

**Government Reform
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At the Corporate Services Committee meeting on June 17, 2020, Committee **received** Correspondence Item CSC-C 8-2020 respecting Referral of Motion – Direct Election of the Regional Chair.

The following motion was **referred** to staff to provide a report at the July 15, 2020 Corporate Services Committee:

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;

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.

At the February 20, 2020 Council Session, Council considered a motion respecting Direct Election of the Regional Chair as follows:

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;

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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:

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.

The following motion was carried:

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.

At the April 11, 2019 Committee of Whole meeting, Council received a presentation respecting "Final Report" Niagara Region Independent External Governance Auditor. No action was taken.

At the December 13, 2018 Council Session, Correspondence Item CL-C 72-2018 respecting "First Report" Niagara Region Independent External Governance Auditor was received and the following motion was **carried**:

That Correspondence Item CL-C 72-2018, dated December 6, 2018, respecting "First Report" Niagara Independent External Governance Auditor, **BE RECEIVED** and **REFERRED** to the Corporate Services Committee for further review, reporting back to Council with recommendations within the first quarter of 2019.

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At the October 4, 2018 Council Session, correspondence item CL-C 64-2018 respecting "Fact Book" Niagara Region Independent External Governance Auditor, Andrew Sancton Consulting was **received**.

At the July 26, 2018 Council Session, Report CAO 18-2018 respecting Independent External Governance Auditor was received and the following motion was **carried**:

That Regional Council **APPROVE** the selection of Andrew Sancton Consulting as an Independent External Governance Auditor as recommended by Ombudsman Huberman in his report dated June 29, 2018.

At the December 7, 2017 Council Session, a Statutory Public Meeting was held to receive comments from the public and consider the adoption of a by-law (pursuant to Section 218 of the Act) to change the composition of Niagara Regional Council to add an additional representative for the Township of West Lincoln. Council received Report GM 10-2017 respecting Change to Composition of Regional Council – Additional Representative for West Lincoln and the following motion was **carried**:

That, subject to the public meeting as required by the Municipal Act, 2001, Regional Council **CONSIDER** adopting Bill 2017-108 to change its composition by adding an additional Councillor from the Township of West Lincoln, effective with the 2018 Municipal Election, provided that:

- a. A majority of the Councils of the area municipalities pass a resolution consenting to the by-law (Bill referred to above); and
- b. The total number of electors in the Area Municipalities that passed resolutions consenting to the by-law, form a majority of electors in Niagara Region.

That, subject to the adoption of Bill 2017-108, a copy of the Bill and Report GM 10-2017 **BE FORWARDED** to the Clerks of the 12 local area municipalities with a request that their Councils adopt the following resolution and advise the Regional Clerk of the results by no later than December 31, 2017:

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“That the Council of (name of municipality) consents to the passage of By-law No. 2017-108 of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, being a by-law to change the composition of Regional Council.”

Triple majority was achieved and the by-law enacted.

At the November 8, 2017 Corporate Services Committee meeting, Report GM 9-2017 respecting A Review of the Municipal Elections Modernization Act and Composition of Regional Council was received and the following motion was **carried**:

That Report GM 9-2017 **BE RECEIVED** for information; and

That the Regional Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to provide notice and schedule the associated public meeting in order to consider a by-law for the increase in composition of Regional Council by adding an additional Councillor from the Township of West Lincoln.

The motion was ratified at the Council Session held on November 16, 2017.

At the July 20, 2017, Council Session, correspondence item CL-C 86-2017 respecting Bill 68, Modernizing Ontario Municipal Legislation Act and deferral of CLK 03-2017: Request for Additional Regional Representative for the Township of West Lincoln and the following motion was carried:

That the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara **REQUEST** the Minister of Municipal Affairs to enact a regulation in accordance with Section 218 of the Municipal Act, 2001 to provide it with the authority to begin the process to change the size of Regional Council by the addition of one member from the Township of West Lincoln.

At the April 27, 2017 Council Session, correspondence item CL-C 35-2017 respecting summary of responses from the Local Area Municipalities respecting the proposed change to composition of Regional Council – “Double Direct” was **received** which advised Council that based on the responses received from the local area municipalities, a majority of support from the local municipalities was not achieved; therefore, the proposed change to the composition of Regional Council, specifically that the six members of Regional Council representing the City of St. Catharines be elected by general vote of the electors of the City and by wards as members of both the Council of Niagara Region and the Council of the City, did not achieve triple majority and was defeated.

