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## MEMORANDUM

COTW-C 1-2020

**Subject: Niagara Official Plan Councillor Engagement Insights Report**

**Date: December 10, 2020**

**To: Committee of the Whole**

**From: Doug Giles, Acting Commissioner, Planning and Development Services**

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In July 2020, consultants Overlap Associates were appointed to conduct interviews with Regional Councillors to help inform the Regional Official Plan. In Ontario, official plans have evolved to incorporate a significant number of inter-related policy sets that are intended to accommodate population and employment growth while balancing the needs of the community.

Within this context, Overlap Associates held one-on-one online interviews over a three week period in August and September of 2020. The purpose of the interviews was to create dialogue and allow Regional Councillors to provide direction, perspectives and issues on the topics contained in the Regional Official Plan.

The attached report *Engagement Insights Report, Region of Niagara, October 26 2020*, provides a summary of the insights from Regional Councillors and recommended next steps. The insights presented in this report cover a diverse range of topics that are central to the Regional Official Plan and will be used to guide the next stage of the process which is the preparation of draft policy.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Doug Giles, BES, MUP  
Acting Commissioner, Planning and Development Services