

**In accordance with the notice and submission deadline requirements of Sections 18.1 (a) and 11.3, respectively, of Niagara Region's Procedural By-law, the Regional Clerk received from Councillor Ip a motion to be brought forward for consideration at the December 17, 2020 Council meeting respecting Creation of a Lobbyist Registry for the Region of Niagara.**

WHEREAS access to local government is an essential element of democratic governance;

WHEREAS lobbying by honest and appropriate means is a legitimate activity;

WHEREAS it is reasonable for Members of Council and the public at large to know the nature and amount of legitimate lobbying of local government;

WHEREAS Section 223.9 of the Municipal Act, 2001, authorizes the Region of Niagara to establish and maintain a Lobbyist Registry in which shall be kept registrations and returns filed by persons who lobby the Region of Niagara's public office holders;

WHEREAS Section 223.11 of the Municipal Act, 2001 authorizes the Region of Niagara to appoint a Lobbyist Registrar who is responsible for performing in an independent manner the functions assigned by the Region of Niagara with respect to the Lobbyist Registry; and

WHEREAS Sections 8, 9, and 10 of the Municipal Act, 2001 authorize the Region of Niagara to pass by-laws necessary or desirable for municipal purposes, and in particular paragraph 2 of subsection 10(2) authorizes by-laws respecting the accountability and transparency of the municipality and its operations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Council **DIRECT** staff to research and report back with recommendations for the creation and maintenance of a Lobbyist Registry, which should include a regular, transparent reporting process and contains a jurisdictional scan for best practices from other municipal governments in Ontario, such as Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Brampton, Peel Region, Vaughan, and Collingwood; and
2. That this motion **BE CIRCULATED** to Niagara's 12 local area municipalities.