

**In accordance with the notice and submission deadline requirements of Sections 18.1 (b) and 11.3, respectively, of Niagara Region's Procedural By-law, the Regional Clerk received from Councillor Ip a motion to be brought forward for consideration at the June 25, 2020 Council meeting respecting declaration of public health issues.**

WHEREAS racism, homophobia, transphobia, discrimination, and stigma are associated with poorer physical, mental, and emotional health and greater mortality, making racism an important public health issue; and

WHEREAS Public Health has a role in promoting the health of the entire population by working with others to ensure fair opportunities for health and well-being; and

WHEREAS Niagara Region and its Board of Health is guided by Objective 2 in Niagara Region's Strategic Plan to foster a high quality of life through safe, healthy, and inclusive neighbourhoods and delivery of quality, affordable, and accessible human services; and

WHEREAS members of the Black, Indigenous, 2SLGBTQQIA, and many other communities experience physical, social, mental, and emotional harms due to racism, homophobia, transphobia, and other discrimination and stigma present across sectors, including health, education, employment, housing, child care and child welfare, policing and law enforcement, and the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS the Region of Niagara has become a member of the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities and committed to appropriately resourcing the work of the Coalition;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That Regional Council **ACKNOWLEDGE** that racism, homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of discrimination or oppression are public health issues;
2. That Niagara Region **COMMIT** to using an equity, diversity, and inclusion lens in all future decision-making; and
3. That Niagara Region **RECONFIRM** its efforts through the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities to promote social inclusion, human rights, and diversity, as well as eradicating all forms of racism and discrimination that continue to persist in Niagara.