

## **Board of Directors Meeting Highlights – April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

On Friday April 16th, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) held its regular monthly meeting electronically. Highlights from the meeting included:

### **Memorandum of Agreement with the Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative**

Based on a mutual interest in shoreline resiliency and nature-based solutions for Niagara's coastal ecosystems, the Board approved an agreement with the Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative. This partnership will provide a framework for collaboration on financing of forthcoming restoration projects, implementation of Niagara's Visual Assessment Survey Tool (VAST) and will endorse efforts for shoreline resiliency across NPCA watersheds.

### **Regulation Mapping**

The Board approved the updating of the NPCA's Section 28 Regulation mapping based upon the most current information related to natural hazard features and with a phased approach based on most current information available on regulated natural hazard features. With direction to consult stakeholders during the update process, the Board instructed that staff report back to seek endorsement on Phase 1 updated mapping and the Phase 2 workplan.

### **Expanding the Greenbelt Proposal to the Environmental Registry of Ontario**

The Board approved submission of the NPCA's comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario with respect to the Province's 'Expanding the Greenbelt Proposal' and directed that partner municipalities in the Welland River and Twenty Mile Creek watersheds be so advised of the NPCA's comments.

### **Integrity Commissioner Services for the NPCA**

The Board approved the execution of agreements with three Integrity Commissioners (Hamilton, Haldimand, and Niagara). Additionally, Niagara Region's Integrity Commissioner is to be appointed to provide non-investigative advisory services and training as Niagara is NPCA's largest municipality.

### **Governance Committee - 2021 Work Plan**

The Board approved its Governance Committee work plan which provided resources for implementation of the legislative changes enacted under the amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act. The work plan also acknowledged requirements for continued participation with the Auditor General of Ontario to address issues identified through her 2018 Special Audit of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

## **Trail Connections**

The Board directed that the NPCA convene a forum to bring agencies and municipalities in its watershed together to facilitate planning and development of an inter-jurisdictional trails network connecting municipalities, neighbourhoods, employment areas and nature destinations. The Board instructed staff to explore formal partnership opportunities with municipalities to map, build, and enhance trail connections while encouraging municipalities to adopt, through official plan updates, expanded trail networks using publicly owned corridors, abandoned rail lines and other opportunities.

### **Links to Agendas, Minutes and Video:**

<https://npca.ca/administration/board-meetings>



## Community Services

### Legislative Services

April 27, 2021

File #120203

Sent via email: [Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable and Dear Sir:

**Re: Federal Government Providing Transparency with Regard to Plans to Reopen the Canada-US Border**

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of April 26, 2021 passed the following resolution:

**Whereas** in March 2020 the unprecedented step was taken to close the Canada-United States border to all non-essential discretionary traffic to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and

**Whereas** that closure has been extended 30 days at a time for over a year, with only limited travel exceptions available for purposes deemed essential by the federal government, and

**Whereas** the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie passed a resolution May 4, 2020 requesting that the border remain closed until such a time that the situation in the United States has improved, and

**Whereas** the health threat caused by COVID-19 currently remains, vaccination efforts in both countries are accelerating with the intended objective of having at least one vaccine dose available for all adults in both countries by Summer, and

**Whereas** the border closure continues to have an incredible social and economic impact on the communities located along it, including spouses, children and other loved ones who remain separated from each other, and

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Mailing Address:

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie  
1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON L2A 2S6

Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Phone: (905) 871-1600 FAX: (905) 871-4022

Web-site: [www.forterie.ca](http://www.forterie.ca)

**Whereas** Canada shares the longest undefended border in the world and our largest trade partnership with the United States, and it would be desirable to resume the free movement of goods and people across that border when it is safe to do so, and

**Whereas** United States President Joe Biden has signed an executive order directing the US work alongside the Canadian and Mexican governments to plan for the eventual withdrawal of existing land border restrictions, and

**Whereas** despite assurances by the Canadian federal government that the border will reopen, there has been no transparency on efforts being undertaken to achieve that goal, and no plan provided outlining the steps and metrics necessary to achieve that goal or what that opening will look like;

**Now therefore be it resolved,**

**That:** The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie requests that Canadian and US officials continue to work together to formulate the plan necessary to permit the safe eventual full reopening of the Canada-US border to all traffic, and further

**That:** The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie requests that the Canadian Federal government provide transparency on the steps and metrics necessary to reopen the border and what a reopened border will look like and any phasing in, as deemed appropriate, and further

**That:** The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie requests that The Public Health Agency of Canada coordinate with their provincial and municipal counterparts to immediately vaccinate our front-line Canadian Border Services Agency officers, and further

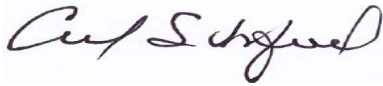
**That:** The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie extends their appreciation to all officials in both Canada and the United States involved for their continual efforts on conveying the concerns and challenges border communities have faced during the pandemic, and further

**That:** A copy of this resolution be circulated to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety, The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health (Canada), Joe Biden, President of the United States of America, Alejandro Mayorkas, United States Secretary of Homeland Security, Tony Baldinelli, Member of Parliament for Niagara Falls, Brian Higgins, US Congressman for the 26<sup>th</sup> District of the State of New York, Chris Jacobs, US Congressman for the 27<sup>th</sup> District of the State of New York, United States Senators Chuck Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand, all Members of Parliament representing constituencies of border crossing

municipalities along the Canada-US border, the Co-Chairs of the United States Congress Northern Border Caucus, and all border crossing Mayors of municipalities along the Canada-US border.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



Carol Schofield, Dipl.M.A.  
Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk

[cschofield@forterie.ca](mailto:cschofield@forterie.ca)

CS:dlk

C.C.

Mr. Joe Biden, President of the United States of America [dl.legislative@whmo.mil](mailto:dl.legislative@whmo.mil) / [correspondence@who.eop.gov](mailto:correspondence@who.eop.gov)

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety [Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health (Canada) [Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca)

Alejandro Mayorkas, United States Secretary of Homeland Security [dhssecretary@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:dhssecretary@hq.dhs.gov) / [congresstodhs@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:congresstodhs@hq.dhs.gov)

Tony Baldinelli, MP, Niagara Falls [Tony.Baldinelli@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Tony.Baldinelli@parl.gc.ca)

Brian Higgins, US Congressman for the 26<sup>th</sup> District of the State of NY/Co-Chair of the United States Congress Northern Border Caucus

[chris.fahvey@mail.house.gov](mailto:chris.fahvey@mail.house.gov)

Chris Jacobs, US Congressman for the 27<sup>th</sup> District of the State of NY, United States [George.mcnerney@mail.house.gov](mailto:George.mcnerney@mail.house.gov)

Chuck Schumer, United States Senator for New York [Jordan\\_nicholson@schumer.senate.gov](mailto:Jordan_nicholson@schumer.senate.gov)

Kristen Gillibrand, United States Senator for New York [invite@gillibrand.senate.gov](mailto:invite@gillibrand.senate.gov)

Elise Stefanik, Co-Chair of the United States Congress Northern Border Caucus [ny21esima@mail.house.gov](mailto:ny21esima@mail.house.gov)

Members of Parliament representing constituencies of border crossing municipalities along the Canada-US border

[Terry.Sheehan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Terry.Sheehan@parl.gc.ca), [Marcus.Powlowski@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marcus.Powlowski@parl.gc.ca), [Marilyn.Gladu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marilyn.Gladu@parl.gc.ca), [eric.duncan.p9@parl.gc.ca](mailto:eric.duncan.p9@parl.gc.ca), [michael.barrett@parl.gc.ca](mailto:michael.barrett@parl.gc.ca),

[Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca), [Tony.Baldinelli@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Tony.Baldinelli@parl.gc.ca), [Vance.Badawey@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Vance.Badawey@parl.gc.ca), [Carla.Qualtrough@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Carla.Qualtrough@parl.gc.ca), [kerry-lynn.findlay@parl.gc.ca](mailto:kerry-lynn.findlay@parl.gc.ca),

[Tako.VanPoota@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Tako.VanPoota@parl.gc.ca), [ed.fast@parl.gc.ca](mailto:ed.fast@parl.gc.ca), [Richard.Cannings@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Richard.Cannings@parl.gc.ca), [Rob.Morrison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Rob.Morrison@parl.gc.ca), [John.Barlow@parl.gc.ca](mailto:John.Barlow@parl.gc.ca), [Glen.Motz@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Glen.Motz@parl.gc.ca),

[Jeremy.Patzer@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jeremy.Patzer@parl.gc.ca), [Robert.Kitchen@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Robert.Kitchen@parl.gc.ca), [Larry.Maguire@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Larry.Maguire@parl.gc.ca), [candice.bergen@parl.gc.ca](mailto:candice.bergen@parl.gc.ca), [Ted.Falk@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Ted.Falk@parl.gc.ca),

[Richard.Bragdon@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Richard.Bragdon@parl.gc.ca), [John.Williamson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:John.Williamson@parl.gc.ca), [Claude.DeBellefeuille@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Claude.DeBellefeuille@parl.gc.ca), [Brenda.Shanahan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Brenda.Shanahan@parl.gc.ca), [Christine.Normandin@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Christine.Normandin@parl.gc.ca),

[Lvne.Bessette@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Lvne.Bessette@parl.gc.ca), [Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca), [Luc.Berthold@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Luc.Berthold@parl.gc.ca), [Richard.Lehoux@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Richard.Lehoux@parl.gc.ca), [Bernard.Genereux@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bernard.Genereux@parl.gc.ca),

[Maxime.Blanchette-Joncas@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Maxime.Blanchette-Joncas@parl.gc.ca)

