



REQUEST TO APPEAR AS A DELEGATE

TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE ON THIS FORM)

Name: Darren Platakis	E-mail: darren@geospatialniagara.com	
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City: St. Catharines	Postal Code:	Fax #:

☒ (✓) Non Agenda Delegation - a presentation which addresses topics that do not appear on the Council or COTW Agenda and for which no report has been prepared for Council by Staff.

☐ (✓) Agenda Delegation - a presentation which specifically addresses a COTW or Council Agenda item.

☐ (✓) **I have never spoken on this issue before and the key points of my presentation are as follows:**

Please see attached document - NOTLDelegationDoc

To significantly expand Sustainable Tourism by establishing the entire Niagara region as a UNESCO Global Geopark, without the usual restrictions associated with traditional parks and without building any new tourism destination infrastructure. - Presentation attached as well.

If an applicant wishes to address an issue they have previously spoken to as COTW or Council, they will only be permitted to do so if they bring forward significant new information. Specific details on how this information is new must be identified below and is subject to approval by the Town Clerk. Council will be advised if significant new information has not been provided.

☐ (✓) **I have spoken on this issue before, and the specific new information I wish Council to review is as follows:** (attach a separate page(s) if necessary)

I wish to appear before Council on Monday, June 10, 2019

Meeting time is 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted) _____ (_____ DATE

Note: Your request must be made no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the schedule meeting.

I wish to appear before Committee of the Whole on _____

(Meeting time is 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted) _____ DATE

☐ Community & Development Services ☐ Corporate Services ☐ Operations-Parks & Recreation/Public Works

Note: Your request must be made no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the schedule meeting.

I have read and understand the Delegation Protocol on the back of this form and acknowledge the information contained on this form, including any attachments, will become public documents and listed on Town Meeting Agendas.

I also understand presentation materials must be submitted with this delegation form and electronic presentations must be emailed to ptodd@notl.org no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the schedule meeting.

Signature

May 8, 2019

Date

Presentation Requirements: No ☐ Yes (description) Laptop/Projector

Request for Delegation – Niagara on the Lake Town Council – Monday, June 10, 2019

Delegation:

Darren Platakis - Founder/CEO Geospatial Niagara – Ohnia:kara Steering Committee

Ian Lucas - Secretary Geospatial Niagara – Ohnia:kara Steering Committee

Philip Davis – Indigenous Culture Liaison – Ohnia:kara Steering Committee

Contact:

Address – 11 Nello Street – St. Catharines, ON L2N 1G5

Phone – 905-964-4169

Organization Represented – Geospatial Niagara and the Ohnia:kara Aspiring Global Geopark Steering Committee – pronounced **Oh-nee-ah-gah-rah**

Presentation Focus:

To significantly expand Sustainable Tourism by establishing the entire Niagara region as a UNESCO Global Geopark, WITHOUT the usual restrictions associated with traditional parks, and WITHOUT building any new tourism destination infrastructure.

Information:

1. **Ohnia:kara (pronounced Oh-nee-ah-gah-rah) is the Mohawk word for “neck between two bodies of water” and is the origin of the name the world recognizes as Niagara.** It has been the home going back further than 12,000 years, to many Indigenous Peoples, and continues to this day to be an iconic gathering place for visitors from all nations around the world.
2. **This presentation is about an exciting, achievable project to steadily expand Tourism destinations to every corner of Niagara region, WHILE ALSO increasing tourism revenues for the traditional “anchor” destinations.**
3. Geographically situated between two Great Lakes, the Niagara Escarpment is a

result of 500 million years of natural processes, and is designated as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. This helps us to achieve the UNESCO Global Geopark designation.

4. UNESCO Global Geoparks are grassroots community led projects that must demonstrate broad community engagement and commitment to be UNESCO designated. **The Ohnia:kara Aspiring Geopark will bring a sense of pride and strengthen our Niagara community identities while educating about the importance of the geology and its impacts on our industry and cultural history through the recognition of the indigenous peoples that call this land home.**
5. Our diverse, experienced Steering Committee is making presentations to identified Stakeholders, including municipalities across Niagara. **The response to-date has been overwhelmingly positive.**
6. As new councils are coming together to plan for their municipalities and the region over the next 4 years, one of the most common goals is collaboration to move Niagara forward. We are asking that each Municipal council and the Regional council embrace, endorse and support the Ohnia:kara Aspiring Global Geopark project as a means to bring all of Niagara together to work towards this reachable designation that can be a reality within the next 4 years. Now is the time for Niagara to come together.

Our Ask:

- 1) We are seeking written endorsement of the Ohnia:kara Aspiring Global Geopark by the current council.
- 2) Staff report on the project for full Council consideration.
- 3) To evaluate participation in the Ohnia:kara Aspiring Geopark as part of your strategic plans.
- 4) Staff support, from time-to-time, to help with UNESCO Status Submission.
- 5) Future discussion of possible funding, related to tangible benefits.
- 6) Link on your municipal website to the Ohnia:kara Aspiring Geopark site.