



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE
AGENDA

TSSC 1-2024

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

3:00 p.m.

Council Chamber - In Person and Electronic Meeting

Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON

If you are interested in viewing this meeting please contact the Office of the Regional Clerk at clerk@niagararegion.ca.

	Pages
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
2. <u>LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT</u>	
3. <u>DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST</u>	
4. <u>COMMITTEE ORIENTATION</u>	
4.1 <u>Transportation Strategy Steering Committee - Roles and Responsibilities</u> Jenna Spratt, Legislative Coordinator	
4.1.1 Code of Conduct for Members of the Public on Niagara Region Advisory Committees	3 - 11
4.1.2 Code of Conduct Social Media Bulletin	12 - 16
4.2 <u>Committee Overview</u> Frank Tassone, Director, Transportation Services	17 - 24
4.3 <u>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion</u> Bianca Fucile, Corporate Performance Specialist	25 - 37

5. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

5.1 Call for Nominations for Committee Chair

5.2 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Chair

5.3 Voting for the Position of Committee Chair

5.4 Call for Nominations for Committee Vice Chair

5.5 Motion to Close Nomination for Committee Vice Chair

5.6 Voting for the Position of Committee Vice Chair

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 TSSC-C 1-2024

38

Transportation Strategy Steering Committee 2024 Meeting Schedule

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be determined.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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).

Transportation Strategy Steering Committee

Overview

- Committee Goals and Purpose
- How Do Recommendations Get to Council?
- Responsibilities of Steering Committee Members
- Meeting Expectations
- Meetings 101
- Agenda Notification Email
- Meeting Etiquette

Transportation Strategy Steering Committee (TSSC) Goals and Purpose

- The core mandate is to provide input to staff and Regional Council through the Public Works Committee on policies, programs and initiatives related to building and planning balanced and sustainable transportation systems.
- The committee, as directed by Regional Council and in alignment with Regional Council's strategic priorities, shall collaborate with other agencies to develop alternatives and solutions related to transportation planning and policy development.
- The committee will also assist in forming advice and recommendations to the Public Works Committee in collaboration with staff.

How Do Recommendations Get to Council?

- Recommendations from Advisory and Steering Committees are communicated to Council via the appropriate Standing Committee. Recommendations from TSSC would be considered by the Public Works Committee and subsequently Council.
- If a recommendation from a Committee requires action by staff or is outside of staff's typical work or work plan, or outside of the typical support / administrative role of staff, the recommendation must be requested in a motion duly passed by the Committee with a request that the matter be considered by the appropriate Standing Committee. This process is administered by staff.

Responsibilities of TSSC Members

- Comply with the Code of Conduct for Members of the Public on Niagara Region Advisory and Steering Committees. <https://www.niagararegion.ca/government/accountability/code-of-conduct-public-advisory-members.aspx>
- Familiarize themselves with the Integrity Commissioner's Bulletin on Social Media [Social Media Use for Members of Council and Members of Local Boards - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)
- Familiarize themselves with the Terms of Reference and mandate of their Steering Committee.
- Understand their Steering Committee's advisory relationship to Council and staff.
- Undertake any work assigned, including special projects and research.
- Respect that Staff Liaisons perform their role as liaison in addition to other duties and refrain from directing staff.
- Respect the role and responsibility of the Chair and staff.
- Acknowledge and respect that the Committee's recommendations may differ from one's personal opinion.
- Respect the decisions of Council and understand that Council was duly-elected by the public to make decisions.

Meeting Expectations

- Be prepared for meetings by reviewing the agenda and any materials before the meeting and actively participate in the discussion and decision-making process.
- Be open-minded and allow for a variety of opinions to be heard.
- Respect the individual worth and dignity of all members, staff and members of the public who may attend meetings. Healthy dialogue, mutual respect and a shared interest in pursuing the common good will all contribute to the success of the Committee.
- Maintain a high degree of professionalism.
- Clearly identify any items of pecuniary interest (i.e. conflicts of interest) before they are discussed, and refrain from discussion and voting on these items.
- Act in a manner that demonstrates professionalism, transparency, accountability and contributes to the public's confidence in the Committee and the Niagara Region as a whole.
- Communicate activities of the Committee to groups represented or those who may have an interest and offer information back to the Committee.
- Participate in voting when a vote is called.

