

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL
OPEN SESSION**

**CL 16-2019
Thursday, September 19, 2019
Council Chamber
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Council: Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Campion, Chiocchio, Dante, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen

Absent/Regrets: Bellows, Bylsma, Gibson, Junkin, Witteveen, Zalepa

Staff: F. Crocco, Economic Development Strategic Marketing Manager, Dr. A. Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, Dr. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, V. Kuhns, Acting Director, Economic Development, B. Menage, Director, Procurement & Strategic Acquisitions, R. Mostacci, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, C. Ogunniyi, Strategic Health Equity Coordinator, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Regional Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT

Councillor Villella read the Land Acknowledgment Statement.

3. MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Councillor Dante read the moment of reflection.

4. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

Regional Chair Bradley asked all in attendance to stand for the singing of 'O Canada'.

5. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

5.1 **Addition of Items**

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Fertich

That Emily Kovacs, Executive Director/CEO, Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre, **BE PERMITTED** to appear before Council as a delegate respecting the Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Correspondence Item CL-C 64-2019, being a letter from N. Regehr, Chair, Women in Niagara Council, with respect to the motion regarding the Establishment of a Women's Advisory Committee, **BE ADDED** to this meeting's agenda under Agenda Item 11.1 – Correspondence to Receive and/or Refer.

Carried

5.2 **Changes in Order of Items**

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Campion

That the order of the Agenda **BE AMENDED** to move consideration of Report CAO 14-2019, respecting Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (Agenda Item 13.1) immediately following the delegation on this matter.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Ip

That the order of the Agenda **BE AMENDED** to consider the Motion respecting Establishment of a Women's Advisory Committee (Agenda Item 14.1) immediately following Report CAO 14-2019 respecting Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (Agenda Item 13.1).

Carried

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That Council Agenda CL 16-2019, **BE ADOPTED**, as amended.

Carried

6. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Edgar declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the portion of the Public Health and Social Services Committee minutes PHSSC 9-2019 (Agenda Item 12.4) concerning Report COM 34-2019 respecting Approval of 2018 Child Care Services Schedule of Revenues and Expenses (Minute Item 5.1) as his wife is the Director of Children's Services.

7. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

8. CHAIR'S REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMARKS

The Regional Chair made various announcements related to activities and events he attended throughout the Region.

9. DELEGATIONS

9.1 Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (CAO 14-2019 (Agenda Item 13.1))

9.1.1 Hugo Chesshire, Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce

Hugo Chesshire, Director of Policy and Government Relations, Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, appeared before Council to express support for Report CAO 14-2019 respecting Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (Agenda Item 13.1).

9.1.2 Brian Scriver, OUTniagara

Brian Scriver, Chair, OUTNiagara Board of Directors, appeared before Council to express support for Report CAO 14-2019 respecting Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (Agenda Item 13.1).

The speaking notes are attached to these minutes as CL-C 65-2019.

9.1.3 Rashmi Biswas, Gender Equity Task Force Niagara

Rashmi Biswas and Elizabeth Zimmerman, Gender Equity Task Force Niagara, appeared before Council in support of the recommendations in Report CAO 14-2019 respecting Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (Agenda Item 13.1) and requested that Niagara Region apply a gender lens to policy development and implementation using evidence based decision making.

9.1.4 Saleh Waziruddin, Niagara Region Anti-Racism Association

Saleh Waziruddin, Niagara Region Anti-Racism Association, appeared before Council support of the recommendations in Report CAO 14-2019 respecting Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (Agenda Item 13.1).

The speaking notes are attached to these minutes as CL-C 66-2019.

9.1.5 Kim Radersma, Resident, City of St. Catharines

Kim Radersma, Resident, City of St. Catharines, appeared before Council to share her and her family's personal experience with racism in Niagara and to express support for Report CAO 14-2019 respecting Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (Agenda Item 13.1).

9.1.6 Emily Kovacs, Executive Director/CEO, Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre

Emily Kovacs, Executive Director/CEO, Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre, appeared before Council to express support for Report CAO 14-2019 respecting Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (Agenda Item 13.1).

13. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT(S)

13.1 CAO 14-2019

Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities

Moved by Councillor Ip

Seconded by Councillor Sendzik

That Report CAO 14-2019, dated September 19, 2019, respecting Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Council **RESOLVE** to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (CIM), formerly known as Canadian Coalition for Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD) and **SIGN** a declaration to support the ten CIM commitments; and
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to create supporting governance structures with internal and external stakeholders to advise on internal diversity, equity, and inclusion issues and support the creation of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan; and
3. That the dedicated resources required for developing the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan **BE REFERRED** for consideration as part of the 2020 budget process.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Regional Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion to add the following clause:

4. ***That Report CAO 14-2019 BE CIRCULATED to all municipalities in the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities and the local area municipalities.***

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Regional Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion:

4. That Report CAO 14-2019 **BE CIRCULATED** to all municipalities in the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, ~~and the local area municipalities~~ **and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).**

The Regional Chair called the vote on the motion, as amended, as follows:

That Report CAO 14-2019, dated September 19, 2019, respecting Actions & Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Council **RESOLVE** to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (CIM), formerly known as Canadian Coalition for Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD) and **SIGN** a declaration to support the ten CIM commitments;

2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to create supporting governance structures with internal and external stakeholders to advise on internal diversity, equity, and inclusion issues and support the creation of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan;
3. That the dedicated resources required for developing the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan **BE REFERRED** for consideration as part of the 2020 budget process; and
4. That Report CAO 14-2019 **BE CIRCULATED** to all municipalities in the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, the local area municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Recorded Vote:

Yes (25): Butters, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen.

No (0).

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Include information respecting the creation of a permanent full-time equivalent position and long-term planning in the business case for dedicated resources required for developing the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan. Councillor Sendzik.

14. MOTIONS

14.1 Establishment of a Women's Advisory Committee

Establishment of a Women's Advisory Committee

Moved by Councillor Huson

Seconded by Councillor Rigby

Whereas women have traditionally been underrepresented in public office, on corporate boards and in leadership positions;

Whereas women have unique economic, social and cultural experiences that are directly impacted by public policy decisions;

Whereas gender-based policy can have a direct and positive impact on economic diversification, income equality and other positive development outcomes; and

Whereas Women's Advisory committees have been established in the municipalities of Vancouver, Edmonton and Hamilton.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Regional Council **ENDORSE** the establishment of a Women's Advisory Committee to:
 - a. advocate for gender-based issue resolutions and opportunities related to Regional policies, priorities and decisions;
 - b. promote leadership development that empowers women in Niagara to fully participate in civic life;
 - c. research and provide information and resources about women's gender-based issues to Niagara; and
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to prepare a report respecting a draft Terms of Reference and membership requirements for a Women's Advisory Committee for consideration at the Corporate Services Committee meeting being held on November 6, 2019.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (25): Butters, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen.

No (0).

Carried

10. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

10.1 Council Minutes CL 15-2019

Thursday, August 15, 2019

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Easton

That Minutes CL 15-2019 being the Open Session minutes of the Regional Council meeting held on Thursday, August 15, 2019, **BE ADOPTED.**

Carried

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

11.1 **Receive and/or Refer**

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Disero

That the following items **BE DEALT WITH** as follows:

CL-C 54-2019 respecting Appointment of Deputy Clerks for the purposes of the *Commissioners for taking Affidavits Act*, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 61-2019 respecting joining the Coalition for Inclusive Municipalities (CAO 14-2019 (Agenda Item 13.1)), **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 63-2019 respecting Niagara Region Integrity Commissioner Annual Report August 17, 2018 - August 16, 2019, **BE RECEIVED**; and

CL-C 64-2019 respecting the motion to Establish a Women's Advisory Committee, **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried

11.2 **For Consideration**

11.2.1 CL-C 55-2019

Standing Committee Appointment

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Butters

That Correspondence Item CL-C 55-2019, being a memorandum from A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, dated September 19, 2019, respecting Standing Committee Appointment, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Councillor Witteveen **BE APPOINTED** to the Public Health and Social Services Committee, effective immediately.

Carried

12. **COMMITTEE REPORTS - OPEN SESSION**

12.1 **Committee of the Whole**

Minutes COTW 7-2019, Thursday, September 5, 2019

Moved by Councillor Steele

Seconded by Councillor Ugulini

That Report COTW 7-2019, being the Open Session minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Thursday, September 5, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

12.1.1 Minute Item 5.1 respecting Grants and Incentives Review

The recommendation contained in Minute Item 5.1 was considered separately as follows:

That Report PDS 34-2019, dated September 5, 2019, respecting Grants and Incentives Review, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop incentive programs under the categories:
 - affordable/rental housing;
 - brownfield remediation;
 - employment growth in key sectors; and
 - quality of life/public realm;
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to advise Local Area Municipalities on the direction of the incentive programs prior to bringing recommendations back to Regional Council; and
3. That Report PDS 34-2019 **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Nicholson
Seconded by Councillor Gale

That clause 1 of the motion be amended as follows:

1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop incentive programs under the categories:
 - affordable/rental housing (***single and mixed use***);
 - brownfield remediation;
 - employment growth in key sectors; and
 - quality of life/public realm;

Carried

The Regional Chair called the vote on the motion, as amended, as follows:

That Report PDS 34-2019, dated September 5, 2019, respecting Grants and Incentives Review, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop incentive programs under the categories:
 - affordable/rental housing (single and mixed use);
 - brownfield remediation;
 - employment growth in key sectors; and
 - quality of life/public realm;
4. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to advise Local Area Municipalities on the direction of the incentive programs prior to bringing recommendations back to Regional Council; and
5. That Report PDS 34-2019 **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities.

Carried

12.1.2 Balance of the recommendations from Committee of the Whole

The Regional Chair called the vote on the balance of the recommendations from the Committee of the Whole and declared it,

Carried

12.2 Audit Committee

Minutes AC 5-2019, Monday, September 9, 2019

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Report AC 5-2019 being the Open Session minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on Monday, September 9, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

12.3 Public Works Committee

Minutes PWC 9-2019, Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Edgar

That Report PWC 9-2019 being the Open and Closed Session minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

12.4 Public Health and Social Services Committee

Minutes PHSSC 9-2019, Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Moved by Councillor Chiochio
Seconded by Councillor Villella

That Report PHSSC 9-2019 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

12.5 Corporate Services Committee

Minutes CSC 9-2019, Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Edgar

That Report CSC 9-2019 being the Open Session minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

12.5.1 Minute Item 5.6 respecting 2020 Legislative Schedule of Regular Meetings

The recommendation contained in Minute Item 5.6 was considered separately as follows:

That Report CLK 13-2019, dated September 11, 2019, respecting 2020 Legislative Schedule of Regular Meetings, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2020 Legislative Schedule of Regular Meetings, attached as Appendix 1 to Report CLK 13-2019, **BE ADOPTED**.

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That the 2020 Legislative Schedule of Regular Meetings (Appendix 1 to Report CLK 13-2019) **BE AMENDED** to hold Public Health and Social Services Committee meetings on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Carried

The Regional Chair called the vote on the motion, as amended, as follows:

That Report CLK 13-2019, dated September 11, 2019, respecting 2020 Legislative Schedule of Regular Meetings, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2020 Legislative Schedule of Regular Meetings, attached as Appendix 1 to Report CLK 13-2019, **BE ADOPTED**, as amended.

Carried

12.5.2 Minute Item 5.3 respecting Airport Project Update - Terms of Transfer Negotiations

The recommendation contained in Minute Item 5.3 was considered separately as follows:

That Report CSD 62-2019, dated September 11, 2019, respecting Airport Project Update – Terms of Transfer Negotiations, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the transition to sole ownership of Niagara District Airport (NDA) based on the Terms of Transfer in Appendix 1 of Report CSD 62-2019, to be amended to include governance structure, master plans and a proposed transfer date of January 1, 2021 with consideration of Regional staff additions, and subject to 2021 budget approval;
2. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the transition to sole ownership of Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport (NCDRA) based on the Terms of Transfer in Appendix 1 of Report CSD 62-2019, to be amended to include governance structure, master plans and a proposed transfer date of January 1, 2021 with consideration of Regional staff additions, and subject to 2021 budget approval;
3. That Airport Operations **BE REFERRED** for consideration as part of the 2021 budget process; and
4. That, pending approval of recommendations 1 and 2, staff will conduct the necessary due diligence to inform a formal transfer of assets and the results will **BE REFERRED** to Council for information.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (15): Butters, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Foster, Huson, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Villella.

No (10): Fertich, Gale, Greenwood, Heit, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Redekop, Ugulini, Whalen.

Carried

12.5.3 Balance of the recommendations from Corporate Services Committee

The Regional Chair called the vote on the balance of the recommendations from the Corporate Services Committee and declared it,

Carried

12.6 Planning and Economic Development Committee

Minutes PEDC 9-2019, Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Fertich

That Report PEDC 9-2019 being the Open Session minutes of the Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

15. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no notices of motion.

16. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Members made various announcements related to activities and events within the Region and area municipalities.

17. **CLOSED SESSION**

Council did not resolve into closed session.

18. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Council did not resolve into closed session.

19. **BY-LAWS**

Moved by Councillor Ugulini
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That the following Bills **BE NOW READ** and **DO PASS**:

Bill 2019-67 - A by-law to accept, assume and dedicate Part of Lot 32, Concession 2, in the City of Port Colborne as part of Regional Road No. 5 (Killaly Street West).

Bill 2019-68 - A by-law to provide for the regulation of traffic on Regional Highways (Regional Road 56, Collier Road, Parking Prohibition), City of Thorold.

Bill 2019-69 - A by-law to appoint municipal law enforcement officers for the purpose of enforcing various Regional by-laws for The Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Bill 2019-70 - A by-law to exempt local Official Plan Amendments (LOPAs) from Regional approval and to repeal By-law Nos. 129-2001 and 43-2002.

Bill 2019-71 - A by-law to appoint Deputy Regional Clerks for the purposes of the Commissioners for Taking Affidavits Act and to amend By-law No. 2017-44.

Bill 2019-72 - A by-law to authorize long-term financing (1-30 years) in the amount of \$21,000,000; Niagara Region Capital Project.

Bill 2019-73 - A by-law to provide for the adoption of Amendment 15 to the Official Plan for the Niagara Planning Area to implement the revised exemption policies affecting all local municipalities.

Bill 2019-74 - A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of Regional Council at its meeting held on September 19, 2019.

Carried

20. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Jim Bradley
Regional Chair

Matthew Trennum
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

Statement from OUT Niagara, Brian Scrivers
Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019

Good evening Chair Bradley, members of regional council and staff. My name is Brian Scrivers, and I'm the Chair of OUTniagara, an umbrella organization that seeks to represent the interests of hundreds of members of Niagara's sexual- and genderdiverse community.

Our network includes not only individuals, but many established and newly formed organizations that serve the diverse 2SLGBTQ+ community. You'll notice I started the initialism with 2S. This recognizes the Two-Spirit individuals of First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, the original peoples and caretakers of this land, and is one small, symbolic way that OUTniagara attempts to live truth, and support reconciliation.

With that in mind, I am here tonight to add OUTniagara's support to the Region's consideration to join the 77 other Canadian municipalities who have allied with the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, formerly the Canadian Coalition Against Racism and Discrimination.

OUTniagara's values and mission closely align with the goals of the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities. The opening statement of the coalition says "This network brings together municipalities that want to improve their policies against racism, discrimination, exclusion and intolerance. Its strength lies in the shared experiences of its members. Together, the municipalities undertake initiatives to eliminate all forms of discrimination with a view to building open and inclusive societies."

