

**Minute Item No. 7.1**  
**Canadian Borders and COVID-19**

Whereas the border between Canada and the United States has been closed to all but essential travel for nearly 16 months;

Whereas the Minister of Security has indicated that the border restrictions will be eased based on health and science criteria in a gradual, staged and sectoral basis, attended by appropriate protocols, including fully vaccinated individuals;

Whereas the number of Canadians who have received first and second doses of a COVID-19 vaccine is continuing to increase; and

Whereas the federal government has yet to reveal to the public a plan for easing border restrictions leading to the eventual reopening of the border.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Government of Canada **BE REQUESTED** to release immediately its plan to ease restrictions and reopen the border between Canada and the United States; and
2. That this resolution **BE CIRCULATED** to the Prime Minister of Canada, the federal Minister of Security, Premier of Ontario and MP's and MPP's in Niagara.

**Minute Item No. 5.1**  
**PHD 8-2021**

**Consolidation of Niagara's Emergency 911 Communication Services**

That Report PHD 8-2021, dated July 8, 2021, respecting Consolidation of Niagara's Emergency 911 Communication Services, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to proceed with a fulsome investigation into a consolidated dispatch model to include but not limited to:
  - Detailed capital budget necessary for the procurement of all assets for the complete delivery of a regional fire communications service;
  - Detailed operational budget necessary for the delivery of a regional fire communications service;
  - Detailed budget analysis on impacts, positive or negative, to the existing budgets for the 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) and Niagara Emergency Medical Services (NEMS);
  - Governance structure to best provide effective and efficient delivery of consolidated 911 communications services;
  - Future facility review for the development of a Public Safety Communications Service primary dispatch centre for all agencies;

- A recommendation to Council for decision on whether and how to advance the consolidation of emergency dispatch services to be operational no later than March 31, 2024 and that the aforementioned report is completed by the end of Q4 2021.
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to request the City of St. Catharines that should a decision to consolidate dispatch be approved by the end of 2021, that they will enter into agreements to continue to provide dispatch services to their respective Niagara jurisdictions and contract customers until such time that the consolidated dispatch is made operational, no later than March 31, 2024; and
  3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to seek commitment from the respective Niagara jurisdictions to remain contract customers of St. Catharines Fire Services until such time that the consolidated dispatch is made operational, no later than March 31, 2024.