

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR REGIONAL COUNCIL ON APRIL 24, 2025

Supporting Niagara's Business Community and Advocating for Economic Resilience Measures

Whereas the Niagara Region, along with communities across Canada, is facing an emerging economic crisis, influenced by complex global factors and external non-Canadian interests that are adversely affecting Canadian citizens and our business community;

Whereas as a border region, Niagara is uniquely and disproportionately impacted by these global disruptions, with 72% of goods produced in Niagara exported to the United States and 54% of our input materials imported from the U.S., putting our supply chains and business viability at significant risk; and

Whereas while the full impact on employment and local business remains uncertain, early indicators suggest that Niagara's economic stability may be challenged in the coming year, and it is prudent to proactively prepare for a range of economic outcomes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Region **TAKE** immediate, responsible steps to prioritize local focus, reduce discretionary spending, and safeguard resources to better support residents and businesses during this period of economic uncertainty as follows:

- a) That all staff and Members of Regional Council suspend participation in US trade shows, conferences, for the 2025 calendar year, whether as attendees, presenters, or exhibitors;
- b) That US advocacy and government relations opportunities be excluded from this prohibition;
- c) That staff and Members of Regional Council instead prioritize local and Canadian-based engagements that foster domestic collaboration and knowledge-sharing;
- d) That, where operationally feasible, all professional development, training, and education programs for staff be sourced within Canada, to both reduce costs and support Canadian institutions and providers;

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- e) That all savings realized through these initiatives be allocated to Niagara Region's reserves, and specifically earmarked to support programs and services designed to mitigate the effects of this economic situation, including supports for local businesses, workforce resilience, and service delivery continuity; and

2. That the CAO and senior staff **REPORT** back to Council with an update on the outcomes of these measures and any additional opportunities to strengthen local investment, streamline operations, and respond effectively to the evolving economic landscape.