



Office of the Regional Chair | Jim Bradley
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042 Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
Telephone: 905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-685-6243
Email: jim.bradley@niagararegion.ca
www.niagararegion.ca

MEMORANDUM

CL-C 10-2020

Subject: Update on Niagara Region's Advocacy Priorities, State of the Region

Date: March 26, 2020

To: Chair and Members of Regional Council

From: Daryl Barnhart, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on residents, businesses and communities around the region has emerged as the number one priority for Regional staff over the last several weeks. Niagara Region is committed to ensuring that the health and safety of the community takes precedence during these uncertain times.

As such, many of the key advocacy issues highlighted in our February 27 Committee of the Whole report will likely require reconsideration. Although the issues originally identified are exceedingly important for the region, the current global pandemic will require the Region to consider redirecting its advocacy efforts towards securing supports for our eventual recovery, both social and economic.

As a result of these shifting priorities, **the Niagara Week event originally scheduled from May 25-27 will be postponed indefinitely.** The suspension will provide the opportunity to re-evaluate the Region's advocacy priorities once the pandemic has ended. Many key staff resources are entirely focused on managing this rapidly evolving situation and resources are limited for the preparation of Niagara Week. Also to note, in addition to the similar reasons for the postponement of Niagara Week, **the Regional Chair's State of the Region on April 3rd has been cancelled to eliminate potential exposure of COVID-19 at this large event.**

Until we have more clarity on the impact the virus has on our community, the direction to report back to Council at the April 2 meeting regarding narrowing the scope of advocacy priorities will be delayed. Staff will report back to Council once they can reassess the needs of the region. Many of the issues previously identified may remain a priority; however, emerging issues culminating from the pandemic and its impact on the community may rise above the previously-held priority issues.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Original signed by:

Daryl Barnhart, M.A., APR
Executive Officer to the Regional Chair