Border crossing municipalities along the Canada-US border:

[mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca), [jcaul@fortfrances.ca](mailto:jcaul@fortfrances.ca), [rainyriver@tbaytel.net](mailto:rainyriver@tbaytel.net), [bhand@villageofpointedward.com](mailto:bhand@villageofpointedward.com), [mayor@sarnia.ca](mailto:mayor@sarnia.ca),  
[bcclement@cornwall.ca](mailto:bcclement@cornwall.ca), [btodd@prescott.ca](mailto:btodd@prescott.ca), [tlojko@gananoque.ca](mailto:tlojko@gananoque.ca), [jdiodati@niagarafalls.ca](mailto:jdiodati@niagarafalls.ca), [betty.disero@notl.com](mailto:betty.disero@notl.com), [janis.moore@sarnia.ca](mailto:janis.moore@sarnia.ca),  
[clerk@gananoque.ca](mailto:clerk@gananoque.ca), [lbell@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:lbell@cityssm.on.ca), [sconidi@niagarafalls.ca](mailto:sconidi@niagarafalls.ca), [ccampbell@niagarafalls.ca](mailto:ccampbell@niagarafalls.ca), [beth.audet@notl.com](mailto:beth.audet@notl.com),  
[khaney@fortfrances.ca](mailto:khaney@fortfrances.ca), [dgerrie@saultcity.com](mailto:dgerrie@saultcity.com), [harleyd@ci.international-falls.mn.us](mailto:harleyd@ci.international-falls.mn.us), [rickrone@mncable.net](mailto:rickrone@mncable.net), [reppp@porthuron.org](mailto:reppp@porthuron.org),  
[mattlebire@gmail.com](mailto:mattlebire@gmail.com), [jskelly@ogdensburg.org](mailto:jskelly@ogdensburg.org), [Robert.Restaino@niagarafallsny.gov](mailto:Robert.Restaino@niagarafallsny.gov), [mayor@city-buffalo.com](mailto:mayor@city-buffalo.com), [mayor@skagway.org](mailto:mayor@skagway.org),  
[gmckay@districtofstewart.com](mailto:gmckay@districtofstewart.com), [MayorHarvie@delta.ca](mailto:MayorHarvie@delta.ca), [bonyon@cityofblaine.com](mailto:bonyon@cityofblaine.com), [clerks@surrey.ca](mailto:clerks@surrey.ca), [CityHall@lyndenwa.org](mailto:CityHall@lyndenwa.org), [ifroese@tol.ca](mailto:ifroese@tol.ca),  
[mayorbraun@abbotsford.ca](mailto:mayorbraun@abbotsford.ca), [kchristensen@cityofsumas.com](mailto:kchristensen@cityofsumas.com), [neal.oroville@nvinet.com](mailto:neal.oroville@nvinet.com), [smckortoff@osoyos.ca](mailto:smckortoff@osoyos.ca), [mayor@republicwa.org](mailto:mayor@republicwa.org),  
[midwaybc@shaw.ca](mailto:midwaybc@shaw.ca), [btaylor@grandforks.ca](mailto:btaylor@grandforks.ca), [TownofNorthport@outlook.com](mailto:TownofNorthport@outlook.com), [mayor@rossland.ca](mailto:mayor@rossland.ca), [mayor@colville.wa.us](mailto:mayor@colville.wa.us),  
[Mayor.Lockwood@salmo.ca](mailto:Mayor.Lockwood@salmo.ca), [metfalls@potc.net](mailto:metfalls@potc.net), [Ron.Toyota@creston.ca](mailto:Ron.Toyota@creston.ca), [Ischermerhorn@eureka-mt.gov](mailto:Ischermerhorn@eureka-mt.gov), [Ischermerhorn@eureka-mt.gov](mailto:Ischermerhorn@eureka-mt.gov),  
[townbrwn@3rivers.net](mailto:townbrwn@3rivers.net), [admin@id4waterton.ca](mailto:admin@id4waterton.ca), [m.kronen@cardston.ca](mailto:m.kronen@cardston.ca), [lburley@cityofcutbank.org](mailto:lburley@cityofcutbank.org), [randy.bullock@cardstoncounty.com](mailto:randy.bullock@cardstoncounty.com),  
[town@northerntel.net](mailto:town@northerntel.net), [vilcouth@telus.net](mailto:vilcouth@telus.net), [division4@fortymile.ab.ca](mailto:division4@fortymile.ab.ca), [tsolomon@ci.havre.mt.us](mailto:tsolomon@ci.havre.mt.us), [Dan.Hamilton@cypress.ab.ca](mailto:Dan.Hamilton@cypress.ab.ca),  
[dolerud@haines.ak.us](mailto:dolerud@haines.ak.us), [rm51@sasktel.net](mailto:rm51@sasktel.net), [rm1tno.18@sasktel.net](mailto:rm1tno.18@sasktel.net), [vovm@sasktel.net](mailto:vovm@sasktel.net), [rm17@sasktel.net](mailto:rm17@sasktel.net), [rockglen1@sasktel.net](mailto:rockglen1@sasktel.net),  
[rm12@sasktel.net](mailto:rm12@sasktel.net), [dshowers@nemont.net](mailto:dshowers@nemont.net), [office@townofcoronach.ca](mailto:office@townofcoronach.ca), [ctypwood@nemont.net](mailto:ctypwood@nemont.net), [rmnine@sasktel.net](mailto:rmnine@sasktel.net), [rm07@sasktel.net](mailto:rm07@sasktel.net),  
[tabbyjj@hotmail.com](mailto:tabbyjj@hotmail.com), [cityofambrose@outlook.com](mailto:cityofambrose@outlook.com), [villageoftorquay@sasktel.net](mailto:villageoftorquay@sasktel.net), [r.ludwig@estevan.ca](mailto:r.ludwig@estevan.ca), [auditor@midstatetel.com](mailto:auditor@midstatetel.com),  
[villagen@sasktel.net](mailto:villagen@sasktel.net), [bowbells@nccray.com](mailto:bowbells@nccray.com), [townofalameda@sasktel.net](mailto:townofalameda@sasktel.net), [garrettvolk@srt.com](mailto:garrettvolk@srt.com), [village.carievale@sasktel.net](mailto:village.carievale@sasktel.net),  
[debm@twoborders.ca](mailto:debm@twoborders.ca), [westhopecity@srt.com](mailto:westhopecity@srt.com), [cityofsouris@live.ca](mailto:cityofsouris@live.ca), [admin@delowin.ca](mailto:admin@delowin.ca), [countsshelley@yahoo.com](mailto:countsshelley@yahoo.com),  
[jswanson@boissevain.ca](mailto:jswanson@boissevain.ca), [info@killarney.ca](mailto:info@killarney.ca), [colleen.mullin@cartwrightrobin.ca](mailto:colleen.mullin@cartwrightrobin.ca), [fina@louisemb.com](mailto:fina@louisemb.com), [scotth@utma.com](mailto:scotth@utma.com), [admin@pembina.ca](mailto:admin@pembina.ca),  
[city@cityoflangdon.com](mailto:city@cityoflangdon.com), [mayor@mymorden.ca](mailto:mayor@mymorden.ca), [walcity@utma.com](mailto:walcity@utma.com), [mayor@cityofwinkler.ca](mailto:mayor@cityofwinkler.ca), [don.wiebe@rhinelandmb.ca](mailto:don.wiebe@rhinelandmb.ca),  
[stuart@cvrindustries.com](mailto:stuart@cvrindustries.com), [pcityofc@invisimax.com](mailto:pcityofc@invisimax.com), [info@emersonfranklin.com](mailto:info@emersonfranklin.com), [lancastercity@wiktel.com](mailto:lancastercity@wiktel.com), [rmpiney.reeve@gmail.com](mailto:rmpiney.reeve@gmail.com),  
[rosoclrk@mncable.net](mailto:rosoclrk@mncable.net), [CityAdmin@warroadmn.org](mailto:CityAdmin@warroadmn.org), [rickrone@mncable.net](mailto:rickrone@mncable.net), [harleyd@ci.international-falls.mn.us](mailto:harleyd@ci.international-falls.mn.us), [dgerrie@saultcity.com](mailto:dgerrie@saultcity.com),  
[reppp@porthuron.org](mailto:reppp@porthuron.org), [emailmayorduggan@detroitmi.gov](mailto:emailmayorduggan@detroitmi.gov), [supervisor@townoflewiston.us](mailto:supervisor@townoflewiston.us), [alexandriabayvillageoffices@gmail.com](mailto:alexandriabayvillageoffices@gmail.com),  
[jskelly@ogdensburg.org](mailto:jskelly@ogdensburg.org), [supervisor@massena.us](mailto:supervisor@massena.us), [supervisor@townofconstable.com](mailto:supervisor@townofconstable.com), [dbilow1@gmail.com](mailto:dbilow1@gmail.com), [mooers1804@moersny.com](mailto:mooers1804@moersny.com),  
[village@hemmingford.ca](mailto:village@hemmingford.ca), [canton.township@hemmingford.ca](mailto:canton.township@hemmingford.ca), [info@cantondundee.ca](mailto:info@cantondundee.ca), [info@hinchinbrooke.com](mailto:info@hinchinbrooke.com), [admin@mun-havelock.ca](mailto:admin@mun-havelock.ca),  
[mayor@vchamplain.com](mailto:mayor@vchamplain.com), [info@mun-sbd.ca](mailto:info@mun-sbd.ca), [mayor@rousespointny.com](mailto:mayor@rousespointny.com), [maire@lacolle.com](mailto:maire@lacolle.com), [supervisor@townofchamplain.com](mailto:supervisor@townofchamplain.com),  
[villageofalburgh@fairpoint.net](mailto:villageofalburgh@fairpoint.net), [reception@ville.noyan.qc.ca](mailto:reception@ville.noyan.qc.ca), [info@clarenceville.qc.ca](mailto:info@clarenceville.qc.ca), [sbousquet@highgatevt.org](mailto:sbousquet@highgatevt.org), [info@municipalite.saint-armand.qc.ca](mailto:info@municipalite.saint-armand.qc.ca),  
[davebennion@franklinvt.net](mailto:davebennion@franklinvt.net), [municipalite@village.frelighsburg.qc.ca](mailto:municipalite@village.frelighsburg.qc.ca), [townclerk@richfordvt.org](mailto:townclerk@richfordvt.org), [info@aberncorn.ca](mailto:info@aberncorn.ca),  
[m.lafrance@sutton.ca](mailto:m.lafrance@sutton.ca), [villagenorthtroty1@comcast.net](mailto:villagenorthtroty1@comcast.net), [maire.potton@potton.ca](mailto:maire.potton@potton.ca), [directeurgeneral@stanstead.ca](mailto:directeurgeneral@stanstead.ca),  
[derbytownclerk@derbyvt.org](mailto:derbytownclerk@derbyvt.org), [administration@coaticook.ca](mailto:administration@coaticook.ca), [townofnorton@myfairpoint.ne](mailto:townofnorton@myfairpoint.ne), [nlabrecque@canaanschools.org](mailto:nlabrecque@canaanschools.org), [municipalite@st-hermenegilde.qc.ca](mailto:municipalite@st-hermenegilde.qc.ca),  
[direction@eastthereford.ca](mailto:direction@eastthereford.ca), [Townoffice@pittsburg-nh.com](mailto:Townoffice@pittsburg-nh.com), [chartierville@hsfgc.ca](mailto:chartierville@hsfgc.ca),  
[adm.woburn@axion.ca](mailto:adm.woburn@axion.ca), [info@sainttheophile.qc.ca](mailto:info@sainttheophile.qc.ca), [info@jackmanme.net](mailto:info@jackmanme.net), [info@pohenegamook.net](mailto:info@pohenegamook.net), [communication@edmundston.ca](mailto:communication@edmundston.ca),  
[town.manager@fortkent.org](mailto:town.manager@fortkent.org), [gmpicard@madawaska.me](mailto:gmpicard@madawaska.me), [vbtownmanager@gmail.com](mailto:vbtownmanager@gmail.com), [info@saint-leonard.ca](mailto:info@saint-leonard.ca), [vgs-tgf@nb.aibn.com](mailto:vgs-tgf@nb.aibn.com),  
[tm@limestonemaine.org](mailto:tm@limestonemaine.org), [info@perth-andover.com](mailto:info@perth-andover.com), [easton@easton.me.us](mailto:easton@easton.me.us), [voc@rogers.com](mailto:voc@rogers.com), [townhall@town.woodstock.nb.ca](mailto:townhall@town.woodstock.nb.ca),  
[billyhoward207@yahoo.com](mailto:billyhoward207@yahoo.com), [town.manager@houlton-main.com](mailto:town.manager@houlton-main.com)



