Conference.

Help Protect Homeowners from Sewer and Water Line Repair Costs

The AMO/LAS endorsed [Sewer & Water Line Warranty service](#), offered through SLWC, helps residential property owners avoid expensive repair costs for clogs, leaks, and breaks to the water and sewer lines running from their home to the municipal connection. Look for their booth #719 at the AMO Conference.

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 TODAY: July 30, 2026.

[City Solicitor - City of Thunder Bay](#). Closing Date: August 24, 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

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