

Reliable Supply of Hydro Electricity and Growth Planning

WHEREAS the Niagara Region is planning for a population of 674,000 residents by 2051 and has subsequently adopted an official plan to meet those Provincial targets;

WHEREAS Niagara Region, like many municipalities across Canada, is experiencing a housing shortage requiring the development of additional dwellings to help alleviate housing supply concerns;

WHEREAS municipalities across Niagara have already experienced extensive growth and housing development, with future development planned for future population needs;

WHEREAS growth and development requires a subsequent investment in capital infrastructure for the reliable supply of hydro electricity;

WHEREAS there is an increased reliance on hydro electricity to support home based activities including remote work and schooling;

WHEREAS rising temperatures due to climate change are driving the consumption of hydro electricity during the warmer months of the year;

WHEREAS hydro outages can be life threatening for vulnerable populations who rely on electrically operated medical equipment for survival;

WHEREAS some areas of Niagara, including Pelham and Thorold, have disproportionately experienced hydro outages due to concerns relating to equipment maintenance and upgrading;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send correspondence to the seven hydro electric companies servicing Niagara requesting the following:

a) What strategies are in place to ensure sustainable service delivery to Niagara customers as the region continues to grow over the next 30 years;

b) Statistics for the past two years reflecting service outages in Niagara, and what plans may exist to decrease the frequency of those outages;

2. That the Regional Chair's Office **FACILITATE** a meeting with Hydro One to review service disruptions and plans to mitigate future disruptions in existing service areas that have encountered reliability issues, including Pelham and Thorold; and

3. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send correspondence to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) regarding this issue, seeking opportunities to partner in advocacy efforts