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At the March 30, 2017, Council Session, Report CLK 3-2017 respecting Request for Additional Regional Representative for the Township of West Lincoln was considered as follows:

That Council **HEREBY CONFIRMS** its support to change the size of Regional Council by the addition of one member from the Township of West Lincoln;

That the process to provide for the addition of one member from the Township of West Lincoln **COMMENCE** once deliberations on Bill 68 (Modernizing Ontario Municipal Legislation Act, 2016) are completed; and

3That, once the condition of Recommendation 2 above is met, staff **BE DIRECTED** to bring back a report to Council for consideration of the necessary next steps.

Council subsequently **carried** the following motion:

That consideration of Report CLK 3-2017, dated March 30, 2017, respecting Request for Additional Regional Representative for the Township of West Lincoln, **BE DEFERRED** pending the results of deliberations on Bill 68 (Modernizing Ontario Municipal Legislation Act, 2016); and

That staff **BE DIRECTED** to prepare a report respecting Regional Council representation by population for all local area municipalities.

At the January 19, 2017 Council Session, Report CLK 2-2016 respecting Change to Composition of Regional Council – “Double Direct” was received and the following motion was **carried**:

That, subject to the public meeting as required by the *Municipal Act, 2001*, Regional Council **ADOPT** a by-law to change its composition, and such by-law, if adopted, to come into force and effect on April 27, 2017, provided that:

- a. a majority of the councils of the local area municipalities pass resolutions consenting to the by-law (referred to above); and,
- b. the total number of electors in the local municipalities that have passed resolutions in support of the by-law form a majority of all electors in the region of Niagara as established in the revised list of electors for the municipal election held in the year 2014.

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That, subject to the adoption of the by-law, a copy of the by-law and Report CLK 2-2016 **BE FORWARDED** to the clerks of the 12 local area municipalities with a request that their councils adopt the following resolution and advise the Regional Clerk of the results of that consideration, no later than March 31, 2017:

“That the Council of (name of municipality) consents to the passage of the by-law of The Regional Municipality of Niagara, being a by-law to change the composition of the Regional Council.”

At the November 17, 2016 Council Session, Report CLK 2-2016 respecting Change to Composition of Regional Council – “Double Direct” was considered and the following motion was **carried**:

That Report CLK 2-2016, dated September 15, 2016, respecting Change to Composition of Regional Council - "Double Direct" **BE DEFERRED** until a public meeting as defined under the Municipal Act, 2001, is held by the Council for the City of St. Catharines.

At the September 15, 2016 Council Session, a Statutory Public Meeting was held for Council to receive comments from the public and consider the adoption of a by-law (pursuant to Section 218 of the Act) respecting a change in the composition of Niagara Regional Council to allow the six members of council representing the City of St. Catharines to be members of both Niagara Regional Council and the Council of the City. These six councillors would be elected on a ward system basis. Council received Report CLK 2-2016 respecting Change to Composition of Regional Council – “Double Direct” and the following motion was **deferred** until the December 8, 2016 Regional Council meeting, at the latest, to allow the opportunity for the City of St. Catharines to hold public meeting(s).

That, subject to the public meeting as required by the Municipal Act, 2001, Regional Council **ADOPT** Bill 49-2016 to change its composition (attached to Report CLK 2-2016 as Appendix I), and such Bill, if adopted, to come into force and effect on December 8, 2016, provided that:

- a. a majority of the councils of the local area municipalities pass resolutions consenting to the by-law (Bill referred to above); and,
- b. the total number of electors in the local municipalities that have passed resolutions in support of the by-law form a majority of all electors in the region of Niagara as established in the revised list of electors for the municipal election held in the year 2014.

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That, subject to the adoption of Bill 49-2016, a copy of the Bill and Report CLK 2-2016 **BE FORWARDED** to the clerks of the 12 local area municipalities with a request that their councils adopt the following resolution and advise the Regional Clerk of the results of that consideration, no later than December 1, 2016:

“That the Council of (name of municipality) consents to the passage of Bill 49-2016 of The Regional Municipality of Niagara, being a by-law to change the composition of the Regional Council.”

