

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION**

**PHSSC 4-2020
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
Council Chamber/Teleconference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: Chiocchio (Committee Co-Chair), Greenwood (Committee Co-Chair)

Committee Members Present via Teleconference: Bellows, Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Darte, Foster, Gibson, Heit, Insinna, Ip, Nicholson, Rigby, Sendzik, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen

Council Members Present via Teleconference: Disero, Easton, Zalepa

Absent/Regrets: Jordan

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: S. Guglielmi, Technology Support Analyst, Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner, Public Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk

Staff Present via Teleconference: C. Cousins, Director, Homelessness and Community Engagement, M. Johnston, Community Safety & Well-Being Program Manager, H. Koning, Director, Senior Services, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, K. Smith, Chief/Director, Emergency Medical Services, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Chiocchio called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

3.1 **The Need for COVID-19 Testing in Niagara**

Jim Ryan, resident, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Tim Curtis, resident, City of St. Catharines, provided information respecting The Need for Covid-19 Testing in Niagara. Topics of the presentation included:

- Regional Health and Economic Situation, Personal Situation, Current Situation
- Gold Standard - South Korea - Why the Difference
- Key Issues
- Looking Ahead
- Options - Cost of Option 4
- Actions To Date
- Next Steps

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Foster

Whereas the COVID-19 virus is a serious virus that has been responsible for over 50 deaths to date in the Niagara Region;

Whereas the economy of Niagara Region has been severely impacted by the mandatory and necessary closures;

Whereas a number of local businesses and organizations in Niagara have approached the Niagara Region to offer products or services to help combat the effects of COVID-19;

Whereas medical experts have advised that recovery will depend in part on widespread testing and contact tracing;

Whereas Niagara Region recognizes and congratulates the Province on its success in expanding testing capacity such that there is now excess capacity in the system;

Whereas the testing of COVID-19 is completed through a provincially run network of accredited and licensed laboratories;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Regional Municipality of Niagara **SUPPORT** all local initiatives that are intended to fight against COVID-19, including expanded laboratory testing, construction of personal protective equipment (PPE) and producing hand hygiene products;

2. That the Regional Municipality of Niagara **REQUEST** the Province of Ontario take all necessary steps to continue to ensure adequate testing capacity be provided for Niagara's residents in the interest of expediting the public health and economic recovery of the Region; and
3. That the Regional Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter to the Minister of Health to indicate the Region's request for continued adequate testing in the provincial laboratory network.

Moved by Councillor Nicholson
Seconded by Councillor Sendzik

That clause 1 of the motion **BE AMENDED** to read as follows:

1. That the Regional Municipality of Niagara **SUPPORT** all local initiatives ***including exploring of a publically run, licenced lab in Niagara,*** that are intended to fight against COVID-19, including expanded laboratory testing, construction of personal protective equipment (PPE) and producing hand hygiene products;

Carried

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Sendzik

That the question be called.

Carried

Committee Co-Chair Chiocchio called the vote on the motion, as amended, as follows:

Whereas the COVID-19 virus is a serious virus that has been responsible for over 50 deaths to date in the Niagara Region;

Whereas the economy of Niagara Region has been severely impacted by the mandatory and necessary closures;

Whereas a number of local businesses and organizations in Niagara have approached the Niagara Region to offer products or services to help combat the effects of COVID-19;

Whereas medical experts have advised that recovery will depend in part on widespread testing and contact tracing;

Whereas Niagara Region recognizes and congratulates the Province on its success in expanding testing capacity such that there is now excess capacity in the system;

Whereas the testing of COVID-19 is completed through a provincially run network of accredited and licensed laboratories;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Regional Municipality of Niagara **SUPPORT** all local initiatives including exploring of a publically run, licenced lab in Niagara, that are intended to fight against COVID-19, including expanded laboratory testing, construction of personal protective equipment (PPE) and producing hand hygiene products;
2. The Regional Municipality of Niagara **REQUEST** the Province of Ontario take all necessary steps to continue to ensure adequate testing capacity be provided for Niagara's residents in the interest of expediting the public health and economic recovery of the Region; and
3. That the Regional Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter to the Minister of Health to indicate the Region's request for continued adequate testing in the provincial laboratory network.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (14): Bradley, Butters, Chiocchio, Dart, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Insinna, Ip, Nicholson, Sendzik, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen.

No (1): Rigby.