OUTniagara's goals are the same, except our focus is on Niagara's often-marginalized sexual- and gender-diverse community. We believe that diversity is key to the health of a community and must be nurtured and protected from racism, discrimination, exclusion and intolerance.

In the same way that we honour the first peoples of Canada, OUTniagara also recognizes that the region has a growing population of newcomers, many of whom have fled their home countries because of discrimination and violence based on their sexual or gender identity. Niagara needs to be seen as, and be a safe, inclusive and accepting place where newcomers can settle, begin new lives, and feel welcome.

As with any other human population, Niagara's 2SLGBTQ members have complex lives. Not only are they sometimes dealing with overt discrimination, they also experience intersecting issues like race, disability, poverty, age, and access to healthcare, to name but a few.

I was born in St. Catharines and attended Niagara schools from the earliest grades through to university. I am, however, part of a lost generation. Every single TwoSpirited, gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, queer and questioning person I knew through my high school and university years left Niagara. Every single one- including me. Where are they now? Montreal. Vancouver. And mostly, Toronto. Why? Because these cities all have a vibrant sexual- and gender-diverse community that they help to nurture and support.

A region that respects diversity, and backs it up with resources, will encourage young people and seniors to stay and to help build the communities in which we live. The 2SLGBTQ community represents a significant portion of what urban studies theorist Richard Florida would call the "Creative Class." He believes, in part, that this is a segment of the community that will attract the economy and the jobs of the future.

Niagara is a part of the Golden Horseshoe which is one of the fastest growing regions in North America, generating nearly 25% of Canada's GOP. We are "the economic engine of Ontario". We are leaders. What we do here tonight matters.

Joining the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities is a powerful, motivational and aspirational symbol of good faith, just as are rainbow crosswalks, the newly established Diversity and Inclusion and Anti-Racism Committees by the City of St. Catharines, and the 2019 raising of the rainbow flags at the District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Regional Police headquarters and most, if not all. Niagara municipalities, including here at Regional headquarters. Joining the coalition is also a concrete action toward building up a community that accepts all of its citizens, so they can feel welcome and safe in their own community and want to stay.

Those of us who enjoy privilege and positions of power must ensure that our most vulnerable citizens are included, and have a place at the table when these kinds of initiatives are discussed.

We respectfully call upon Niagara Region to join the coalition and to find ways to ensure the future of Niagara will be a vibrant place for the creative class to live, work, grow, raise a family, and retire.

Thank you for including OUTniagara at your table tonight.

Niagara Region Anti-Racism Association Delegation: Saleh Waziruddin Remarks to Niagara Regional Council

September 19, 2019

My name is Saleh Waziruddin from St. Catharines and I am representing the Niagara Region Anti-Racism Association. I am glad to see Regional government taking action to catch our region up in an area we should have been doing so much more in. To make our commitment translate into reality and to come up with a serious plan, we do need the spending commitment recommended by staff. We need a real commitment with funding to make the kind of plan that worth following-through and funding for real change.

If we don't have a real improvement in equity in this region, including employment equity starting right here with municipal governments, we'll continue seeing a brain drain of racialized and 2SLGBTQ+ youth, including from Brock University, who don't see themselves represented in the few good jobs here. We need leadership from the Region and other governments so that the private sector can then follow.

Lastly I do need to express my disappointment for the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination dropping the term "Against Racism" in favor of "Inclusive", which I realize is something outside of your control. There is an elected official here who has pointed out very correctly that he is the first Polish-Canadian to be elected to his position. That may be "inclusive" but it is definitely not anti-Racism. St Catharines recently added dedicated advisory committees for Anti-Racism and 2SLGBTQ+ issues and I urge the Region to do the same when the time comes, as one over-arching committee cannot adequately address these issues when we look at what we need to do to catch up where we've fallen so far behind.