



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, August 8, 2025

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August 1, 2025

CL 11- 2025, July 24, 2025

DISTRIBUTION LIST

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Motion Respecting “Elect Respect” Campaign

Regional Council, at its meeting held on July 24, 2025, passed the following motion:

WHEREAS democracy is healthy when everyone is able to participate fully and safely and contribute to the well-being of their community;

WHEREAS we are witnessing the dissolution of democratic discourse and respectful debate across all levels of government and in neighbouring jurisdictions;

WHEREAS Ontario’s municipally elected officials are dealing with increasingly hostile, unsafe work environments facing threats and harassment;

WHEREAS social medial platforms have exacerbated disrespectful dialogue, negative commentary, and toxic engagement which disincentivizes individuals, especially women and candidates from diverse backgrounds from running for office;

WHEREAS better decisions are made when democracy is respectful and constructive and the voices of diverse genders, identities, ethnicities, races, sexual orientation, ages and abilities are heard and represented around municipal council tables;

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario’s Healthy Democracy Project has identified concerning trends with fewer people voting in local elections and running for municipal office;

WHEREAS in 2024, female elected representatives from across Halton formed a group called H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives) which pledged to speak out against harassment and negativity in politics and call on elected officials to uphold the highest standards of conduct;

WHEREAS H.E.R. has launched a campaign called “Elect Respect” to promote the importance of a healthy democracy and safe, inclusive, respectful work environments for all elected officials that encourages individuals to participate in the political process; and

WHEREAS on June 5, 2025, the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians launched a non-partisan ‘Parliamentary Civility Pledge’ to encourage all parliamentarians to commit to end workplace harassment and increase civility on Parliament Hill, modelled after the pledge developed in Halton by representatives of H.E.R.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Regional Council **SUPPORTS** the 'Elect Respect' pledge and commits to:
 - a) Treat others with respect in all spaces; public, private, and online;
 - b) Reject and call out harassment, abuse and personal attacks;
 - c) Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks;
 - d) Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office;
 - e) Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats; and
 - f) Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct;
2. That Niagara Regional Council **CALLS** on elected officials, organizations, and community members to support the 'Elect Respect' campaign and sign the online pledge at www.electrespect.ca;
3. That a copy of this resolution **BE SENT** to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario's Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Niagara's MPs and MPPs, Niagara Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; and
4. That this resolution **BE SENT** to all of Niagara's local area municipalities with a request that their Councils pass a similar motion.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

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CLK-C 2025-081

Distribution List:

Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario's Big City Mayors
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Local Members of Parliament
Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Niagara Regional Police
Ontario Provincial Police
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Local Area Municipalities

July 31, 2025

CL 11-2025, July 24, 2025

PEDC 5-2025, July 9, 2025

PDS 13-2025, July 9, 2025

Local Area Municipalities

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Repeal of By-laws Delegating Planning Application Approvals to Local Area
Municipalities

PDS 13-2025

Regional Council, at its meeting held on July 24, 2025, passed the following recommendation of its Planning and Economic Development Committee:

That Report PDS 13-2025, dated July 9, 2025, respecting Repeal of By-laws Delegating Planning Application Approvals to Local Area Municipalities, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the following By-laws **BE REPEALED** to reflect the changes in the Region's planning authority under the *Planning Act*: By-Law Nos. 124-1999, 186-1999, 187-1999, 188-1999, 185-1999, 180-1999, 189-1999, 181-1999, 184-1999, 179-1999, 183-1999, 182-1999, 2019-70, 8619-97, 8620-97, 8760-97, 8761-97, 8764-97, 8763-97, 8762-97, 8807-97, 8793-97, 8792-97, 8819-97, and 8974-98;
2. That the necessary repealing By-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Regional Council for consideration; and
3. That Report PDS 13-2025 and a final copy of the repealing By-law, **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities.

A copy of Report PDS 13-2025 and By-law No. 2025-38 are enclosed for your reference.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk

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CLK-C 2025-076

cc: A. Shanks, Senior Development Planner, Public Works Department
T. Ricketts, Commissioner, Public Works
K. Ward, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Public Works

Subject: Repeal of By-laws Delegating Planning Application Approvals to Local Area Municipalities

