

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA  
PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION**

**PHSSC 6-2020  
Tuesday, July 14, 2020  
Council Chamber/Teleconference  
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: Chiocchio (Committee Co-Chair), Greenwood (Committee Co-Chair)

Committee Members Present via Teleconference: Bellows, Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Darte, Foster, Gibson, Heit, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Whalen, Witteveen

Absent/Regrets: Villella

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: S. Guglielmi, Technology Support Analyst, Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner, Public Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk

Staff Present via Teleconference: B. Brens, Manager, Program Financial Support, C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, D. Edgar, Director, Children's Services, Dr. A. Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, R. Ferron, Deputy Chief/Associate Director, Emergency Medical Services, H. Koning, Director, Senior Services, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, R. Mayo, Deputy Chief/Associate Director, Emergency Medical Services, K. Smith, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, L. Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Co-Chair Greenwood called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 **PHD 4-2020**

Approval of 2020 Public Health Program Audits

Moved by Councillor Witteveen

Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PHD 4-2020, dated July 14, 2020, respecting Approval of 2020 Public Health Program Audits, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the draft audited schedule of revenue and expenses and the annual reconciliation return for the Public Health General Programs for the year ended December 31, 2019 (Appendix 1 and 2 of Report PHD 4-2020), **BE APPROVED**;
2. That the draft audited schedule of revenue and expenses for the Infant & Child Development Services ("ICDS") program for the year ended March 31, 2020, (Appendix 3 of Report PHD 4-2020) **BE APPROVED**;
3. That the draft audited schedule of revenue and expenses and questionnaire for the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children ("HBHC") program for the year ended March 31, 2020, (Appendix 4 and 5 of Report PHD 4-2020) **BE APPROVED**;
4. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to co-ordinate with the auditor to finalize the statements as presented; and
5. That Report PHD 04-2020 **BE FORWARDED** to the Region's Audit Committee for information.

**Carried**

5.2 PHD 6-2020  
Basic Income for Income Security

Moved by Councillor Ip  
Seconded by Councillor Butters

That Report PHD 6-2020, dated July 14, 2020, respecting Basic Income for Income Security, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **ACKNOWLEDGE** the inequitable impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Niagara residents, including the disproportionate burden of both illness and economic harm borne by those of lower income or in poverty;
2. That Regional Council **CALL UPON** the federal and provincial government to prioritize measures to reduce poverty and income inequality in our society as one of the changes that should be initiated by this pandemic;
3. That Regional Council **RECOMMEND** that the federal and provincial governments engage in pilot projects to study policy innovations that can address poverty and income inequality, including study of basic income guarantee projects;
4. That Regional Council particularly **RECOMMEND** that the federal government carefully study the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) for its impact on health and poverty of recipients as lessons that could be applied to a basic income guarantee pilot, or as a platform for instituting a basic income guarantee; and
5. That Regional Council **DIRECT** the Regional Chair to communicate these calls and recommendations to the federal and provincial governments.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Committee Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion, so that clause 3 reads as follows:

3. That Regional Council **RECOMMEND** that the federal and provincial governments engage in pilot projects to study policy innovations that can address poverty and income inequality, including **the** study of a basic income guarantee project **in Niagara region**.

Committee Co-Chair Greenwood called the vote on the motion, as amended, as follows:

That Report PHD 6-2020, dated July 14, 2020, respecting Basic Income for Income Security, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **ACKNOWLEDGE** the inequitable impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Niagara residents, including the disproportionate burden of both illness and economic harm borne by those of lower income or in poverty;
2. That Regional Council **CALL UPON** the federal and provincial government to prioritize measures to reduce poverty and income inequality in our society as one of the changes that should be initiated by this pandemic;
3. That Regional Council **RECOMMEND** that the federal and provincial governments engage in pilot projects to study policy innovations that can address poverty and income inequality, including the study of a basic income guarantee project in Niagara region;
4. That Regional Council particularly **RECOMMEND** that the federal government carefully study the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) for its impact on health and poverty of recipients as lessons that could be applied to a basic income guarantee pilot, or as a platform for instituting a basic income guarantee; and
5. That Regional Council **DIRECT** the Regional Chair to communicate these calls and recommendations to the federal and provincial governments.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (16): Bellows, Bradley, Butters, Chiocchio, Darte, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Whalen, Witteveen.

No (0).

**Carried**

**6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**6.1 COM-C 20-2020**

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Community Services

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Correspondence Item COM-C 20-2020, being a memorandum from A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, dated July 14, 2020, respecting COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Community Services, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

**6.2 PHD-C 5-2020**

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Public Health & Emergency Services

Moved by Councillor Whalen

Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That Correspondence Item PHD-C 5-2020, being a memorandum from Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner, Public Health, dated July 14, 2020, respecting COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Public Health & Emergency Services, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

6.3 PHD 5-2020

COVID-19 Impact on Niagara Emergency Medical Services

Kevin Smith, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services and Richard Ferron, Deputy Chief/Associate Director, Emergency Medical Services, provided information respecting COVID-19 Impact on Niagara Emergency Medical Services. Topics of the presentation included:

- Business Continuity
- Enhanced Roll in COVID Response
- System Demand
- System Performance

Moved by Councillor Insinna

Seconded by Councillor Nicholson

That Report PHD 5-2020, dated July 14, 2020, respecting COVID-19 Impact on Niagara Emergency Medical Services, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

6. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Jordan

Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That the following items **BE DEALT WITH** as follows:

PHD-C 4-2020, respecting Further Details on Order to Wear Masks in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, **BE RECEIVED** for information;

COM 15-2020, respecting Affordable Housing Strategy Update, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities; and

COM-C 21-2020, respecting letter of support for Basic Income for Income Security, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

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Councillor Greenwood  
Committee Co-Chair

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Councillor Chiocchio  
Committee Co-Chair

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Kelly Lotimer  
Legislative Coordinator

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk