

CAO 18-2021 APPENDIX B | DELEGATIONS ISSUES WITH PROVINCIAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

MINISTRY	KEY ISSUES
<p>Solicitor General</p> <p>Minister Sylvia Jones</p> <p>Date: Monday, August 16 Time: 10:50 – 11:00 am</p> <p>Attending: Chair Bradley Mayor Easton Mayor Disero Ron Tripp Kevin Smith Natalie Early Daryl Barnhart Gina van den Burg</p>	<p>Modernization of emergency Services Communication Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Provincial government has made a commitment to support the work of frontline and emergency responders across the province. • Enhancements to emergency service communications include the transition to NG911 and the implementation of a digital public safety radio network • Modernization of the emergency radio network is “not only vital to public safety, it's long overdue” (Premier Ford, October 17, 2019) • Industry Canada describes the gold standard of interoperability is with the use of common standards-based radio systems by all public safety agencies in the broadest geographical area • A number of different emergency communication systems are currently in operation within Niagara that are not integrated, which has created challenges for effective operation and coordination of emergency services • Niagara administers a locally owned P25 digital voice radio system used by regional police and six of the twelve municipal fire agencies, while the local EMS operates on the public safety radio network (PSRN) that is in the process of transitioning to P25 by 2023 • The six remaining municipal fire services are operating on a dated analogue voice radio system that will be required to transition to the modern digital radio system in the very near future as support for analogue platforms is eventually terminated. • In order to successfully transition to a region-wide integration of the PSRN and P25 digital system, it requires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o all Niagara emergency response agencies to operate on the common P25 system o a capital investment to on-board the remaining six municipal fire agencies as well as full integration between the local P25 and the provincial PSRN <p>Niagara Region Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To successfully transition the six remaining municipal fire services from analogue to the P25 system, a capital investment of new hardware (radios) is required in order to support those local area municipalities that cannot afford this investment

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Therefore, Niagara Region is requesting a \$3.1 M investment be directed to the respective municipalities for this digital technology to be implemented in order to ensure the seamless operation of all emergency service voice radio systems. ● With Niagara Emergency Medical Services (EMS) operating an advanced Ambulance Communications Service (ACS), it is prepared to be an early adopter of the implementation of the PSRN with full integration to the local P25 digital system. This model will help inform the Province of similar initiatives for successful implementation across all municipalities. ● As Niagara is well underway in the transition to NG911 for its Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), it is prepared to be an early adopter of the implementation of NG911 with full integration to the provincial NG911 system to be used for its ACS's. This model will help inform the Province of the requirements to ensure for successful implementation across all municipalities.
<p>Long-Term Care</p> <p>Minister Rod Phillips</p> <p>Date: Monday, August 16 Time: 3:25 – 3:40 pm</p> <p>Attending: Chair Bradley Mayor Sendzik Mayor Redekop Ron Tripp Adrienne Jugley Daryl Barnhart Gina van den Burg</p>	<p>Long-term Care Redevelopment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Niagara Region is working on two redevelopment projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A LTC Home and Community Wellness Hub in St. Catharines and • A LTC Home and Community Wellness Hub in Fort Erie ● The design work is grounded in best practice for the industry ● Niagara Region has also undertaken extensive engagement to ensure that the new sites incorporate recommendations and insights from those who live and work in our homes and frequent our wellness programs ● Linhaven and Gilmore Lodge will be pursuing WELL™ Silver certification under the WELL Building Standard. The WELL Building Standard is a holistic approach focused on enhancing people's health and well-being through the built environment <p>Niagara Region Request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invited Minister Phillips to join Niagara Region in the upcoming ground-breaking ceremonies

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<p>Municipal Affairs and Housing</p> <p>Minister Steve Clark</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, August 17 Time: 9:45 – 10:00 am</p> <p>Attending: Chair Bradley Mayor Sendzik Councillor Greenwood* Ron Tripp Adrienne Jugley Natalie Early Daryl Barnhart Gina van den Burg</p>	<p>Homelessness Service Offerings in Niagara</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niagara’s commitment to two new facilities (Bridge and Permanent Supportive Housing) is demonstrated by the acquisition of assets to deliver both offerings, in partnership with the City of Niagara Falls, the Province and Regional contributions • The Bridge Housing project will be designed in partnership with Iain de Jong and OrgCode, to ensure the end program is a national best practice. In addition, OrgCode will perform an evaluation of the program, to ensure a philosophy of continuous improvement • The Bridge Housing facility is planned to contain recuperative beds and a primary care clinic. The Region is in discussions with the Ontario Health, Niagara Health System, Niagara Falls Community Health Centre and REACH Niagara to determine roles, responsibilities and integrated funding where possible • The Permanent Supportive Housing facility will address a key need in Niagara as identified during the community engagement process for the update to Niagara’s 10 Year Housing and Homeless Plan. In addition, as part of the Bridge Housing pilot project, it was identified that there is a critical need for a supportive housing option that is more intensive than what is currently available to support a successful exit from homelessness for those with high and complex needs • Niagara Region is eager to work with the Province to address the operating funding gap that is currently facing these two important projects. In light of the long term underfunding in CHPI, dedicated supportive housing operating dollars would be a welcome improvement to what can be provided to the homeless in our community <p>Niagara Region Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niagara Region requests that the Ministry provide operating dollars for both (or one) of the Bridge and Permanent Supportive Housing facilities to support chronically homeless residents in their transition to successful long-term housing solutions • Annual operating budget requirements are being developed based on best practice research, leveraging current effective partnerships and are presently estimated at \$1.1 million per annum per facility.

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<p>Transportation</p> <p>Minister Caroline Mulroney</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, August 17 Time: 10:15 – 10:30 am</p> <p>Attending: Chair Bradley Mayor Jordan Mayor Easton Mayor Bylsma Councillor Foster Harry Schlange Paul Dilanni Beverly Hendry Ron Tripp Natalie Early Daryl Barnhart Gina van den Burg</p>	<p>North-South Escarpment Crossing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities of West Niagara have been meeting with the Ministry of Transportation over the last four years regarding a proposed North-South Niagara Escarpment Crossing at Bartlett Avenue in Grimsby as a priority project • The Ministry confirmed its support for this Crossing as it will provide additional transportation system capacity, redundancy and resiliency, greater safety for local communities as well as efficient commercial vehicle operations, while ensuring Ontario remains open for business with the effective movement of goods and people. • With the release of the proposed Greater Golden Horseshoe 2051 Plan, it was revealed that the North-South Escarpment Crossing (nor the Niagara-Hamilton Trade Corridor) was not included in the proposed Plan. • Support from the provincial government to proceed with an Individual Environmental Assessment and Terms of Reference is critical to moving the Niagara Escarpment Crossing project forward <p>Niagara Region Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Province include the North-South Escarpment Crossing as a priority within the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2051 Plan to ensure a coordinated approach between Niagara and the Province on this critical infrastructure • That the Province confirm the future widening of the QEW from Fruitland to Highway 406 is included in the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2051 Plan
<p>Education</p> <p>Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Sam Oosterhoff</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, August 17 Time: 11:15 – 11:30 am</p>	<p>Critical Shortage of Registered Early Childhood Educators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faced with a current provincial shortage of qualified staff, growing the system of licensed child care will require a robust provincial recruitment and retention strategy • In Niagara, there are at least 2,132 children waiting for a licensed child care space to become available. Licensed child care service providers are presently unable to operate at their licensed capacity because of the critical shortage of qualified staff required for staffing ratios dictated by the <i>Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014</i> legislation

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<p>Attending: Chair Bradley Councillor Huson Ron Tripp Adrienne Jugley Daryl Barnhart Gina van den Burg</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to achieve full licensed capacity in the system, it is estimated that approximately 300 more RECEs will be required • These objectives can be achieved through an effective human resources strategy and moderate annual increases in operational funding to provide sufficient resources for Ontario’s licensed child care providers <p>Niagara Region Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niagara Region is requesting the Ministry develop a recruitment and retention strategy for Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) similar to other critical provincial initiatives such as the Community Commitment Program for Nurses as supported by Health Force Ontario • To support a recruitment and retention strategy, Niagara Region recommends the province incentivize unlicensed child care providers to join the licensed system and make efforts to reduce the administrative burden that currently exist with licensed home child care • Niagara Region is requesting that provincial funding allocations and capital expansion funds, at a minimum are maintained, with more capital and operating funds needed to expand licensed child care, including both centre-based and licensed home child care. This financial challenge can be alleviated by maintaining operational funding at 2021 levels at minimum (as opposed to the currently planned provincial reductions for 2022), to ensure the sustainability of service providers, and prevent further increases to parent fees • With the potential roll-out of a national child care program, the Region is requesting that the Province include municipal partners in its planning for the negotiations with the federal government.
<p>Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade</p> <p>Minister Vic Fedeli</p> <p>Date: August 17, 2021 Time: 3:15 – 3:30 pm</p>	<p>Increasing Niagara’s Employment Land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serviced and strategically located shovel ready employment lands are in short supply across Ontario • Niagara Region is the only area in the Greater Golden Horseshoe that has the combination of land, access to a 400 series highway, and 5 border crossings to the USA minutes away to grow the provincial economy • \$92.7 billion dollars of goods crossed Niagara’s border in 2019

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<p>Attending: Chair Bradley Mayor Diodati Mayor Redekop Ron Tripp Daryl Barnhart Gina van den Burg</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Province’s recognition of the only Gateway Economic Zone and Centre in the Growth Plan, located just inside one of Canada’s busiest border crossings, must be leveraged to formally establish the relationship to this international gateway and international economic trade route • Niagara’s Federal designation as a Foreign Trade Zone Point supports a robust Foreign Direct Investment Strategy for the Niagara Region and will attract new investment and create much needed employment opportunities in the region • Niagara Region is aligned with Invest Ontario’s focus on three strategic sectors where the province has a global competitive advantage <p>Niagara Region Requests: That the Province, including the Ministries of Economic Development and Municipal Affairs and Housing, work with Niagara Region to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open up the economic potential of the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) corridor between Niagara Falls and Fort Erie; • Establish a designation for areas of future employment where appropriate along Niagara’s major corridors; and • Implement the required infrastructure to enable development and the attraction of new investment to the area
<p>Green Party Leader, Mike Schreiner</p> <p>Date: Monday, August 16 Time: 1:40 – 2:05 pm</p> <p>Liberal Party Leader, Steven Del Duca</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, August 17 Time: 1:30-1:50 pm</p>	<p>Community Building</p> <p>Addressing the Critical Housing Shortage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exponential rise in housing costs has further exacerbated the need for affordable housing. Equitable capital and operational Provincial funding will support the development of new housing projects and avert further homelessness. <p>Increasing Broadband and Cellular Connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 54% of Niagara Region’s roads and 13% of its land parcels remain underserved and \$100 million will still be required over the long-term to meet the broadband internet needs for the Niagara community

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<p>NDP Leader, Andrea Horwath</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, August 17 Time: 2:30-2:45 pm</p> <p>Attending: Chair Bradley Mayor Jordan Councillor Foster Ron Tripp Natalie Early Daryl Barnhart Gina van den Burg</p>	<p>Expanding GO Transit Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant opportunity exists for GO Train service to capitalize on Niagara’s significant and untapped tourism-based transit riders. This can be achieved through Niagara’s four GO station secondary plans and station development strategy <p>Niagara Transportation Corridor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2041, cross-border truck traffic is expected to increase congestion on the QEW. In 2001, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) completed a Needs Assessment Study which confirmed a need for additional capacity in the Niagara to GTA corridor <p>Planning for Growth: South Niagara Falls Waste Water Treatment Plant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Niagara 2041 process, the 2016 Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan Update recommended the need for a new wastewater treatment plant in the South Niagara Falls area

*invited