

In accordance with the notice and submission deadline requirements of Sections 18.1(a) and 11.3, respectively, of Niagara Region’s Procedural By-law, the Regional Clerk received from Councillor Sendzik a motion to be brought forward for consideration at the March 26, 2020 Council meeting respecting Climate Change.

WHEREAS rising global carbon emissions has resulted in the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) declaring that global warming would likely reach 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels between 2030 and 2052;

WHEREAS the IPCC recommends cutting fossil fuel emissions by 45% by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050;

WHEREAS Niagara has seen the effects of rising temperatures, water levels, increase in extreme precipitation events and invasive species;

WHEREAS Bill 68—the *Modernizing Ontario’s Municipal Legislation Act, 2017*— now states that “*economic, social, and environmental well-being of the municipality, including respecting climate change*” (Paragraph 10(2) 5 and 11 (2) 5 of the Municipal Act);

WHEREAS “*Municipalities can now provide for, or participate in, long-term energy planning, which may include, among other considerations, climate change, and green energy.*” (Bill 68, section 147 (1));

WHEREAS Section 2 of the *Planning Act* makes “*mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to a changing climate*” a matter for provincial interest providing grounds for planning matters;

WHEREAS responding to climate change requires a collective approach from all levels of government, industry and private sector, the community and individual actions;

WHEREAS locally the City of St. Catharines and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority have declared a Climate Emergency;

WHEREAS adaptation (minimizing and preventing the impacts of climate change) and mitigation (reducing emissions that contribute to climate change) are both vital components for Climate Change planning;

WHEREAS seven municipalities in the Niagara Region are working on adaptation plans in joint partnership with Niagara Adapts, a collaboration led by Brock University, and two municipalities are working on mitigation plans;

WHEREAS climate change planning is relatively new to the Niagara Region and there is opportunity to organize and collaborate together for educating all municipalities on best practices and climate action together;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Region **COMMIT** to organizing and hosting a climate summit for the purpose of evaluating best practices, coordinating climate action and ensuring all of Niagara is committed to climate change adaptation and mitigation, by fall, 2020; and
2. That Niagara Region **DECLARE** a climate emergency.