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**MEMORANDUM**

**CSC-C 8-2020**

**Subject: Referral of Motion – Direct Election of the Regional Chair**

**Date: June 17, 2020**

**To: Corporate Services Committee**

**From: Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk**

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At its meeting held on February 20, 2020, Regional Council passed the following motion:

That the motion respecting Direct Election of the Regional Chair **BE REFERRED** to the Corporate Services Committee to allow for consideration of additional governance matters.

The motion respecting Direct Election of the Regional Chair is noted below for Committee's consideration:

WHEREAS the Province has completed its governance review and decided to leave governance reform in the purview of each municipality;

WHEREAS section 218.2 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, provides a municipality the power to change the method of selecting its head of Council under section 218 of the Act for any regular election after 2018;

WHEREAS the upper tier municipalities of Durham Region, Halton Region, and Region of Waterloo directly elect their Regional Chair;

WHEREAS upper tier and single-tier municipalities in Ontario with larger populations and/or larger geographic areas than Niagara have directly elected Heads of Council;

WHEREAS Niagara is a progressive municipality with diverse interests; and

WHEREAS all of the voting citizens of Niagara deserve to have a direct say in who shall represent them as Regional Chair.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That The Regional Municipality of Niagara **EXERCISE** its power and follow the necessary process under section 218 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to change the method of selecting the Head of Council so that beginning with the 2022 municipal election and for all future municipal elections the Regional Chair is elected by general vote by the voting citizens of all 12 local area municipalities in the Niagara region in accordance with the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk