



**CITY RE-OPENS PUBLIC AMENITIES AND EXPANDS SERVICES
IN RESPONSE TO ONTARIO'S STAGE-THREE RE-OPENING STRATEGY**

Welland, ON – Niagara is moving to stage-three of the Ontario Government's Framework to Re-open the Province on Friday, July 24, 2020. Stage-three allows a broader business community to re-open and engage with customers. Planning for a safe, gradual re-opening is a challenging process that requires city staff to re-imagine program and service delivery. The City of Welland is committed to expanding city programs and services with a safe approach to customer service.

The following modified city services will become available with Ontario's stage-three phase:

- July 20 - Baseball Fields (Quaker Rd. only) can be booked provided organizations submit a safety protocol plan
- July 24 - Public washrooms at Merritt Island (main building only), Welland Skate Park, & Welland International Flatwater Centre
- July 31 - All city-owned public playground equipment opens with periodic cleaning. Installation of safety signage is ongoing
- Aug 4 - Welland Civic Square city hall offices open by appointment only with pre-screening
- Aug 4 - Welland Public Library is offering more services at the Main Branch, Diamond Trail Branch, and Seaway Mall Branch by appointment. The Main Branch is expanding its hours of operation. Visit wellandlibrary.ca for details
- Aug 31 - Welland Community Wellness Complex, soft re-opening. Staff are developing programming in alignment with the province's phase-three strategy
- Welland Fire and Emergency Services continue all emergency services. Fire prevention and property inspection remain a priority across the city. The department is open by appointment
- Youngs Sportsplex is open for indoor tennis and outdoor soccer with physical distancing. Capacity restrictions in place as per provincial requirements. Visit youngssportsplex.com for details

The following facilities are not included on the city's phase-three plan to re-open and will remain closed until further notice:

- Welland International Flatwater Centre
- Maple Park Pool and Memorial Park Pool are closed for the season
- Welland Boat Rental Program is closed for the season
- Park Pavilions
- City-owned Soccer, Lawn Bowling, and Cricket Fields
- Welland Museum is under renovations; therefore will not open to the public during the summer season. The museum is offering virtual tours at wellandmuseum.ca
- Maple Park Courts, Chippawa Courts, and Gaiser Rd. Multi-Courts

Stage-three of the re-opening strategy also permits indoor gatherings with a maximum of 50 people and outdoor gatherings with a maximum of 100 people. A two-metre distance must be maintained at all gatherings and events. Public and group gathering restrictions apply to community events, private gatherings, concerts, live shows, festivals, conferences, sports, recreational fitness activities, fundraisers, fairs, festivals, and open houses.

For more information on the Ontario government's stage-three phase, visit ontario.ca. For more information on Welland Recovery Moving Beyond COVID-19, visit welland.ca.

905-735-1700 Ext. 4007

Richard.dalton@welland.ca