

From: [Niagara Region Website](#)
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Subject: Online Form - Enquiry from Region website
Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 9:15:48 PM

Enquiry from Region website

To reply, copy the email address from below and put into 'To'. (if resident entered their email address)

name

Abigail Willms

phone

[REDACTED]

email

[REDACTED]

municipality

St. Catharines

subject

Regional Council agenda item 10.1

comments

Hello clerk, My name is Abigail Willms. I have concerns regarding amendments at the Regional Council meeting on Thursday, July 25th. Can you pass along my concerns? I am a graduate of Social Justice Studies from the University of Waterloo and a lifelong local to the region. I disapprove of the proposed amendment to section 12 of the Code of Conduct for Members of Council and Local Boards. This creates another barrier to communication between the public and Regional duties. This discourages the public's participation in democracy, engaging with local politics, and feeling seen and heard. I disapprove of the proposed amendment to section 9 of the Procedural By-law. To reiterate this discourages the public's participation in democracy, along with erasing the diverse identity of Canadians pride via flags and props. If signs, a form of communication, are not allowed that is another barrier to communication between the public, Regional employees and, Members. Not everyone can follow the appropriate route of communication and are utilizing these as communication aides. Identity

aides. They are not harmful, they can be present without disruption. If the public is being disruptive why not address their concerns? The Region is a business however it is a democratic meeting representing the public. Citizens who are engaged in local meetings via presence in the gallery without overt threat or harm should be allowed. I disapprove of the second proposed amendment to section 9 of the Procedural By-law. Applauding and making audible demonstrations of support or opposition, conversation that may be disruptive or inconsiderate is not always disrespectful nor intimidating all of these are subjective and therefore unclear. Citizens in the gallery should be addressed respectfully by the Council in allowing communication at a democratic meeting that is supposed to represent the people and not skipping delegates or agenda items that have the Gallery's attention. I understand the need for organization and timeliness however if people are being "disruptive" there's a reason. If people are showing up there's a reason and it needs open communication not more barriers. If people are asking for the council's support on an item outside of their jurisdiction it doesn't discount the concern of citizens to be dismissed by local governments. I sincerely hope you will discard these amendments that discourage the public's participation and representation. I sincerely hope we stop creating new ways to stop the community from coming together for a better future for everyone. With care, Abigail Willms

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yes

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