At the June 30, 2016 Council Session, Report CLK 1-2016 respecting Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Regulation under the *Municipal Act, 2001* – “Double Direct” was received and the following motion was **carried**:

That Niagara Region Council **GIVE NOTICE** of its intent to consider a by-law to change its composition;

That Niagara Region Council **HOLD** one public meeting on September 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at Regional Headquarters, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, Ontario;

That the Regional Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to post notice of Council’s intent and the public meeting on the Region’s Website in accordance with the Region’s public notice policy.

That staff **BE DIRECTED** to solicit public input by other means to facilitate the public engagement process.

At the September 23, 2015 Corporate Services Committee meeting, the following motion was **defeated**:

That the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara **REQUEST** that the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing enact a regulation authorizing The Regional Municipality of Niagara to exercise its power under Section 218 of the Municipal Act, 2001, in order to change the method of selecting the Regional Chair (Head of Council) to an election-at-large across the Niagara Region, in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, to be effective 2018; and

That local Niagara Councils **BE NOTIFIED** of the passage of this resolution.

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The above motion was considered separately at Council and subsequently **defeated**.

At the July 23, 2015 Council Session, correspondence item C8313, a letter from the City of St. Catharines, respecting Double Direct Councillor Role - City of St. Catharines was received and the following motion was **carried**:

That Council **APPLY** to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to allow the City of St. Catharines to change its method of electing City and Regional Councillors to the "Double-Direct Method" as outlined in its December 2nd, 2013 report, where six members of Council will serve on both Regional and City Council, while six members of Council would serve only on City Council, and all to be elected on a ward system basis; and

That, the Region **AGREES** to make this request, total compensation of the new "double-duty" Councillors will be equal to the combined compensation a Councillor would receive as a City of St. Catharines Councillor and as a Regional Councillor; and

That, should the request not receive required Regional and/or Provincial approvals, staff **RECOMMEND** specific changes that would improve communication and efficiency under the present system.

At the July 23, 2015 Council Session, correspondence item C8314, a memorandum from Ralph Walton, Regional Clerk, regarding Past Work Undertaken By Council on Governance Reform, was **referred** to the meeting of the Corporate Services Committee being held on September 23, 2015.

At the **January 15, 2015** Council Session, Councillor Sendzik requested that correspondence item C8237 respecting Filling a Vacancy on Regional Council be removed from the agenda as his municipality had received new information from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. There were no objections.

At the **January 16, 2014** Council Session, correspondence item C8144, a memorandum from Gary Burroughs, Regional Chair, regarding the City of St. Catharines letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting Regional Council's consideration of a preferred governance modernization option was **received**. Minute Item 18, through the Integrated Community Planning Committee meeting of January 8, 2014 Report ICP 06-2014, addressed the

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issue as to whether or not Council should ask MMAH to order the Niagara Region to put the following question on the ballot: "Are you in favour of the twelve municipalities of Niagara and Niagara Region amalgamating to form a new 'City of Niagara'?" This motion was **defeated**.

At the **December 12, 2013** Council Session, correspondence item C8133, a memorandum from Janet Pilon, Regional Clerk, regarding the placement of referendum questions on the ballot for the October 27, 2014 election was **received and referred** to the consideration of Minute Item 534. Minute Item 534 posed several referendum questions for election ballot placement and were dealt with separately as follows:

- Should the Regional Chair position be elected at-large by the people of Niagara versus the current process of election by the Regional Council? This motion was **defeated**.
 - Should the Regional Councillor position be limited to a maximum of three consecutive 4-year terms of service versus the current unlimited number of 4-year terms of service? This motion was **defeated**.
 - Should the Regional Councillor position be a dual-role position serving both at the Region and at the respective municipality? This motion was **defeated**.
 - Should the Regional Councillor position be full-time versus the current part-time position? This motion was **defeated**.
 - Should the Niagara Region fund region-wide transit service? This motion was **carried**.
 - Should the Region of Niagara employ an Integrity Commissioner to oversee the conduct of Regional Councillors? This motion was **defeated**.
 - Should the twelve municipalities of Niagara amalgamate to form a new "City of Niagara"? This motion was **carried**.
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At the **June 20, 2013** Council Session, correspondence item C8046, a memorandum from

Janet Pilon, Regional Clerk, regarding the Selection of the Regional Chair was received and the following motion was **carried**:

That the candidate for the election of Regional Chair who is elected to Regional Council be elected by the sitting members of Regional Council for the term of Council; subject to the process to change the method of selecting the Regional Chair (head of council) to be appointed by the members of Council from the members of Council.

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At the **February 7, 2013** Council Session, correspondence item C7991, a confidential memorandum from Janet Pilon, Regional Clerk regarding A Matter of Solicitor-Client Advice, Governance – Selection of Regional Chair, was received and released to the public save and except the summary. The following motion was **carried**:

That Regional Council request the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to enact a regulation authorizing The Regional Municipality of Niagara to exercise its power under Section 218 of the Municipal Act, 2001, in order to change the method of selecting the Regional Chair (head of council) to be appointed by the members of council from the members of council, in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, to be effective 2014;

That subject to the Minister enacting the regulation outlined above:

The Director of Legal Services draft a by-law pursuant to the provisions of the regulation and the rules set out in subsection 218(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001; and

The Regional Clerk present a report recommending the date that the statutory public meeting of Regional Council will be held to consider the matter.

The following motion was also **carried**:

That the consideration of a motion respecting a Double Direct (dual role) Regional Councillors representation model, similar to the Durham Region's model of governance, **BE DEFERRED** pending the receipt of a letter from the City of St. Catharines, containing the outcome of the City of St. Catharines' Council consideration of the recommendations from the City of St. Catharines' Governance Committee.

At the **January 24, 2013** Council Business Planning of the Whole Committee meeting, correspondence item C7984, a memorandum from Walter Sendzik, CEO, Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce (January 23, 2013) respecting Governance in Niagara and correspondence item C7985, a chart illustrating Durham Region Council Composition and map were both **received for information**. The subject of this meeting was specifically "governance." The following motion (and suggested amendments) was **defeated**:

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That the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara requests that Councillor Timms, as the sponsor of this proposal seek the support of his home municipality (City of St. Catharines) for the change to the current Regional Councillors' representation (single role) to a Double Direct (dual role) Regional Councillors representation model, similar to the Durham Region's mode of governance; and

That the City of St. Catharines be requested to initiate the process to change the current Regional Councillors' representation (single role) to a Double Direct (dual role) Regional Councillors representation model, similar to the Durham Region's model of governance.

The following motion was **defeated** (as well as a motion to defer this amendment to another Council Business Planning Committee of the Whole Session):

That the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara requests that Councillor Timms, as the sponsor of this proposal seek the support of his home municipality (City of St. Catharines) for the change to the current Regional Councillors' representation (single role) to a Double Direct (dual role) Regional Councillors representation model **for the City of St. Catharines**, similar to the Durham Region's model of governance.

The following motion was **carried**:

That the candidate for the election of Regional Chair who is elected to Regional Council be elected by the sitting members of Regional Council for the term of Council; subject to the process to change the method of selecting the Regional Chair (head of council) to be appointed by the members of council from the members of council.

At the **December 6, 2012** Council Session, correspondence item C7965, an email from Kithio Mwanzia, Director, Policy and Government Relations, Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce regarding the Election of the Regional Chair and the Consideration of the Double Direct Durham Region Model of Governance was **received and approved**. A presentation by Mr. Mwanzia regarding Governance Models for Niagara was received and referred to the January 24, 2013 Councillor Business Planning Committee of the Whole meeting for a full discussion on governance.

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At the **September 20, 2012** Council Business Planning of the Whole Session, Council were provided with correspondence item C7921 (not specified in minutes), a memorandum from Gary Burroughs, Regional Chair, entitled “Governance Review – Next Steps.” The following motion was **carried**:

That staff prepare a report on the two issues identified “Confusion over delivery of services” and “Adequate Communication and Coordination between the Region and area municipalities” and provide information on the timing required, under the Municipal Act” should any changes/recommendations be brought forward to Council prior to the end of this Council’s term of office.

The following motion was **defeated**:

That this Council no longer discuss Amalgamation; Direct Election of Regional Chair; Dual Role Councillors and Number of Regional Councillors during this term of Council.

The following motion was **carried**:

That staff investigate the feasibility of hosting a Niagara forum for local and regional politicians improving on the theme ‘Niagara: In Search of Best Practices’ in order to pursue Councillors identified priorities.

At the **July 26, 2012** Council Session, correspondence item C7899 regarding the Governance Review from Gary Burroughs, Regional Chair, was considered with Dr. Siegel’s presentation on Governance Review, which was **received**. Dr. Siegel and the Niagara Observatory provided Regional Council with a brief overview of his analysis attached to C7899, which included steps in problem solving, the roles of local government, perceived problems and suggested next steps (prioritize the problems).

At the **May 24, 2012** Council Session, Report CAO 2-2012 regarding the Progress Report – 2012-2015 Council Business Plan was **received for information**. One of the components of this report speaks to Council’s prioritizing its Governance Review.

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At the **March 22, 2012** Council Session, Council **received** correspondence item C7808, a memorandum from Gary Burroughs, Regional Chair, regarding the Governance Review Next Steps for information and directed staff to prepare an analysis of what items could be included in any such focused review including cost/benefit analysis, impact on reallocation of representatives, which changes would require triple majority and/or provincial sign-off, what can be achieved during the 2010-2014 Council term, and the dual role/responsibilities of Councillors.

At the **March 1, 2012** Council Session, Council **received** correspondence item C7796, a letter from Mathew Siscoe, Governance Committee Chair, City of St. Catharines (February 22, 2012) regarding the City of St. Catharines, Governance Committee. Council also **received** the minutes of the February 16, 2012 Council Business Planning Committee of the Whole session on Governance.

At the **February 16, 2012** Council Business Planning Committee of the Whole Session, Dr. Siegel made a presentation on Council Structure Reform; Internal Governance Reform and Service Delivery Reform, and Mr. Hussey (facilitator) reviewed the survey results.

At the **February 9, 2012** Council Session, Council **received** Report CAO 1-2012, February 9, 2012, regarding Council Business Plan - Action Plan "To Develop a More Concrete Partnership and Improved Alignment with Area Municipalities..." (Action 3.6 - Open for Business) and **it was moved that Council would provide feedback on said plan.**

At the **January 19, 2012** Council Session, Regional Chair Gary Burroughs spoke to the issue of the governance review process and made reference to a memorandum that had been distributed to members of Council.

At the **December 8, 2011** Council Session, Regional Chair Gary Burroughs spoke to the issue of governance review. Council also **received** correspondence item C7744, a letter from Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk for St. Catharines regarding the appointments to the St. Catharines Governance Committee.

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At the **November 17, 2011** Council Session, Council **received** C7739, a memorandum from Kevin Bain, Regional Clerk regarding City of St. Catharines Governance Committee.

At the **October 27, 2011** Council Session, Regional Chair Gary Burroughs spoke to the issue of governance review. Council also **received** correspondence item C7723, a letter from Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk for St. Catharines respecting a request for the active participation of two (2) St. Catharines Regional Councillors on the City of St. Catharines' Governance Committee and **referred** it to staff for a background report.

At the **June 3, 2010** Council Session, Councillor Puttick made a Notice of Motion to reconsider the Council decision of February 28, 2008 to refrain from spending any further resources – financial or otherwise - on the debate or examination of the composition of Regional Council and municipal governance in the Niagara Region during the current term of this Council in order to allow for consideration of a change in Council composition or governance for the term of Council commencing December 1, 2014. [No motion was pursued.]

At the **May 13, 2010** Council Session, Council **received** correspondence item C7486, a letter from D. Carnegie, Director of Corporate Services / Clerk for the City of St. Catharines to Premiere Dalton McGuinty respecting the City of St. Catharines' resolution for Regional Government Reform.

At the **March 25, 2008** Council Organization Review Committee Session, Committee moved to maintain its status quo with respect to its method of electing the Regional Chair, that while Regional Council can appoint a Regional Chair that has not been an elected Councillor, it has always chosen not to, but rather, to elect the Regional Chair from those elected by the general vote to serve as Regional Councillor.

At the **February 28, 2008** Council Session, Council **received** the following correspondence items:

C7006	A package of information from Mr. William McLean: a letter dated November 15, 2007 with schedules identifying the composition of municipal and regional Councils within Ontario and a letter dated
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January 16, 2008 in response to Councillor McMullan's efforts to alter Regional Council.

Received and referred to the Council Organization Review Committee.

C7010 A letter from Mr. William McLean (February 24, 2008) respecting Restructuring Niagara Regional Council.

Received.

C7015 A letter from Dean Iorfida, Clerk, City of Niagara Falls (February 27, 2008) respecting the City of Niagara Falls Council's position on the composition of Regional Council.

Received and referred to the Council Organization Review Committee.

Council also **adopted the following motion:**

WHEREAS on June 19, 2003, the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara resolved that the issue of governance and the composition of Regional Council be referred to the 2003-2006 Regional Council;

AND WHEREAS, despite that resolution, on November 24, 2005, Regional Council resolved to focus on the priorities established during the 2004-2006 Council Business Planning process and, thereby, to not re-examine Council composition and governance;

AND WHEREAS on May 24, 2007, Regional Council resolved that the issue of governance be referred to a fulsome debate as part of the Regional Council Business Planning Session;

AND WHEREAS, despite that resolution, the 2007-2011 Regional Council Business Plan, adopted on December 20, 2007, contains no mandate to either re-examine the composition of the Regional Council or of governance in the Niagara Region;

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AND WHEREAS within the last six months, more than 50% of Niagara's area municipalities have endorsed resolutions to maintain the current composition of the Regional Council and current governance structure thereby eliminating the possibility of the "triple majority" vote in support of change;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporate Services Committee recommend that Regional Council reaffirm its support of the priorities established in the 2007-2011 Regional Council Business Plan, thereby knowingly commit to refrain from spending any further resources – financial or otherwise – on the debate or examination of the composition of Regional Council and of municipal governance in the Niagara Region during the current term of this Council.

Carried.

Council also **adopted the following motion:**

That the City of St. Catharines be advised of Regional Council's decision to reaffirm its support for the priorities established in the 2007-2011 Regional Council Business Plan, thereby knowingly commit to refrain from spending any further resources – financial or otherwise – on the debate or examination of the composition of Regional Council and of municipal governance in the Niagara Region during the current term of this Council.

Carried.

At the **February 20, 2008** Corporate Services Committee Session, the Committee **adopted the following motion:**

WHEREAS on June 19, 2003, the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara resolved that the issue of governance and the composition of Regional Council be referred to the 2003-2006 Regional Council;

AND WHEREAS, despite that resolution, on November 24, 2005, Regional Council resolved to focus on the priorities established during the 2004-2006 Council Business Planning process and, thereby, to not re-examine Council composition and governance;

AND WHEREAS on May 24, 2007, Regional Council resolved that the issue of governance be referred to a fulsome debate as part of the Regional Council Business Planning Session;

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AND WHEREAS, despite that resolution, the 2007-2011 Regional Council Business Plan, adopted on December 20, 2007, contains no mandate to either re-examine the composition of the Regional Council or of governance in the Niagara Region;

AND WHEREAS within the last six months, more than 50% of Niagara's area municipalities have endorsed resolutions to maintain the current composition of the Regional Council and current governance structure thereby eliminating the possibility of the "triple majority" vote in support of change;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporate Services Committee recommend that Regional Council reaffirm its support of the priorities established in the 2007-2011 Regional Council Business Plan, thereby knowingly commit to refrain from spending any further resources – financial or otherwise – on the debate or examination of the composition of Regional Council and of municipal governance in the Niagara Region during the current term of this Council.

Carried.

At the **February 12, 2008** Council Organizational Review Committee Session, the Committee considered the letter from the City of St. Catharines regarding representation of the City of St. Catharines at Niagara Regional Council and the issue of representation by population. From the minutes:

Committee members concurred that its focus at this time is on municipal representation on Regional Council and not the overall "governance" issue and that numerous options should be developed and include the following criteria during this examination:

- Representation by population using up to date population and growth statistics
- Consider "Wards"
- Protection of minority interests
- Size of Council
- Property Value Assessment
- Ease of understanding
- Weighted Voting
- Equitable representation by population across Niagara

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It was also moved:

That the fourth item under Scope, in the Terms of Reference for the Council Organization Review Committee, be amended to read as follows:

“Review former investigations and reports regarding governance at the Region of Niagara for the purpose of making recommendations regarding representation and voting procedures at Regional Council.”

Carried.

At the **January 22, 2008** Council Organizational Review Committee Session, the Committee moved that:

That the matter of the “Representation on Niagara Regional Council” be referred to the Regional Council meeting of February 28, 2008.

Carried.

At the **December 20, 2007** Council Session, Council **received** the following correspondence items, which were subsequently **referred** back to the February 28, 2008 Council Session by the Council Organization Review Committee at their January 22, 2008 Session:

C6978 A letter from Kenneth R. Todd, Director of Corporate Support Services, City of St. Catharines (November 23, 2007) requesting that the Niagara Region forward a request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to make regulations under the Municipal Act authorizing the Region to exercise its powers under Section 218 of the Municipal Act with respect to the composition of Regional Council.

Received and referred to the Council Organization Review Committee.

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C6979 A letter from Janet Beckett, City Clerk, City of Port Colborne (November 29, 2007) advising Regional Council of the City of Port Colborne's resolution declaring that they are not in favour of adding more Regional Councillors and of weighted votes so that Port Colborne's level of representation is not diminished.

Received and referred to the Council Organization Review Committee.

C6980 A letter from Susan Daniels, Deputy City Clerk, City of Thorold (December 5, 2007) respecting Municipal Representation at Regional Council.

Received and referred to the Council Organization Review Committee.

At the **May 24, 2007** Council Session, Council **adopted the following motion:**

That the Niagara Regional Council establish a working committee of respected eminent Niagara citizens (with outside professional support) to:

- Reflect on what changes have occurred and what problems have arisen over the history of Niagara Regional Government.
- Determine whether there is the need to examine our governance to assure we have a strong future in terms of social, cultural and economic issues.
- If so, propose a way to accomplish that examination.
- Report their findings back to Council by January 1st, 2008.

Council also **adopted the following motion:**

That the above motion respecting the Redefining a Regional Governance Model, be referred to a Council Business Planning Session for a full and open debate.

Carried.

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At the **June 15, 2006** Council Session, Council **received** correspondence item C6784 from John Gerretsen, Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing respecting the resolution passed by the Council of the City of St. Catharines requesting a change in representation on Regional Council and **referred** it to the Council Organization Review Committee (CORC) for deliberation during the next term of Council.

At the **November 24, 2005** Council Session, Council **adopted the following motion:**

That Report CHR 3-2005, Composition of Regional Council, be received for information, and copies be distributed to the area municipalities and local MPP's.

Carried.

Council also **adopted the following motion:**

That Regional Council supports the comments expressed in Report CHR 3 and supports a focus on the priorities established during the Council Business Planning process through continued collaboration with our area municipalities.

Carried.

At the **April 7, 2005** Council Session, Council **adopted the following motion:**

That the Memorandum to Regional Chairman Partington from Councillor Baty, Chair, Council Organization Review Committee respecting Referral of Governance Issues be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

The recommendations contained in this memorandum are as follows:

That consideration of the communications and the governance matter be deferred and not dealt with by the Council Organization Review Committee; and

That this matter be referred to the Regional Chair's Office for determining when this matter could best be dealt with within the timeframe of the existing Council term; and

That background information and reports from previous governance committees and correspondence from local municipalities and other sources regarding Council

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representation be provided in a comprehensive report for consideration at a Committee of the Whole Council meeting as determined by the Regional Chair.

At the **March 22, 2005** Council Organizational Review Committee Session, it was moved that:

That consideration of the communications and the governance matter be deferred and not dealt with by the Council Organization Reorganization Committee; and

That this matter be referred to the Regional Chair's Office for determining when this matter could best be dealt with within the timeframe of the existing Council term; and

That background information and reports from previous governance committees and correspondence from local municipalities and other sources regarding Council representation be provided in a comprehensive report for consideration at a Committee of the Whole Council meeting as determined by the Regional Chair.

Carried.

At the **March 17, 2005** Council Session, Council **received** correspondence item C6446, a resolution from the City of St. Catharines requesting the Regional of Niagara to establish a system of representation which corresponds to population distribution, with a view to not increase the size of Regional Council, and **referred** it to the Council Organization Review Committee.

At the **January 20, 2005** Council Session, Council **received** correspondence item C6400, correspondence from Pat Schofield, Port Colborne, Ontario (December 20, 2004) expressing concerns respecting Regional government which includes restructuring, affordability, and representation on council from the Northern tier versus the Southern tier.
