
MEMORANDUM

CSC-C 11-2020

**Subject: Referral of Motion – Direct Election of the Regional Chair –
Additional Information – Past Work Undertaken on Governance Reform**

Date: July 15, 2020

To: Corporate Services Committee

From: Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Corporate Services Committee, at its meeting held on June 17, 2020, considered the following motion:

1. That the Office of the Regional Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to form a citizen committee of 15 people, as representative as possible of the local area municipalities, and engage in a public consultation process;
2. That the citizen committee and public consultation process **ADDRESS** the following questions:
 - Should the Regional Chair be directly elected by the citizens of Niagara or appointed by Regional Council?
 - How many Regional Councillors should represent each municipality?
 - If the number of Regional Councillors that represent each municipality is suggested to be different than it is currently, should the votes of Regional Councillors be weighted? If so, how should they be weighted?
 - By which method should Regional Councillors be elected?
 - What strategies are recommended to increase citizen engagement for and following elections?
 - What strategies are recommended to get more people to consider running for elected office?
 - What can be done to have Council be more reflective of the demographic make up of the Niagara region, e.g., gender, age, race/ethnicity, income status, etc.?; and

That the citizen committee, with the results from the public consultation process, **REPORT** back to Corporate Services Committee by April 2021.

Committee subsequently passed the following motion:

That the motion respecting the formation of a citizen committee, **BE REFERRED** to staff to provide a report to the Corporate Services Committee meeting being held on July 15, 2020.

The establishment of a committee to review and consider the matters noted in the referred motion would be at the will of Council. Should establishment of a committee be approved, staff would provide a report providing additional information respecting a public consultation process including a draft terms of reference for the committee and membership considerations.

Committee requested staff provide information on actions undertaken to date regarding governance. This memo provides Committee with Council's deliberations on governance from the present back to 2005. Appendix 1 sets a compendium of discussions from the present back to 2005. Appendix 2 lists the various documents Council considered during this period of time. Appendix 3 is the most recent work completed on governance by the independent external governance auditor.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

Attachments:

- Appendix 1 Government Reform Compendium from 2005 to Present
- Appendix 2 Government Reform – Companion to Compendium from 2005 to Present
List of Documents
- Appendix 3 Correspondence Item COTW-C 4-2020 “Final Report” Niagara Region
Independent Governance Auditor