Report to: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Recommendations

1. That the following By-laws **BE REPEALED** to reflect the changes in the Region's planning authority under the *Planning Act*: By-Law Nos. 124-1999, 186-1999, 187-1999, 188-1999, 185-1999, 180-1999, 189-1999, 181-1999, 184-1999, 179-1999, 183-1999, 182-1999, 2019-70, 8619-97, 8620-97, 8760-97, 8761-97, 8764-97, 8763-97, 8762-97, 8807-97, 8793-97, 8792-97, 8819-97, and 8974-98;
2. That the necessary repealing By-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Regional Council for consideration; and
3. That Report PDS 13-2025 and a final copy of the repealing By-law, **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to recommend the repeal of delegation by-laws that are no longer required due to changes in the Region's planning authority.
- Prior to March 31, 2025, Niagara Region had delegated approval authority for most official plan amendments, and all subdivisions and consents to local municipalities through a series of by-laws.
- As of March 31, 2025, lower-tier municipalities became the statutory approval authorities for all *Planning Act* applications, making the Region's delegation by-laws obsolete.
- Outstanding consent applications previously under the Regional Clerk's authority have now transferred to local municipalities, and staff are working to distribute related records in accordance with the *Planning Act*.
- Regional staff met with area municipalities to discuss transition matters, including the repeal of the delegation by-laws, and no concerns were raised.

Financial Considerations

There are no direct financial considerations associated with this report.

Analysis

Legislative Context and Transition of Planning Authority

Effective March 31, 2025, Niagara Region became an “upper-tier municipality without planning responsibilities” as defined under the *Planning Act*. This change was the result of legislative amendments introduced through the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* (Bill 23), which removed planning responsibilities from certain upper-tier municipalities in the Province, including Niagara Region.

Prior to March 31, the Region had delegated approval authority for most official plan amendments and all plans of subdivision and consents to area municipalities. These delegations were established through a number of Regional By-laws (listed in Appendix 1).

As of March 31, 2025, the Region’s lower-tier municipalities became the statutory approval authorities for all applications under the *Planning Act*. This shift in authority renders the Region’s existing delegation by-laws redundant.

In preparation for the March 31 transition, Regional staff engaged with area municipalities to discuss transition matters. The repeal of the delegation by-laws was raised during these discussions, and no concerns were identified. This report will be circulated to all area municipalities for information and transparency.

Outstanding Consent Applications and Records Transfer

Prior to March 31, 2025, the Regional Clerk retained approval authority for certain consent applications approved by the former Regional Land Division Committee. Specifically, this included conditional consents that had not been finally disposed of before the delegation by-laws were enacted.

As of March 31, 2025, these remaining consent approval powers have been transferred to the Secretary-Treasurers of the Committee of Adjustment of the area municipalities, who are now the statutory approval authorities for all consent applications.

Under Section 70.13(9) of the *Planning Act*, the Region is required to forward all records related to the outstanding consents to the appropriate area municipalities for administration. Regional staff are currently reviewing options for distributing these records to the area municipalities including the potential for digitizing records preserved with dated technology.

Alternatives Reviewed

Council could choose to retain the delegation by-laws; however, this is not recommended. The Region no longer has planning authority under the *Planning Act*, and the by-laws serve no legal or functional purpose. Repeal is recommended for clarity and consistency.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

Effective Region: The repeal of the by-laws will streamline service delivery by removing redundant administrative instruments, ensuring the Region's operations align with its current legislative responsibilities and support fiscally responsible and sustainable core services.

Equitable Region: The repeal of the by-laws will support local decision-making and more responsive planning processes, recognizing the role of lower-tier municipalities to manage growth and development in accordance with the legislative changes introduced through Bill 23.

Other Pertinent Reports

[PDS 5-2025 Update on Local Official Plan Reviews and Proclamation Transition](https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=75780064-c37d-464e-bcda-9b6bc238f6c4&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=15&Tab=attachments)

(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=75780064-c37d-464e-bcda-9b6bc238f6c4&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=15&Tab=attachments>)

CWCD 2024-190 Correspondence from the Minister of Municipal Affairs Ontario
Regulation 525/97 and Upper-Tier Planning Authority

Prepared by:

Amy Shanks, MCIP, RPP
Senior Development Planner
Public Works Department

Recommended by:

Terry Ricketts, P.Eng.
Commissioner of Public Works
Public Works Department

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Pat Busnello, Manager of Development Planning, and reviewed by Diana Morreale, Director of Growth Management and Planning.

Appendices

Appendix 1 List of Existing Regional By-laws Delegating Approval for *Planning Act* Applications to Local Area Municipalities

Appendix 1 List of Existing Regional By-laws Delegating Approval for *Planning Act* Applications to Local Area Municipalities

Official Plan Amendments

The following By-law delegated approval authority for official plan amendments:

- Region-wide – By-law No. 2019-70

Consent Applications

The following By-laws delegated consent approval authority to local area municipalities:

- West Lincoln – By-law No. 124-1999
- St. Catharines – By-law No. 186-1999
- Thorold – By-law No. 187-1999
- Welland – By-law No. 188-1999
- Pelham – By-law No. 185-1999
- Grimsby – By-law No. 180-1999
- Wainfleet – By-law No. 189-1999
- Lincoln – By-law No. 181-1999
- Port Colborne – By-law No. 184-1999
- Fort Erie – By-law No. 179-1999
- Niagara-on-the-Lake – By-law No. 183-1999
- Niagara Falls – By-law No. 182-1999

Subdivision Applications

The following By-laws delegated subdivision approval authority to local area municipalities:

- Welland – By-law No. 8619-97
- Fort Erie – By-law No. 8620-97
- Lincoln – By-law No. 8760-97
- Thorold – By-law No. 8761-97
- Niagara-on-the-Lake – By-law No. 8764-97
- Grimsby – By-law No. 8763-97
- West Lincoln – By-law No. 8762-97
- St. Catharines – By-law No. 8807-97
- Pelham – By-law No. 8793-97
- Port Colborne – By-law No. 8792-97
- Niagara Falls – By-law No. 8819-97
- Wainfleet – By-law No. 8974-98



Mayor and Members of Council

RE: Support for Bill 9 – Municipal Accountability Act, 2025, and the Importance of Mandatory Leaves of Absence for Elected Officials Charged with Assault

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

On behalf of the Coalition to End Violence Against Women (CEVAW) Niagara, we are writing to express our strong support for Bill 9: *The Municipal Accountability Act, 2025*, and to call for the inclusion of provisions that require elected municipal officials who have been criminally charged with assault—including intimate partner violence—to take a leave of absence while charges are pending.

CEVAW is a coalition of agencies across Niagara dedicated to ending gender-based violence and supporting survivors. As organizations that work directly with individuals impacted by abuse, we are committed to building systems that prioritize safety, integrity, and public accountability. This includes ensuring our municipal institutions reflect the values of transparency, equity, and survivor-centred leadership.

We commend efforts to strengthen accountability mechanisms at the municipal level through Bill 9 and support the recommendations from both the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Women of Ontario Say No campaign. These include:

- Establishing a Provincial Integrity Commissioner Board to ensure consistent oversight;
- Allowing for judicial review without requiring a council vote when serious misconduct is substantiated;
- Embedding trauma-informed practices into all processes;
- Expanding protections for whistleblowers and establishing a duty to report;
- And prohibiting individuals removed from office due to misconduct from seeking re-election in the current or subsequent term.

In addition to these important reforms, CEVAW strongly supports the implementation of a mandatory leave of absence for any elected official charged with a violent offence. We offer the following considerations in support of this provision:

1. Maintaining Public Trust and Institutional Integrity

All municipal Codes of Conduct across Niagara include expectations that members act with propriety, decency, and respect, and refrain from abuse, bullying, or intimidation. Continuing to serve in office while facing serious criminal charges directly contradicts these standards and undermines public trust in local government.

When the alleged victim is a resident of the municipality, their ability to safely engage in civic life—such as attending council meetings or communicating with elected officials—may be severely compromised. Public service must never create conditions that intimidate or make constituents feel unsafe in democratic spaces.

2. Upholding a Victim-Centred and Ethical Approach

Mandating a leave of absence for elected officials charged with violent offences affirms a commitment to a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach. Advocacy groups and experts have emphasized that such actions demonstrate a system that values the safety, dignity, and voice of survivors.

Conversely, allowing an individual to remain in office while under investigation—particularly on matters that relate to gender-based violence or women’s services—risks undermining the credibility of municipal leadership.

3. Balancing Legal Rights with Public Responsibility

While criminal charges do not currently result in automatic disqualification under Ontario’s Municipal Act, public officials are entrusted with significant authority and influence. Taking a temporary leave of absence respects the presumption of innocence while recognizing the responsibility to maintain institutional integrity.

We have seen responsible precedent in other jurisdictions, such as elected officials voluntarily stepping back from committee roles or leadership duties while charges are before the court. These actions reflect an understanding that credibility and public confidence are essential to effective governance.

4. Reflecting Community Values and Leading by Example

Elected officials are held to a higher standard of ethics. Choosing to take a leave while facing serious charges reinforces public trust, demonstrates respect for the judicial process, and signals a clear commitment to accountability.

It also highlights the need for stronger systemic safeguards, such as those proposed in Bill 9, to ensure public institutions are equipped to respond appropriately to serious allegations of misconduct.

The bottom line is that requiring a leave of absence in cases involving criminal charges of violence is a practical, survivor-informed, and ethically necessary measure. It protects the rights of all parties, strengthens governance, and aligns with the expectations of the communities we serve.

CEVAW Niagara urges Council to publicly support Bill 9 and advocate for this essential addition. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and offer our continued support in strengthening public accountability and ensuring the safety of survivors at all levels of government.

Sincerely,



Tarryn Anderson

Chair, Coalition to End Violence Against Women (CEVAW) Niagara



Nicole Regehr

Vice-Chair, Coalition to End Violence Against Women (CEVAW) Niagara

CEVAW member agencies in support of Bill 9 and mandatory leaves of absence for elected officials charged with assault:

Bethlehem Housing and Support Services
Centre de Santé communautaire
Hamilton/Niagara
Design for a New Tomorrow
Gillian's Place
Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre
Niagara
Niagara Regional Native Centre
Niagara Sexual Assault Centre

Positive Living Niagara
Services 4 Humanity
TOES Niagara
Victim Services Niagara
Welland Heritage Council and
Multicultural Centre
YWCA Niagara



Norfolk County
Legislative Services
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
50 Colborne Street, S., Simcoe Ontario N3Y 4H3
Telephone: 519-426-5870
E-mail: clerks@norfolkcounty.ca
Website: norfolkcounty.ca

July 31, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: Norfolk County Council – Letter of support for the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of Norfolk County, Council passed the following resolution on July 22, 2025, regular council meeting:

Resolution No. C-154

Moved By: Councillor Van Paassen

Seconded By: Councillor Masschaele

That Council directs staff to send a letter of support for the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan regarding Bill C-2.

Carried.

In addition, Council endorsed the following resolution made by the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan:

WHEREAS Bill C-2 proposes to amend the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act by adding section 77.5 (1), making it a criminal offense for any business, profession, or charitable entity to accept cash payments, donations, or deposits of \$10,000 or more in a single transaction or related transactions, regardless of their lawful nature;

WHEREAS this blanket ban criminalizes legitimate business transactions using legal tender, punishing businesses and law-abiding citizens solely for choosing to use cash, a fundamental right in Canada;

WHEREAS small businesses, charities, and individuals in Otonabee-South Monaghan and across Canada, including farmers, car dealers, and community organizations, rely on cash for lawful high-value transactions, and this restriction will impose unnecessary hardship, stifle economic activity, and deter charitable giving;

WHEREAS the \$10,000 threshold is arbitrarily low, capturing routine legal transactions while creating compliance burdens that disproportionately harm small businesses, rural communities, and those without digital banking access;

WHEREAS municipalities must stand up for the economic freedom and financial inclusion of their residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Otonabee-South Monaghan:

- Condemns Bill C-2, section 77.5, as an unacceptable overreach that criminalizes lawful cash transactions and undermines the use of Canadians' right to use legal tender;
- Demands the federal government to withdraw this amendment and engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities, businesses, and charities to develop targeted anti-crime policies that do not penalize legitimate cash transactions;
- Instructs the Municipal Clerk to send this resolution to all Canadian municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Ontario Municipal Association, the Minister of Finance, Leslyn Lewis, our local MP, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, and First Nations, calling for unified opposition;
- Urges other municipalities to pass similar resolutions to protect the rights of their residents and businesses

Should you have any questions regarding this matter or should you require additional information, please contact the Office of the County Clerk at 519-426-5870 x. 1261, or email: Clerks@norfolkcounty.ca.

Sincerely,

T. Rodrigues

Tracey Rodrigues
Deputy County Clerk
Tracey.Rodrigues@norfolkcounty.ca

Friday, August 1, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office
Room 281
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

SENT VIA EMAIL: premier@ontario.ca
rob.flack@ontario.ca

RE: Town of Goderich's Opposition to Bill 17, Protect Ontario by Building Faster Act, 2025

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Flack:

The Council of the Town of Goderich passed the following resolution at their July 28, 2025, Council meeting regarding the Opposition to Bill 17, Protect Ontario by Building Faster Act, 2025:

Moved By: Councilor Petrie

Seconded By: Councilor Thompson

Whereas on May 12, 2025, the Government of Ontario (hereafter, the "Province"), enacted Bill 17, also known as the Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025 (hereafter, the "Act"), which will defer Development Charges (hereafter, "DCs") and their associated revenues, and increase collection efforts and costs;

And Whereas the DCs collected from developers are necessary to help municipalities fund the capital costs of infrastructure and services required to support new housing;

Now Therefore be it resolved that The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Goderich:

- Requests that the Province of Ontario provide municipalities with clarity on how they should fund the capital costs of infrastructure and services required to support new growth, given the impacts to overall DC revenue;
- Wishes it to be known that the constant change to the Province's planning and development framework is creating uncertainty and is ultimately reducing the construction of housing; and,

- Directs the Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Huron-Bruce MPP, Huron-Bruce MP, AMCTO, AMO and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Amanda Banting
Deputy Clerk
/js

Cc: The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Member of Provincial Parliament – Huron-Bruce, lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org
Ben Lobb, Member of Parliament – Huron-Bruce, ben.lobb@parl.gc.ca
Angela Toole, Acting Manager of Municipal Governance/Clerk, Town of Kingsville, atoole@kingsville.ca
Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario, amcto@amcto.com
Association of Municipalities Ontario, resolutions@amo.on.ca
All Municipalities in Ontario