

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

**PHSSC 11-2020
Tuesday, December 8, 2020
Council Chamber/Video Conference
Niagara Regional Headquarters
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 Video Conference:	Bradley (Regional Chair), Bellows, Butters, Darte, Foster, Gibson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Whalen, Witteveen
Absent/Regrets:	Bradley (Regional Chair), Villella
Staff Present in the Council Chamber:	S. Guglielmi, Technology Support Analyst, Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Staff Present via Video Conference:	A. Alfieri-Maiolo, Director, Clinical Services, D. Barnhart, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair, C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, D. Edgar, Director, Children's Services, H. Koning, Director, Senior Services, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, K. Smith, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, M. Steele, Associate Director, Reporting & Analysis, L. Watson, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, D. Woiceshyn, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing, B. Zvaniga, Interim Commissioner, Public Works

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

3.1 Impact of COVID-19 on the Ontario Works Caseload

Lori Watson, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities, provided information respecting Impact of COVID-19 on the Ontario Works Caseload. Topics of the presentation included:

- Historical impact of economic downturn on caseload
- Current impact of COVID-19 on caseload
- Anticipated caseload surge
- Preparing for a surge:
 - Provincial Recovery and Renewal Plan
 - Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Recovery and Renewal Plan
- Employment Services Transformation

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no items for consideration.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Moved by Councillor Witteveen
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

COM-C 34-2020

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Community Services

PHD-C 16-2020

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

COM 20-2020

Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report – July to September, 2020

COM-C 33-2020

Activities related to Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan for September, October and November 2020

COM-C 35-2020

Niagara Regional Housing Q3 Report

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Well Water Testing

Councillors expressed concern with the ongoing suspension of well water testing for residents due to COVID-19 and requested staff explore options to provide safe drop off locations for well water samples. Dr. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, advised that he would look into options and provide information to the Committee.

7.2 Niagara Region Police Services Headquarters District 1 Building

Councillors requested information respecting the possible use of Niagara Regional Police Services Headquarters, District 1 building, for affordable/assisted housing.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Councillor Greenwood
Committee Co-Chair

Councillor Chiocchio
Committee Co-Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk