

Niagara Region's 2019-2022 Draft Strategic Plan

Vision:

Niagara Region is a mosaic of diverse communities. We strive to achieve a prosperous, safe and inclusive community that embraces our natural spaces and promotes holistic wellbeing and quality of life.

Mission:

Niagara Region will serve its residents, businesses and tourists through collaborative leadership, responsible policy and the provision of effective and efficient community-focused services, while maintaining environmental and economic sustainability.

Corporate Values:

Equity - Inclusive, acting with compassion for the community

Innovation & Continuous Improvement - Striving to improve through innovation, not limitation.

Integrity - Behaving ethically, and acting with respect, accountability and trust

Stewardship - Working to consider long term consequences of actions, think broadly across issues and act responsibly

Foster Partnerships - Building partnerships to leverage resources and talents

Strategic Priorities:

Priority 1: Supporting Businesses and Economic Growth – A coordinated approach to fostering economic growth in Niagara.

Priority 2: Healthy and Vibrant Community - Foster a high quality of life through safe, healthy, and inclusive neighbourhoods through the delivery of quality, affordable and accessible human services.

Priority 3: Responsible Growth and Infrastructure Planning - Sustainable investments in transportation, transit and infrastructure, while aligning infrastructure planning with preservation of the natural environment.

Priority 4: Sustainable and Engaging Government - A commitment to high quality, efficient, fiscally sustainable and coordinated core services through enhanced communication, partnerships and collaborations with the community.

Priority 1: Supporting Businesses and Economic Growth (37 votes)

A coordinated approach to fostering economic growth in Niagara.

Objective 1.1: Economic Growth and Development (10)

- Enhancing integration with local area municipalities' economic development and planning departments to provide supports and improve interactions with businesses to expedite and navigate development processes
- Forward thinking approach to economic development in Niagara through long term strategic planning and leveraging partnerships with post secondary institutions

Objective 1.2: Support retention and development of skilled labour force (10)

- Partner with all levels of education, private sector businesses and industry associations to advocate for skilled trade labour to address the workforce gap
- Explore the development of a regional talent network, and develop an advanced manufacturing workforce strategy for Niagara

Objective 1.3: Collaborative Approach to Business Growth and Retention (9)

- Work collaboratively with local area municipalities to connect with existing businesses proactively to achieve long term economic success
- Work collaboratively with community organizations, post-secondary institutions and businesses to support research and technology facilities in the region that foster new business start-up opportunities

Objective 1.4: Strategically Target Industry Sectors (8)

- Define Niagara's role in tourism including areas such as sport, eco, agricultural and culture tourism
- Through advocacy and collaboration with Tourism Partnership of Niagara, encourage visitors to spend more and stay longer, using an inclusive approach across all areas of the region
- Foster opportunities to drive economic diversity through value-add sectors such as agri-business

Priority 2: Healthy and Vibrant Community (37 votes)

Foster a high quality of life through safe, inclusive neighbourhoods and delivery of quality, affordable and accessible human services.

Objective 2.1: Enhance Community Wellbeing (16)

- Foster safe and inclusive neighbourhoods and communities tied to a larger strategic Community Safety and Wellbeing strategy
- Drive positive and healthy early childhood education and experiences through the delivery of high quality and affordable child care services

- Increase the capacity of long-term care across the region to meet the needs of the aging population

Objective 2.2: Mental Health and Wellbeing (14)

- Support the health and wellbeing of the community by facilitating and advocating for access and timeliness of mental health services for all residents

Objective 2.3: Addressing Affordable Housing Needs (7)

- Retain, protect and increase the supply of affordable housing stock to provide a broad range of housing to meet the needs of the community
- Supporting clients through the stages of the housing continuum, towards more stable and permanent housing

Priority 3: Responsible Growth and Infrastructure Planning (34 votes)

Sustainable investments in transportation, transit and infrastructure; aligned with preservation of the natural environment.

Objective 3.1: Advancing regional transit and GO Rail services (14)

- Advancing and advocating for Niagara's effort towards integrated and efficient conventional, specialized and higher order transit, enabling seamless and connective travel for all people throughout Niagara and the GTHA

Objective 3.2: Environmental sustainability and stewardship (14)

- A holistic and flexible approach to environmental stewardship and consideration of the natural environment, such as in infrastructure, planning and development, aligned with a renewed Official Plan
- Driving environmental protection and addressing climate change such as through increasing waste diversion rates and reducing our carbon footprint

Objective 3.3: Maintain Existing Infrastructure (5)

- Sound asset management planning to ensure sustainable investments in the infrastructure needed to support existing residents and businesses, as well as future growth in Niagara.

Objective 3.4: Facilitating the movement of people and goods (4)

- Commitment to the implementation of Niagara's Transportation Master Plan, creating an integrated network of roads and highways for the movement of people and goods
- Advocacy and support for Niagara's transportation projects, safe and healthy streets supporting active transportation, and opportunities in rail

Priority 4: Sustainable and Engaging Government (20 votes)

A commitment to high quality, efficient, fiscally sustainable and coordinated core services through enhanced communication, partnerships and collaboration.

Objective 4.1: High quality, efficient and coordinated core services (8)

- Promote an organizational culture that values continuous improvement, collaboration, and innovation
- Explore cost-efficiencies through coordinated service delivery and collaboration with local area municipalities
- Commitment to customer focused services, improving access such as through digital and online service delivery
- Drive evidence informed decisions by building staff skills and capacity, and by making information and data accessible across the organization

Objective 4.2: Enhanced Communication (6)

- Increase public knowledge through education and promotion of Regional programs and services, initiatives and priorities. Focus on clear and consistent communication on Regional budget, activities and successes, in a simplified manner
- Strive to be inclusive and increase the reach of communications with the community and explore best practice multi-media approaches

Objective 4.3: Fiscally Sustainable (6)

- Build an adaptive environment that employs leading business practices, such as asset management, to foster financial stability in delivering critical infrastructure and services
- Explore opportunities for driving new revenues and generating business