

# Niagara Official Plan- Consultation Update

Planning and Economic Development Committee  
PDS 35-2020

December 9, 2020

Dave Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant



making our mark

# **NIAGARA**

## OFFICIAL PLAN

**PDS 35-2020**

# **Niagara Official Plan Consultation Update**

**December 9, 2020 - Presentation to Planning and  
Economic Development Committee**



# Layers of Consultation

- Public - Virtual PICs & Surveys, Planning Advisory Committee
- Virtual Stakeholder Workshops
- Local Planning Departments
- Decision Making Bodies



# Consultation Findings

- Many participants are interested in several topic areas of the Niagara Official Plan recognizing the interrelationships between topic areas.
- There is some understanding that growth management, infrastructure and the natural environment can not be considered in isolation of each other. However this is essential to understanding the Niagara Official Plan, and we will need to strengthen this message moving forward.
- The role of regional versus local planning for various policy sections will need to be clarified moving forward.
- Managing growth properly is the key to good planning for all the interrelated topics of the Niagara Official Plan.
- A comprehensive consultation report will be provided in the next several months for the Natural Environment Work Program that analyses the input received through the virtual PICs along with all the other input received through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Point of Engagement in greater detail.



# Virtual PICs

PICs	Attendance	Questions
Natural Heritage System Options	68	64
Water Resource System Options and Watershed Planning	55	40
Growth Management (regional structure, land needs, growth allocations, settlement area boundary review, housing)	79	41
Employment lands, Urban Design, District & Secondary Plans	35	7
Agriculture, Aggregates and Archeological Master Plan	57	15
Transportation, Servicing, and Storm Water	38	44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>211</b>



# Surveys

- Employment Policy Survey - 97 Participants
- Growth Management - 217 Participants
- Current - Natural Environment Watershed Planning
- Vision & Directives Survey - November/December



# Planning Advisory Committee

- 8 citizens
- Professional background –business, agriculture, environment, engineering, planning
- Provide input & review policy
- Meetings ongoing - often bi-monthly





# Stakeholder Engagement

- Area Planners
- Stakeholder groups - developers, agricultural & environmental
- Agencies - Province, NEC, NPCA, NPC



# Indigenous Consultation

- Meeting with local Indigenous Communities & Treaty Rights groups
- Areas of Interest - archaeology, natural environment, climate change, housing
- Sharing portal established for information sharing



# Decision Making Bodies

- Local Council Presentations
- Regional Council Workshops - February 2020
- Local Council Workshops - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020



# Managing Growth Challenge & Opportunity

- Recognize the heterogeneous communities in Niagara while accommodating the growth that is coming.
- Create thriving complete resilient communities.
- Assist in addressing affordable housing and age in place issues.
- Protect our significant natural heritage and water systems which identify where not to develop.

