

Government Relations 2023 Year End Review

Niagara Regional Council

January 25, 2024

Niagara  Region

 Growing
Better
Together

The Importance of Government Relations

- **Niagara is one of 444 municipalities in Ontario and 3,573 in Canada** advocating for increased support from upper levels of government
- Opportunities for **direct government-to-government engagement is limited throughout the year**
- Effective government relations (GR):
 - Supports positive intergovernmental relationships
 - Ensures Regional perspectives are considered in policy and program decisions
 - Allows for a consistent and unified narrative when engaging with upper levels of government
 - Aligns advocacy work with provincial and federal priorities to move initiatives forward

Growing Niagara
to 2051



272,000 Jobs
Projected Employment
23% Increase



694,000
Projected Population
43% Increase

Niagara Region Government Relations

- Corporate GR initiatives focus on:
 - Advancing longer-term, core advocacy priorities related to Council's Strategic Plan
 - Contributing to positive intergovernmental relationship building
 - Providing a consistent approach during annual and ad hoc advocacy opportunities
- There are several components that support effective GR:

Education



Information Sharing



Partnership



Advocacy



2023 Corporate GR Initiatives



Annual Opportunities

+

Ad Hoc Opportunities

**Ten (10)
Corporate
GR Initiatives**

2023 Corporate Advocacy Priorities

- South Niagara Wastewater Solutions Project
 - **Request:** One-third funding for the estimated \$400M project
- Consolidated Housing Master Plan
 - **Request:** Long-term capital funding to increase the supply of community housing units
- Shared Services
 - **Request:** Reintroduction of the Municipal Modernization Program with a focus on shared service implementation between two-tier municipalities
- EMS Offloading Delays
 - **Request:** Reimbursement for emergency EMS funding and identify long-term solutions for offload delay challenges

Annual Opportunities

Initiative	Benefit	GR Function(s) Supported
Provincial Pre-budget Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced 2023 Regional requests 	Advocate
Analysis of provincial and federal budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed potential impacts for Niagara 	Inform
AMO Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 independent and 4 joint delegations with provincial officials 	Advocate Partner
Analysis of provincial and federal fall economic statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed potential impacts for Niagara 	Inform
MARCO Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases awareness of Regional responses to common community challenges 	Partner Educate

Ad Hoc Opportunities

Initiative	Benefit	GR Function(s) Supported
Chief and Chair Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas of mutual interest 	Partner
Niagara Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 in-person meetings for Region-specific priorities 	Advocate Partner Educate
FCM Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint advocacy for federal infrastructure funding 	Advocate Partner Educate
GR Webpage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated space to promote Regional GR efforts 	Educate
Federal Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 in-person meetings for federal specific priorities 	Advocate

Financial Considerations

- Expenses support in-person advocacy initiatives

**GROWING
BETTER,
TOGETHER**

Niagara Week

AMO Association of
Municipalities Ontario

AMO Conference

FCM

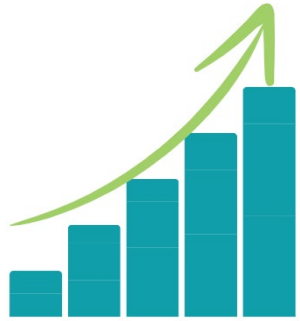
Federal Advocacy

Prosperous Region

- Advocate with senior governments for **future growth**
- **Effective and unified voice** when advocating with senior government



Government Relations 2023 – 2026



Continue with the progress made in 2023

- Niagara Week
- Federal advocacy
- Public education



Build on it

- Government Relations Strategy
- Targeted campaigns for corporate advocacy priorities (SNWSP)

Successful advocacy must be a ONE TEAM approach

Thank you

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