Meetings 101

- Meeting invitations will be issued through Microsoft Outlook and will include information on how to participate electronically.
- Meetings will be held in a hybrid format, meaning you can participate in-person or virtually.
- Meetings will take place at Niagara Region Headquarters.
- Committee Members receive an email once the Committee agenda has been published.
- This email includes an agenda cover sheet highlighting the items to be discussed at the meeting, Zoom meeting details and a link to access the agenda materials on the Niagara Region website.
- Advisory Committee Members are requested to send regrets if unable to attend the meeting in order to ensure quorum will be present to hold the meeting (Quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present to conduct business at a meeting).

Agenda Notification Email

Please find attached the agenda for the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee meeting being held on Wednesday, July 3 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Regional Headquarters.

This meeting is being held in a hybrid format which means you may choose to attend in person or via the meeting platform Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83499880865?pwd=6l79al7hLnV4juKT0sHHAWcm4PZu3Z.1>

Meeting ID: 834 9988 0865

Passcode: 276149

Dial by your location

- +1 647 374 4685 Canada
- +1 647 558 0588 Canada

In an effort to ensure we will have quorum (majority of members), if you are unable to attend please let me know.

Meeting Etiquette

- Ensure you have the required technology and applications and are capable of using them for the purposes of actively participating in the meeting.
- Keep your camera turned on for the duration of the meeting so that you're visible at all times to your fellow members.
- Keep your microphone muted when not speaking and unmute when called to speak by the Chair. This will help eliminate any feedback or background noise that can be heard.
- Use the raise hand function if you would like to speak.



ADR
C H A M B E R S

Integrity Commissioner Office
for Niagara Region

MICHAEL L. MAYNARD

Interim Integrity Commissioner
Niagara Region

August 26, 2022

ADVISORY BULLETIN

**RE: USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL
AND MEMBERS OF LOCAL BOARDS**

PURPOSE OF THE BULLETIN

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide general interpretive advice to *Members of Council and Members of Local Boards and Members of the Public on Niagara Region Committees* (collectively “Members”) regarding the use of social media, and how it intersects with the ethical obligations established by their respective Codes of Conduct. This Bulletin does not establish new rules. It also does not replace situation-specific advice from the Integrity Commissioner, which should still be sought by Members when they have questions about their personal ethical obligations.

Members of Council have a general obligation to serve the public in a “conscientious and diligent manner¹”. As representatives of the Regional government, they must contribute to the Region’s overarching responsibility to provide “good and effective government for the public in the region, in an open, accountable, and transparent manner².”

Likewise, Members of the Public on Niagara Region Committees must “ensure their decisions and conduct maintain and respect Niagara Region’s values of truth, honesty and integrity; take into account the public character of their

¹ Code of Conduct for Members of Council and Local Boards, s. 2.2

² Code of Conduct for Members of Council and Local Boards, s. 4.1

function as an Advisory Committee Member and conduct themselves in a way that maintains and promotes the public's trust in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.³

It is with these overarching principles in mind that Members shall observe and consider their use of social media.

WHAT IS SOCIAL MEDIA?

Social Media refers to a variety of websites and web-based technologies (e.g., applications or "apps") which are used to produce and/or post content with others (i.e., to interact through text, images, video, and/or audio), and to network socially or professionally in an online virtual environment. Social media can primarily be classified as digital communication and networking tools.

A non-exhaustive list of examples includes: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, and Discord.

BENEFITS OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND PUBLIC BOARD MEMBERS

Social media enables Members to share information and interact with members of the public on matters of public interest. It provides the public with low-barrier access to communicate with their representatives through direct communication, via a freely accessible web-based interface. Such interactions may help Members gain insight into public aspirations and community concerns. Members may also use social media to enhance their public profiles and increase their influence in the community.

POTENTIAL PITFALLS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The pitfalls of online social interaction are likely well-known. Online bullying (also known as "cyberbullying") and harassment have garnered significant attention in society. Social media interactions sometimes leave little opportunity for context or nuance, resulting in such discussions becoming (or appearing to become) ill-tempered. Such interactions between Members with each other, or with members of the public, may lead to Code of Conduct complaints.

³ Code of Conduct for Members of the Public on Niagara Region Committees

As a general rule, **social media interactions should be treated in the same manner as face-to-face, telephone, or email interactions.** In other words, the same various Code rules governing respectful conduct – whether at Council or Board meetings, or in other forums – are equally applicable to social media interactions. This does not mean that Members are not permitted to share their political views, even when those views may be unpopular or contrary to prevailing views (with notable exceptions – e.g., discrimination). It does mean that Members must express themselves respectfully and in accordance with the principles and rules set out in the Codes.

THE CODES OF CONDUCT

The Codes of Conduct are applicable to Members at all times. Accordingly, even if a Member does not use social media in an intentionally professional capacity for their duties as a Member, they are still regarded as public representatives in any interactions they may have and may be held accountable for their conduct pursuant to their respective Code. This is heightened when Members of Council and Local Boards self-identify with their public titles in using social media and when Members in general use social media to communicate with constituents. While it is quite usual for Members of Council to use their title “Councillor” on social media, Members of the Public on Regional Committees are best advised to not use any Region-affiliated title on social media – but may seek advice from the Integrity Commissioner on a case-by-case basis.

The use of a Member’s title in their social media profile is akin to using the Region’s letterhead. If a Member of Council would not put something on the Region’s letterhead, they should not post it under their title on social media. As an example, advertising personal, private, or third-party interests on a social media account that includes the Member’s title of office could be seen as improperly using the influence of the office, which is contrary to the Code.

Usage of a title is not conclusive, though. Members should also be aware that not using their title does not necessarily excuse them from their Code obligations – especially (though not exclusively) if the Member uses the social media account for official business in their role as a representative in the Regional government (e.g., communicating with constituents).

Posting a disclaimer that the social media account is private or stating that the views expressed thereon are merely personal in nature also does not necessarily excuse the Member from their Code obligations. Members of Council are

particularly viewed as public representatives at all times. Public posts or interactions with the public are always subject to scrutiny and can become the subject of Code of Conduct complaints.

Accordingly, Members should be cautious about the language they employ in any social media interactions, and particularly avoid language which may be contrary to expectations established by the Codes (e.g., abuse, bullying, discrimination, intimidation, dishonesty, or sharing confidential information).

Members must also avoid improperly using the Region’s property^{4,5} – including its intellectual property (such as trademarks, wordmarks, logos, etc.) – in online posts or interactions that are unconnected to Regional government business. Members cannot use the Region’s resources for personal business. Accordingly, usage of social media from a Region-issued device or a Region-based account has more stringent rules.

Members may occasionally wish to use their social media to advocate for certain causes that are of community benefit. While this is usually acceptable, if the Member has any concern about the ethical risks of using social media in this manner, they should consult with the Integrity Commissioner.

ELECTION ACTIVITY

Social media that has been created or is accessed using the Region’s resources – for example, with assistance from Regional staff; using the Region’s IT or telecommunications equipment; using devices funded by the Region; or associated with a Regional email address, such as the @niagararegion.ca domain – must not be used for election activities, in accordance with the Regional policy⁶.

Members are further advised to refrain from engaging in campaign activities on social media accounts which use their official title, or from which they conduct official business of the Region, in order to avoid conflating personal interests with public interests or the Region’s property or business interests.

⁴ Code of Conduct for Members of Council and Local Boards, s.7

⁵ Code of Conduct for Members of the Public on Niagara Region Committees, “Use of Regional Resources”

⁶ Policy C-A-024, “Use of Municipal Resources during the Election Campaign Period.”

