

Support for Israelis and Palestinians Living in Niagara

WHEREAS Niagara Regional Council offers support to all the Israeli's and Palestinian Canadians living in Niagara;

WHEREAS UN officials and international aid agencies have repeatedly called for more humanitarian assistance, stating "the current resolution does not go far enough with the majority of the population of 2.3 million displaced, there is an imminent threat of famine, and the spread of diseases increases each day". This includes Palestinians, Israeli's and Lebanese;

WHEREAS the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, explained in 2022: "The occupation by Israel has been conducted in profound defiance of international law and hundreds of United Nations resolutions, with pushback from the international community."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Regional Council **SUPPORTS** the request for an immediate ceasefire to be binding via the United Nations Security Council which will allow for immediate humanitarian aid for all affected areas;
2. That the Federal Government **REMOVE** the cap on the number of Palestinians who can seek refuge with their Canadian extended family members from the violence in the Gaza Strip as many organizations who support those who have been so deeply affected have noted that that number is insufficient and not reflective of the extent of the crisis or our responsibility to as outlined in the United Nations Refugee Agency and the IRCC's targets and the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. In addition, we also request the IRCC to provide the same equitable interventions for anyone leaving the conflict zones and Palestinian territories as those interventions that were awarded to the Ukrainian conflict efforts, including the removal of application fees, and social assistance when they arrive to Canada;
3. That Niagara Region **LIGHT** headquarters in the colours of the Palestine Flag (red, white, green, black) to show solidarity and acknowledge the humanitarian crisis and all people struggling because of the violence and conflict in Gaza on January 29, 2024;

4. That Niagara Regional Council **AFFIRMS** that this motion is not to be used to foster all forms of racism antisemitism and targeting of Jewish people living in Niagara, their businesses, and religious institutions or anti-Palestinian racism, or Islamophobia. Instead, it is a reason to show solidarity and compassion for those who are living in Israel and Palestine; and
5. That this motion **BE SHARED** with local MPs and MPPs as well as Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre, Niagara Movement for Justice in Palestine Israel, and ROMA.