
MEMORANDUM

CAO 12-2020

Subject: Update on Open Niagara – Niagara Region’s Recovery Plan
Date: June 4, 2020
To: Regional Council
From: Ron Tripp, Acting CAO

Introduction:

The purpose of this memo is to seek Council’s feedback on the initiation of *Open Niagara*, Niagara Region’s COVID-19 pandemic Recovery Plan. The preparation of a recovery plan is a requirement of the Regional EOC.

Discussion:

Niagara Region is initiating a plan to prepare for the eventual recovery and re-opening of Niagara. *Open Niagara* will be Niagara Region’s Recovery Plan.

Open Niagara will be focused on the overall goal of continuing to protect the health and safety of Niagara residents and Regional staff and to limit the spread of COVID-19. The Plan is designed to ensure a holistic, coordinated and phased strategy to re-opening Regional facilities, to guarantee the delivery of essential community and public health services and support the re-opening of the economy.

In the development of *Open Niagara* staff have reviewed the progress and recovery plans of other Ontario municipalities as well as the Province to ensure consistency.

When completed, *Open Niagara* will have two components: an internal *Organizational Plan* and an external *Economic Recovery Plan*. The two components are being developed in tandem and are linked together. The Economic Recovery Plan is led by the Economic Rapid Response Team (a collaboration of all the economic development offices in Niagara) and in consultation with local stakeholders.

The Organizational Plan will outline guidelines to ensure a coordinated approach between all Regional departments and levels of governments is achieved in order to

ensure timely communication, decisions and actions to protect the safety and wellbeing of Niagara residents and Regional staff who deliver Regional services.

Attached to this memo are a series of sections of *Open Niagara* for Council's review. These sections will provide the guidance and direction to Regional departments in the development of specific recovery actions.

Re-opening Framework:

Open Niagara will follow the same phased approach as the Provincial framework and will take guidance from the Province as we enter into each of the three pandemic recovery stages. However, it will also take advice from our Medical Officer of Health in Niagara. Depending on our circumstances, this could result in the Region moving through the phases of reopening at a different speed to the Province.

Guiding Principles:

Niagara Region's schedule to responsibly lift public health measures and restart the economy will be guided by the advice of the Province of Ontario and the Chief Medical Officer of Health and regional public health officials. It will be based on fundamental guiding principles that must be applied consistently throughout the recovery process.

Recovery Phases:

Open Niagara will be aligned with the Province of Ontario's framework and have three overarching phases. Through each phase, the health and safety of Niagara residents and Regional staff will be the primary focus, continuing to balance the needs of the community, Regional Council and Regional business.

Service Availability by Phase:

Niagara Region delivers a wide range of services to the community. During the COVID-19 emergency, some of these services have continued, and some have continued on a modified basis; while others were postponed or cancelled due to resourcing or other health and safety related concerns. As we move through each phase the availability and method of Regional service delivery may change.

This section will provide guidance to Regional departments on how to categorize potential service changes.

It is anticipated that Niagara Region will complete the *Open Niagara* plan in the coming weeks and will report back to Council accordingly. In the meantime, Niagara Region continues to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to provide essential services to the Niagara community.

Ron Tripp, Acting CAO