BLOCKING, MUTING, UNFRIENDING

As noted above, challenging interactions are a potential pitfall of using social media. “Block early, block often” has become a common refrain on social media for those in the public eye who might regularly receive insulting or abusive messages online – particularly from anonymous members of the public, who may or may not even be constituents.

There is no specific rule under either Code of Conduct dealing with blocking, muting, or unfriending on social media. However, in light of the overarching principles of the Region, and the general principles guiding the conduct of Members, it is interpreted that those who use social media to engage with the public must do so in an open, transparent, and publicly accountable manner. As a general rule, blocking or unfriending members of the public should not be the automatic *go-to solution* for managing difficult social media interactions. Members should never feel obligated to accept abuse, bullying, harassment, or threatening behaviour, and conduct by a member of the public which violates the law need not be tolerated. But Members must also balance their public obligations to engage in dialogue with those who may disagree with them. Disagreements – even vigorous ones – on matters of public policy come with the territory of being an elected representative.

If a Member is made to feel unsafe due to conduct or comments which may be abusive, harassing, or threatening in nature (e.g., “trolling”), then the Member may well be justified in blocking or unfriending the involved individual. Conduct which might violate the social media platform’s terms of service may also be reported to that platform. Criminal conduct, or conduct which violates the Ontario Human Rights Code, may be pursued with the appropriate authorities. Specific advice about whether it is appropriate to block someone on social media may be obtained via a Request for Advice from the Integrity Commissioner.

Committee Overview

Transportation Strategy Steering Committee
July 3, 2024

Frank Tassone, Director Transportation Services

Committee Overview

Transportation Strategy Steering Committee

July 3, 2024

Overview

1. Transportation Services Overview
2. Transportation Strategy Steering Committee Mandate
3. Transportation Master Plan
4. Project Advocacy



Transportation Services Overview



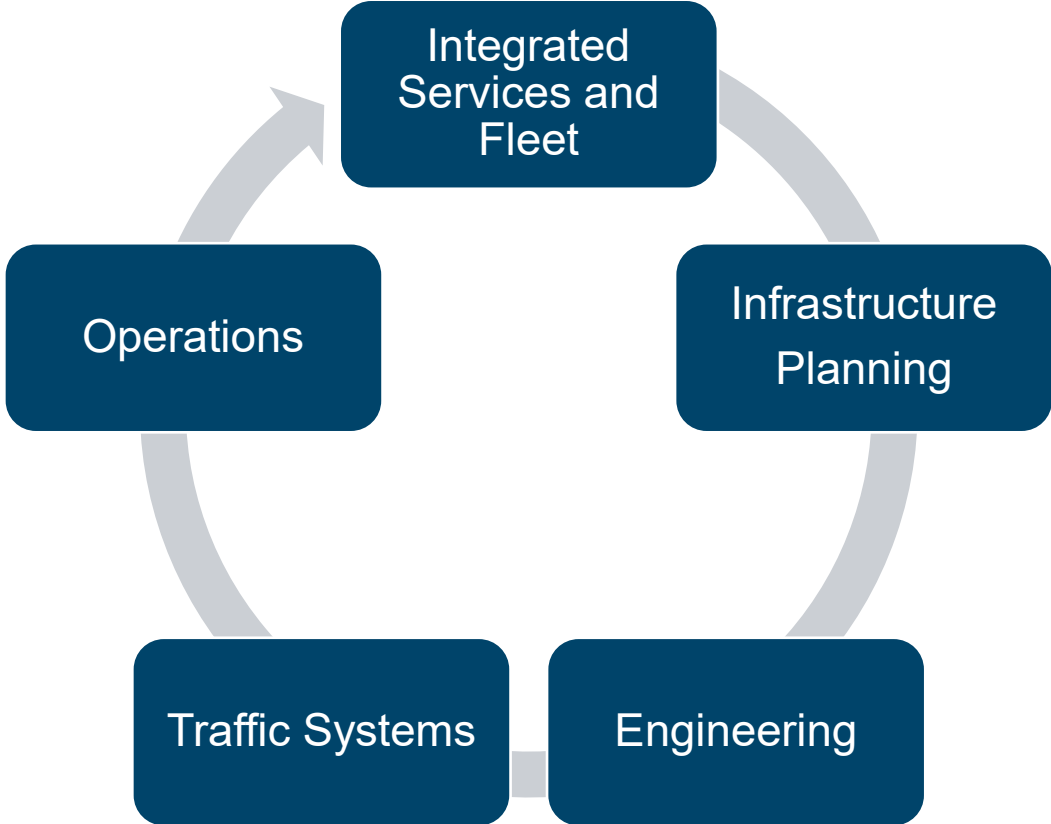
1700 lane-kms of Regional Roads



130 Bridges and over 1800 culverts

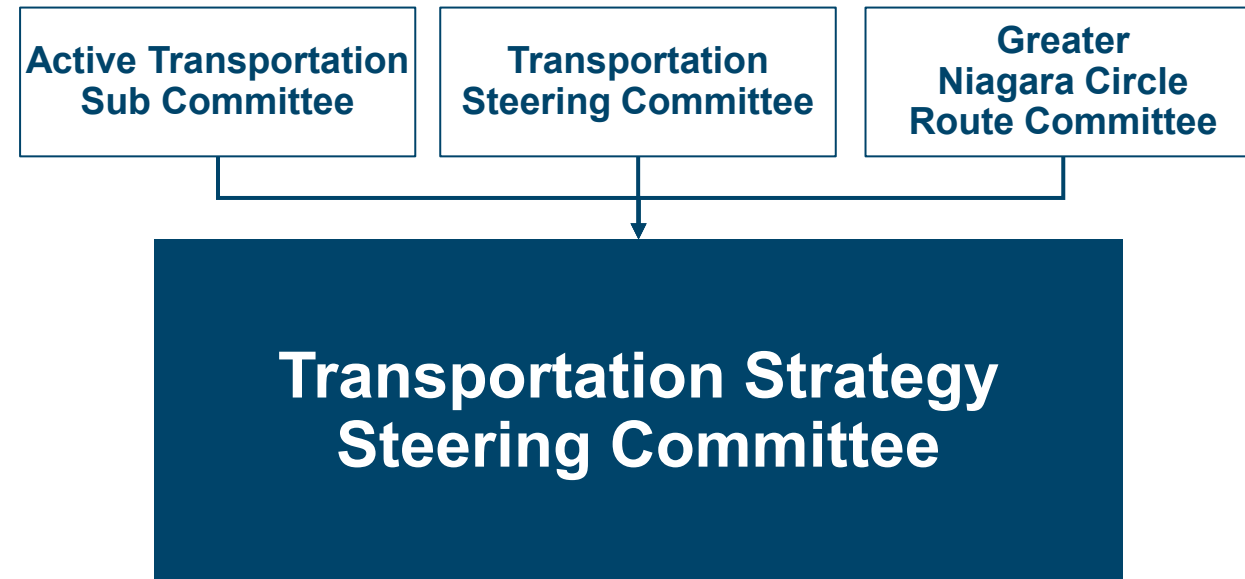


475 Traffic Signals and Pedestrian Crossovers



Transportation Strategy Steering Committee - Mandate

- Advisory committee to the Public Works Committee (PWC).
- Advices on matters of transportation policy and infrastructure planning for the Niagara Region's transportation network.
- Advocates for strategic initiatives



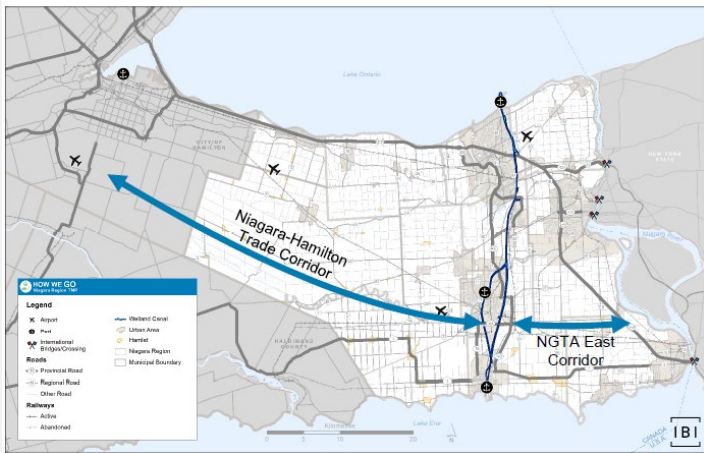
Transportation Master Plan (TMP)

- The TMP presents the long-term strategy for the Region's transportation system.
- The TMP was last approved in 2017 and an update is required.
- The Transportation Strategy Steering Committee will provide input to key elements of the TMP as it develops.

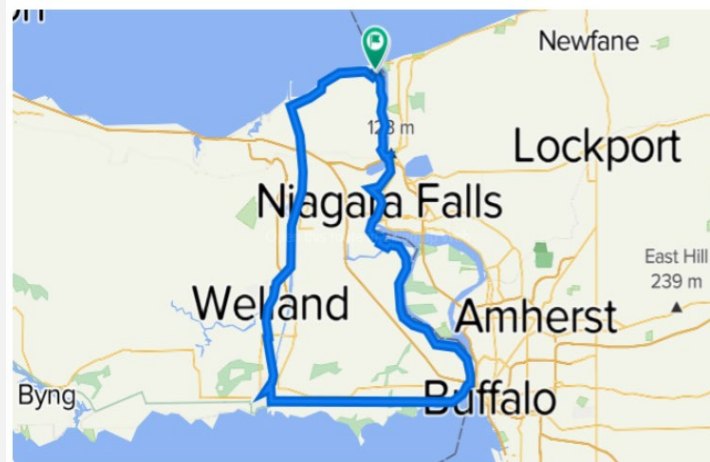
TMP Components



Project Advocacy



Niagara to Greater Toronto Area Corridor



Greater Niagara Circle Route



GO Transit Expansion

Questions

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Orientation

Bianca Fucile

Corporate Performance Specialist

Agenda

- Brave Space
- Key terms
- Ontario Human Rights Code
- Cultural Humility
- Inclusive Language



Brave Space

- Welcome and respect multiple viewpoints
- Take risks and lean into discomfort
- Practice active listening
- Take time to reflect
- Accept mistakes and differences
- Challenge with care and compassion

12 Dimensions of Diversity



Francophone



Indigenous



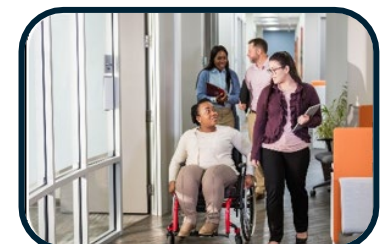
Ethnocultural



New Immigrants



2SLGBTQQIA+



People with Disabilities



Older Adults



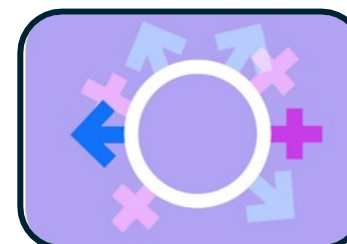
People with Low Income



People Experiencing Homelessness



Youth



Gender



Faith

Equality vs. Equity



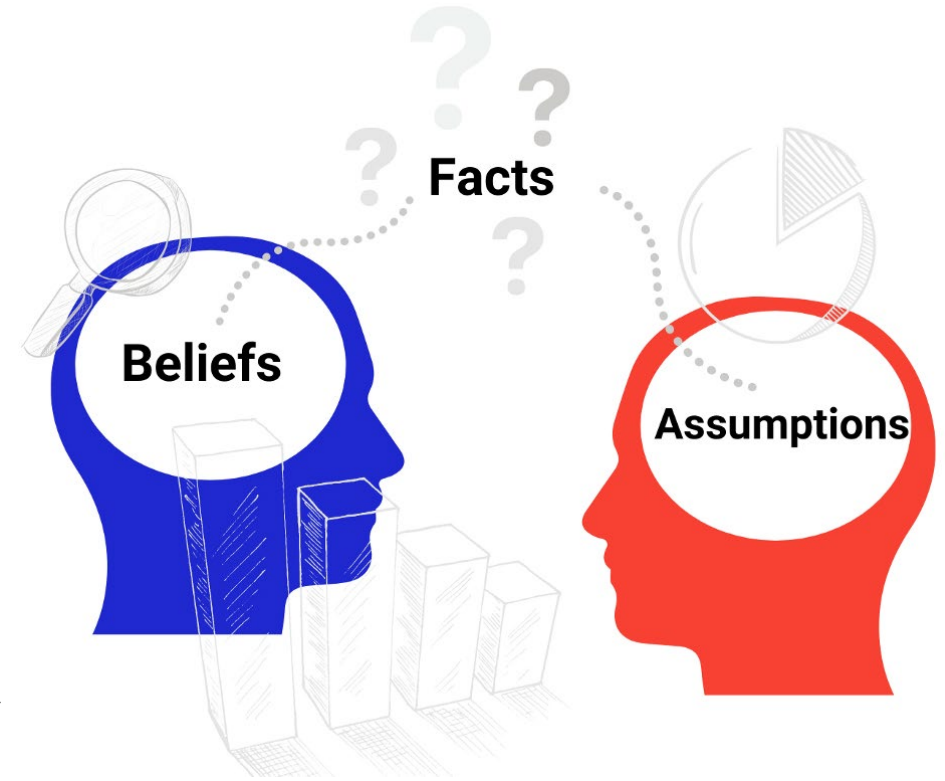
Robert Wood Foundation (2017)

Inclusion



Bias to Discrimination

- **Bias** – disproportionate weight in favour of or against an idea, thing, or person.
- **Stereotype** – an over-generalized belief about a group of people.
- **Prejudice** – a judgement or opinion formed before all facts are known.
- **Discrimination** – negative behaviours or actions towards members of a group based on stereotypes and prejudice



The Ontario Human Rights Code

- The *Code* prohibits actions that discriminate against people based on a protected *ground* in a protected *social area*.
- Protected grounds:
 - Age
 - Ancestry, colour, race
 - Citizenship
 - Ethnic origin
 - Place of origin
 - Creed
 - Disability
 - Family status
 - Marital status (including single status)
 - Gender identity, gender expression
 - Receipt of public assistance (in housing only)
 - Record of offences (in employment only)
 - Sex (including pregnancy and breastfeeding)
 - Sexual orientation

4 Key Principles to Cultural Humility

1. Life long **learning and critical self-reflection**
2. Recognize and **challenge power imbalances**
3. Develop **mutually beneficial partnerships**
4. Advocate for and maintain **institutional consistency and accountability**

Inclusive Language

Avoid

- Ladies, gentlemen, ma'am, sir, girls, guys, etc,

Consider instead

- "Thanks friends, Have a great night."
- "Good morning folks"
- "Hi everyone"
- "And for you?"
- "What would they like?"

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan

**Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion**
Action Plan 2023–2027
June 2022

NIAGARA
EVERYONE WELCOME • TOUS SONT BIENVENUS

Niagara Region

**Diversité, équité,
et inclusion (DEI)**
Plan d'action 2023–2027
Sommaire exécutif

NIAGARA
EVERYONE WELCOME • TOUS SONT BIENVENUS

Niagara Region



Strategic Priorities: Equitable Region

Provide opportunities for a safe and inclusive Niagara by listening and responding to our community needs and planning for future growth.

Thank You!

diversity@niagararegion.ca

Memorandum

TSSC-C 1-2024

Subject: 2024 Transportation Strategy Steering Committee Meeting Dates

Date: July 3, 2024

To: Transportation Strategy Steering Committee

From: Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

The following is a list of proposed dates in 2024 that have been identified to hold meetings of the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee:

September 4, 2024

October 30, 2024

A resolution of Committee is required to approve the meeting dates. Suggested wording is as follows:

That the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee meetings **BE HELD** at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, and Wednesday, October 30, 2024.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk