



NIAGARA REGION
2020 COVID-19 Considerations

Council

April 23th, 2020



Niagara Region Response to COVID-19

Items of Discussion

- CSD 30 – Preliminary Overview of Financial Implication
- CSD 31 – Concessions to Local Area Municipalities regarding Tax, Waste, Water/Wastewater Billings
- CAO 10 – COVID-19 Update
 - Appendix 7 - Workforce Planning – Business Continuity Plans and Staff Redeployment
- CHR 2 – COVID-19 Governmental Relations Strategy

CSD 30 - Preliminary Overview of Financial Implication

Total cost of \$9.3 million (as of April 17, 2020)

- Costs projected to June 30, 2020
- Numbers are very fluid and updated weekly
- Net cost after mitigation is \$9.3 million
 - \$3.9M impacting budget – estimated deficit
 - Incremental costs and lost revenue of \$9.6 M
 - offset by cost savings and mitigations of \$5.7 N
 - \$5.4M of already budgeted resources unavailable to work or redeployed to directly support the emergency response.
- \$4.2M funding from other levels of gov't to be leveraged to support emergency.

CSD 31 - Concessions re. Tax, Waste, Water/Wastewater Billings

Total cost of \$10.6 million (as of April 20, 2020)

- Region cash flow required to continue essential services and capital supports the following recommendations:
 - Local Area Municipalities (LAM) remit May 13 tax/waste instalment based on collections, interest deferred to June 30
 - LAM to remit Aug. 5 and Oct. 14 tax/waste instalments based on collections, interest deferred for 30 days.
 - LAM remit water/wastewater for period of pandemic based on collections, interest deferred until Dec. 30.
 - Region to remit to LAM when balance owing exceeds amounts due from LAM, LAM defer interest until Dec. 30.
- \$1.3 M revenue loss in CSD 31 increases deficit to \$5.2 M, total cost to \$10.6 M.

CAO 10 – COVID-19 Update

Workforce Planning - Business Continuity Plans and Staff Redeployment

- Through the Regional Employee Operations Centre (REOC) , all Region Departments have prepared and regularly update Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) outlining essential and key service delivery
- Most of the Region service delivery is deemed essential or key during this pandemic
- BCPs identify staff assigned to essential and key service delivery and staff who can be redeployed to other areas where the need is greater
- Identified redeployable staff are to be reassigned to these areas as needed
- Staff have been redeployed inter-departmentally and across departments, including assigned duties supporting EOCs
- The primary goal is to redeploy as many staff as we can – those who are unable to be redeployed may be placed on leave of absence or issued layoff notice

CHR 2 – COVID-19 Governmental Relations Strategy

Operationalizing the directions of CSD-30

- Financial relief from senior levels of government will be required to maintain service levels and mitigate significant draws on stabilization reserves or property tax increases
- Critical to coordinate messages between the Region and 12 LAM to ensure consistency and that we are speaking with the loudest voice
- Advocacy efforts will be powered by reliable and accurate projections
- We should take advantage of formal consultation opportunities
- Alignment with municipal stakeholder groups (i.e. AMO, FCM) is vital
- Continue to maintain strong, two-way relationships with local MPs and MPPS



Questions?