Carried

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no items for consideration.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 PHD-C 2-2020

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Public Health & Emergency Services

Moved by Councillor Whalen

Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Correspondence Item PHD-C 2-2020, being a memorandum from Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner, Public Health, dated May 12, 2020, respecting COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Public Health & Emergency Services, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Darté

That the motion **BE AMENDED** by adding the following clause:

That the Medical Officer of Health **BE DIRECTED** to immediately release COVID-19 data by municipality.

Carried

Committee Co-Chair Chiocchio called the vote on the motion as amended, as follows:

That Correspondence Item PHD-C 2-2020, being a memorandum from Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner, Public Health, dated May 12, 2020, respecting COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Public Health & Emergency Services, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That the Medical Officer of Health **BE DIRECTED** to immediately release COVID-19 data by municipality.

Carried

6.2 COM-C 15-2020
COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Community Services

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Correspondence Item COM-C 15-2020, being a memorandum from A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, dated May 12, 2020, respecting COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Community Services, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6.3 COM 7-2020
Regional Emergency Social Services Plan

Cathy Cousins, Director, Homelessness & Community Engagement and Michelle Johnston, Community Safety & Well-Being Program Manager, provided information respecting Emergency Social Services Plan Update. Topics of the presentation included:

- Plan Update: Scope of Emergency Social Services Plan
- Plan Update: Types of Emergency Social Services Responses
- Plan Update: Structure of Emergency Social Services Plan
- Community Partners

- CSD ESS Team Composition/Service Expectations
- Capacity and Training

Moved by Councillor Butters

Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 7-2020, dated May 12, 2020, respecting Regional Emergency Social Services Plan, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Moved by Councillor Ip

Seconded by Councillor Nicholson

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

COM 8-2020

Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Update 2019

COM 9-2020

Seniors Services Volunteer Report

COM 10-2020

Medical Directors Annual Report 2019 – Long-Term Care Homes

COM-C 11-2020

2019-RFP-308 – Housing with Supports – Supported Transitional Housing
Request for Proposal Award Results

COM-C 12-2020

Welland City Council Correspondence re: Shelter Program Solution

COM-C 13-2020

2019-RFP-305 - Prevention Request for Proposal Award Results

COM-C 14-2020

2020 RFPQ-08 – Niagara Emergency Energy Fund (NEEF) Request for Pre-
Qualification Award Results

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 International Nursing Week

Dr. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, announced that it was International Nurses Week and recognized nurses throughout the organization for the extraordinary work they do.

7.2 Regional Long-Term Care Home Redevelopment Projects

Committee members requested information respecting the Regional Long-Term Care Home redevelopment projects and the incorporation of guidelines supporting infection control practices. Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, advised that while there has been some delay, both projects are still moving ahead. She advised that a memorandum providing an update on the two projects will be included on the agenda for the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting scheduled for June 16, 2020. Henriette Koning, Director, Senior Services, advised that the design plans for these new homes do provide features that support infection prevention and control. Further to the enquiry of committee, Ms. Jugley advised that there are minimum standards for development set by the Ministry of Long-Term Care that must be followed for all new long-term care home buildings.

7.3 Canadian Medical Association Foundation Donation

Councillor Ip requested information respecting the Canadian Medical Association Foundation donation to municipalities, specifically when funds are expected to be received and how the funds will be used. Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, advised Committee members that information respecting the distribution of these funds has not yet been released; but will share this information with Council when it becomes available.

7.4 Community Outreach

Councillor Greenwood announced that the Niagara Falls Rotary Club had donated three iPads to the COVID-19 units at the Niagara Health sites and would be providing iPads to Regional Long-Term Care Homes to assist families to stay in touch with loved ones.

Councillor Whalen announced that he had assisted in handing out groceries that were donated by an anonymous donor and noted that Club Calabrese had purchased 28,000 visors for hospitals.

7.5 COVID-19 Data Availability for First Responders.

Councillor Foster requested an update respecting the type of COVID-19 data available to first responders. Kevin Smith, Chief/Director of Emergency Medical Services, advised that the Ministry of Health created a database to provide first-responders with the ability to have advance knowledge of persons who tested positive for COVID-19. He noted that there were issues with the information contained in the database so it was not being used locally; however, staff are ensuring that current processes are providing the best level of safety.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Councillor Greenwood
Committee Co-Chair

Councillor Chiochio
Committee Co-Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk