

Insights on Proposed Pillar Statements and Directives – Niagara Official Plan

Planning and Economic Development Committee

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Pillars and Directives Insights Report

Region of Niagara

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- Overview of our work
- Part 2 Assignment
- What Regional Councillors received
- What we heard
- What we concluded
- Q & A

Overview of our Work with the Region of Niagara

Part 1 – Engagement Insights Report

- 7 Insights, 10 Recommendations
- Tabled December 10, 2020

Part 2 – Proposed Pillars and Directives Insights Report

- 6 Insights, 4 Conclusions
- Report now tabled with Regional staff, and the basis of this presentation.

Part 2 Assignment to Overlap

- Review of summary public input, including most recent survey (closed in January 2021).
- Design and deliver a feedback tool for Regional Councillors to be able to read summary results and provide their reflections.
- Derive insights and conclusions based on the Regional Councillor feedback.

What Regional Councillors received:

- An electronic questionnaire with a seven day period to respond (extended to nine days).
- Draft Pillars and Directives were included.
- Extensive summary information on the most recent and past public surveys was included.
- Questions were posed to Councillors regarding:
 - Impressions of public survey feedback
 - Any additional constituent comments from their interaction
 - What the Pillars and Directives mean to them
 - Anything else they wished to add

What we heard:

Insight 1 – Public was generally aligned with draft Pillars and Directives.

Insight 2 – Councillors generally confirmed a match between survey results and what other constituents were saying.

Insight 3 – Finding resolution between competing priorities is crucial.

What we heard:

Insight 4 – Pillars and Directives should be used as the basis for preparing a new Plan.

Insight 5 – This is a pivotal time for “future planning” in the Region.

Insight 6 – There is a need for creativity, collaboration and new approaches to working together, using “Made in Niagara” thinking.

What we concluded:

1. General alignment of Pillars and Directives with public input, recognizing that they may compete, and the Plan must provide policy details to support their resolution.
2. Next steps in the process should be the release of other key policy elements, and then a draft Plan for public review.
3. Active collaboration between all (thirteen) Municipalities is essential to ensure a clear understanding of the Plan and consistent application of its' content (including use of Area Municipal tools like Zoning By-laws and Site Plan Control).
4. Need for a well-designed Communication Plan to help the public read and understand the proposed Plan.

Thank you for this opportunity!