## PORT COLBORNE

Corporate Services Department  
Clerk's Division

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street  
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 • [www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca)

T 905.835.2900 ext 106 F 905.834.5746  
E [amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca](mailto:amber.lapointe@portcolborne.ca)

April 30, 2021

Regulatory Affairs  
Strategic Policy, Cannabis  
Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch  
Health Canada

Sent via E-mail: [cannabis.consultation@canada.ca](mailto:cannabis.consultation@canada.ca)

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re: Resolution – Federal Government Cannabis Consultation**

Please be advised that, at its meeting of April 26, 2021, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

**THAT WHEREAS** the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-45 (the Cannabis Act) to create the foundation for a comprehensive national framework to provide restricted access to regulated cannabis, and to control its production, distribution, sale, importation, exportation, and possession;

**AND WHEREAS** unlicensed and unmonitored cannabis grow operations have increasingly become a problem in communities in Ontario as well as across the Country;

**AND WHEREAS** these operations are allowed to establish with little or no consultation with the local community and municipalities are often only made aware of their existence after conflicts arise with neighboring land owners;

**AND WHEREAS** there is no direct communication or dedicated effort to provide a communication channel between Municipal government staff or Police Agencies for dealing with Health Canada Registrations and Licenses;

**AND WHEREAS** the City of Port Colborne has not been consulted by Health Canada prior to the issuance of licenses for properties not in compliance with municipal zoning by-laws;

**AND WHEREAS** loopholes in existing Federal legislation allow these large scale grow op's to establish and operate without any of the regulations or protocols that licensed and monitored operations need to adhere to;

**AND WHEREAS** the police have not been given lawful authority to lay charges under the Cannabis Act to appropriately respond to violations of Health Canada Registrations and Licenses;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of Port Colborne urges the Federal Government and Health Canada to amend the legislation under which these facilities operate to ensure the safety and rights of the local communities in which they are situated are respected;

Limit the authorization to produce cannabis plants for personal medicinal use to the maximum daily quantity as prescribed by a professional medical practitioner to members of the immediate family living in the same residence;

Prohibit the ability for an individual to designate the growing and processing of medical cannabis plants and cannabis products by another individual on their behalf unless that individual is a member of the immediate family and resides in the same residence;

That medical marijuana be added to the approved drug list so that it be a covered cost under OHIP;

Issue one license to the property where the growing of medical cannabis for personal purposes is to be permitted;

Require Federal Licenses and Registrations for Designated Growers to conform with local zoning and control by-laws. Make it mandatory as part of the registration that the applicant provide a signed and dated declaration from the local municipality providing consent to the production and quantity of cannabis plants and products prior to approval of a licence to grow medical cannabis plants for personal consumption;

Ensure local authorities are provided with notification of any licence issuance, amendment, suspension, reinstatement or revocation within their region;

Provide dedicated communication with local governments and Police services;

Provide lawful authority to Police agencies to lay charges when registered or licences operations grow in excess of their registration or licence through Health Canada; and,

Provide enforcement support and guidance to local municipalities for dealing with land use complaints relating to Cannabis.

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of Port Colborne forward this motion to the following;

cannabis.consultation@canada.ca

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of  
Canada

MP Dean Allison, Niagara West

MP Chris Bittle, St. Catharines

MP Tony Baldinelli, Niagara Falls

MP Vance Badawey, Niagara Centre

President Micki Ruth, Canadian Association of Police Governance

Chief of Police Bryan Larkin, President, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of the Solicitor General

MPP Sam Oosterhoff, Niagara West

MPP Jennie Stevens, St. Catharines

MPP Wayne Gates, Niagara Falls

MPP Jeff Burch, Niagara Centre

Chair Patrick Weaver, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards

Chief of Police Paul Pedersen, President, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

Regional Chair Jim Bradley and Members of Council, Niagara Region

Mayor Dave Bylsma and Members of Council, Town of West Lincoln

Mayor Frank Campion and Members of Council, City of Welland

Mayor Jim Diodati and Members of Council, City of Niagara Falls

Mayor Betty Disero and Members of Council, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Mayor Sandra Easton and Members of Council, Town of Lincoln

Mayor Kevin Gibson and Members of Council, Township of Wainfleet

Mayor Jeff Jordan and Members of Council, Town of Grimsby

Mayor Marvin Junkin and Members of Council, Town of Pelham

Mayor Wayne Redekop and Members of Council, Town of Fort Erie

Mayor Walter Sendzik and Members of Council, City of St Catharines

Mayor Bill Steele and Members of Council, City of Port Colborne

Mayor Terry Ugulini and Members of Council, City of Thorold

Board Members, Niagara Police Services Board

Your favourable consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,



Amber LaPointe  
City Clerk



ec: The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of  
Canada  
MP Dean Allison, Niagara West  
MP Chris Bittle, St. Catharines  
MP Tony Baldinelli, Niagara Falls  
MP Vance Badawey, Niagara Centre  
President Micki Ruth, Canadian Association of Police Governance  
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Mayor Dave Bylsma and Members of Council, Town of West Lincoln  
Mayor Frank Campion and Members of Council, City of Welland  
Mayor Jim Diodati and Members of Council, City of Niagara Falls  
Mayor Betty Disero and Members of Council, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Mayor Sandra Easton and Members of Council, Town of Lincoln  
Mayor Kevin Gibson and Members of Council, Township of Wainfleet  
Mayor Jeff Jordan and Members of Council, Town of Grimsby  
Mayor Marvin Junkin and Members of Council, Town of Pelham  
Mayor Wayne Redekop and Members of Council, Town of Fort Erie  
Mayor Walter Sendzik and Members of Council, City of St Catharines  
Mayor Terry Ugulini and Members of Council, City of Thorold  
Board Members, Niagara Police Services Board



**Office of the Regional Chair | Jim Bradley**

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042 Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Telephone: 905-980-6000 ext. 3634 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-685-6243

Email: [jim.bradley@niagararegion.ca](mailto:jim.bradley@niagararegion.ca)

[www.niagararegion.ca](http://www.niagararegion.ca)

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April 30, 2021

Honourable Caroline Mulroney  
Minister of Transportation  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Sent by e-mail

Dear Minister Mulroney,

**RE: Vacant MTO Lands in Niagara-on-the-Lake**

On behalf of Niagara Region Council, I want to extend my gratitude to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) for their participation in the Glendale District Planning process. The Glendale District will soon be home to Ontario's first diverging diamond interchange.

The Glendale District is a strategic growth area designed to accommodate a significant amount of Niagara's growth over the next 30 years.

Niagara Region Council has prioritized the establishment of healthy and vibrant communities that foster a high quality of life through safe, healthy, and inclusive neighbourhoods. To this end, I am reaching out to share the Region's vision for the establishment of an Eco Park in the Glendale District of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The District envisions a passive Eco Park that will provide natural space for Niagara's growing population. The park will enhance existing natural environment features located on lands adjacent to the Welland Canal and Queen Elizabeth Way. A portion of the Eco Park site identifies the potential use of a large parcel owned by the Ministry of Transportation.

The MTO retains historical ownership of an approximate 24-hectare parcel at the corner of Homer and Taylor Roads in Niagara on the Lake. We are hoping your Ministry could review its land needs and consider leasing us all or a portion of this site for parkland use, either for the long term or until the MTO requires the site for its own purposes.

If this site were surplus to MTO needs, the Region would like to discuss opportunities for a long-term lease or purchase.

We are excited about this opportunity to preserve and enhance these lands through the establishment of a passive Eco Park and hope your Ministry shares our vision and value for this project.

If your office would like additional information about the project or the MTO lands in question, please feel free to contact my office or the Manager of Community Planning, Erik Acs at [erik.acs@niagararegion.ca](mailto:erik.acs@niagararegion.ca).

Sincerely,



Jim Bradley, Chair  
Niagara Region

cc. Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West  
Jennifer Stevens, MPP St. Catharines  
Wayne Gates, MPP Niagara Falls  
Jeff Burch, MPP Niagara Centre  
Ms. Chandra Sharma, CAO, NPCA  
Ms. Lisa Allen, Real Estate, St. Lawrence Seaway Corporation  
Mr. Craig Larmour, NOTL Director of Planning  
Mr. Peter Todd, NOTL Town Clerk  
Ms. Tami Kitay, St. Catharines Director of Planning  
Ms. Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, St. Catharines City Clerk  
Mr. Ron Tripp, CAO, Niagara Region  
Mr. Doug Giles, Acting Commissioner Planning & Development, Niagara Region  
Mr. Erik Acs, Manager, Community Planning, Niagara Region

**COVID-19** - Niagara is under a **provincewide stay-at-home order**. Learn about the **COVID-19 vaccination** and **service disruptions**.

## Regional Council makes progress on CAO recruitment

Over the past several months, Regional Council and its Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) [Recruitment Committee](#) has continued to work toward selecting a permanent Chief Administrative Officer.

The Recruitment Committee has retained [Legacy Executive Search Partners](#), an executive recruitment firm, to aid in the search for a permanent leader. Legacy Partners has a long history of successful work within Ontario's municipal sector, and has facilitated several CAO searches throughout the province, including neighbouring communities, along with a recent placement within Niagara.

Last night, Council approved [a position profile](#), job advertisement and core competencies for the CAO position. Developed by the CAO Recruitment Committee in consultation with Regional Councillors and senior staff, these documents capture the essential characteristics, traits, experiences, and abilities that exemplify leadership at Niagara Region, and will guide the identification and selection of candidates.

The job advertisement will be posted shortly and once closed, a long list of candidates will be considered by the CAO Recruitment Committee, to determine a short list of candidates to be invited for an interview over the coming months.

The updated CAO hiring process incorporates numerous recommendations made by the Provincial Ombudsman that were designed to strengthen the integrity of the process. The CAO Recruitment Committee, along with all of Regional Council, is committed to ensuring the recruitment process is open and transparent, fair and equitable.

### Media Inquiries

Daryl Barnhart  
Niagara Region  
289-969-3441  
[daryl.barnhart@niagararegion.ca](mailto:daryl.barnhart@niagararegion.ca)

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**COVID-19** - Niagara is under a **provincewide stay-at-home order**. Learn about the **COVID-19 vaccination** and **service disruptions**.

## More COVID-19 vaccination clinic dates available for booking

The provincial government has announced that individuals 55 years old or older in 2021 are now eligible to book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment via the provincial booking portal. As demand for appointments increases, the following Niagara Region Public Health clinic dates have been added to the portal:

- May 9-10 – Fort Erie, Leisureplex
- May 15-16 – Niagara-on-the-Lake, Community Centre
- May 16-22 – Pelham, Meridian Community Centre
- May 24, 25 & 28 – West Lincoln, West Lincoln Community Centre
- May 29 – Niagara Falls, MacBain Community Centre

Clinic dates for Port Colborne at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre on May 23, 26 and 27 will be added to the portal soon as well.

Those 45 or older in 2021 with a postal code starting with 'L2G' can also book an appointment through the portal. Pregnant individuals, as well as [highest-risk individuals with health conditions](#), plus an essential caregiver can also book an appointment by calling the provincial booking system.

Eligible residents can book an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination either online through the provincial portal at [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine) or by calling the provincial booking system at 1-833-943-3900.

As always, the most up-to-date and timely information about COVID-19 and Public Health vaccination efforts can be found on our [vaccination webpage](#).

## Media Inquiries

Kerri Stoakley  
Niagara Region Public Health  
905-688-8248 ext. 7303  
[kerri.stoakley@niagararegion.ca](mailto:kerri.stoakley@niagararegion.ca)

Share this article: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**COVID-19** - Niagara is under a **provincewide stay-at-home order**. Learn about the **COVID-19 vaccination** and **service disruptions**.

## Spring Branch Collection May 10 to June 4, 2021

Spring branch collection starts next week on May 10 and continues until June 4. Curbside branch collection is available across Niagara region to all residents living in single family homes and apartments with six units or less.

When setting out branches for collection, it is important to remember:

- Branches must be tied in bundles with twine
- Maximum weight of bundle = 22.7 kg (50 lbs.)
- Maximum size of bundle = 1.5 m (5 ft.) in length and 0.5 m (1.6 ft.) in diameter
- Individual branches inside of the bundle must not exceed 7 cm (2.8 in.) in diameter
- Branches must be at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular collection day, or placed out the night before after 5 p.m.
- During the weeks of spring branch collection, branches are often collected in a separate collection truck than Green Bin material

In addition to curbside collection, residents can also drop off branches (of any size) and yard waste at one of the [Region's Waste and Recycling Drop-off Depots](#) year-round, free of charge. To avoid delays at drop-off depots, plan your visit outside of the busiest days (Mondays, Tuesday and Saturdays).

Special collection weeks, such as branch collection, holiday collection and Christmas tree collection are included in the web/mobile app. [View your address specific calendar](#) or download the 'Niagara Region Waste' mobile app from the Apple or Google Play stores.

[Visit us online for more information about Niagara Region's waste management services](#), or call the Waste Info-Line at 905-356-4141 or 1-800-594-5542.

## Media Inquiries

Kate Ashbridge

Niagara Region

905-980-6000 ext. 2538

[kate.ashbridge@niagararegion.ca](mailto:kate.ashbridge@niagararegion.ca)

250 Thorold Road West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Welland ON L3C 3W2  
Telephone (905) 788-3135 x 251 | Facsimile (905) 788-1121  
[csharma@npca.ca](mailto:csharma@npca.ca) [www.npca.ca](http://www.npca.ca)

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Chief Administrative Officers  
NPCA Member Municipality

**RE: NrCan Growing Canada's Forests 2 Billion Trees Funding Initiative - Request for Information**

Dear Partners Municipality CAOs:

Thank you for your valuable time in joining the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) briefing meeting hosted on Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 regarding the above initiative. We truly want to communicate to the federal government a strong local partnership aspiring to collaborate towards a large-scale tree planting program.

To capitalize on this exciting opportunity, NPCA is seeking your support to submit an initial Request for Information (RFI) by May 27<sup>th</sup> specific to the NPCA jurisdiction across our fifteen partner municipalities. Your support would go a long way toward strengthening our collaborative submission, enhancing our tree canopy/forest cover, and engaging residents in this significant climate change initiative. At this time specific values of In-kind and cash commitments will not be required but a letter of support is critical to show strong local partnership capacity this early stage.

As requested, we are pleased to provide supporting documentation for your consideration. Included with this package you will find:

- A) A sample template Letter of Support to submit back to NPCA preferably by May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- B) An updated background presentation from Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, as well as the RFI guide and the associated form for more detail as to the request.
- C) A sample resolution that can be modified, as appropriate, for your Council consideration.

Additionally, we are requesting to designate a staff person to work with NPCA's restoration team to help identify restoration initiatives, restoration land availability, potential growers, and projected plantings.

Thank you for the support you have demonstrated thus far to bringing a significant federal investment to our jurisdiction. Please have your designated staff contact Geoff Verkade, Senior Manager Integrated Watershed Planning and Information Management at either [gverkade@npca.ca](mailto:gverkade@npca.ca) or extension 244.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chandra', written over a horizontal line.

Chandra Sharma MCIP RPP  
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

cc.

Geoff Verkade, Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Planning & Information Management (NPCA)

/Encl.

NPCA - 2 Billion Trees - Municipal CAO's circulation.pptx

NPCA - 2 Billion Trees Letter of Support.docx



[Date]

RE: Letter of Support for NPCA Growing Canada's Forest Program 2 Billion Trees

To whom it may concern

[Name of Municipality] is pleased to support the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) application to the Growing Canada's Forests program under the 2 Billion Trees initiative.

We recognize the value of creating resilient forests here in Niagara. We are part of the Carolinian zone, the most diverse and fragile ecoregion in Canada. The opportunity to implement nature-based climate solutions towards enhancing our unique forest and urban tree canopy is significant. This initiative will help strengthen our existing commitments to enhance natural areas and address climate impacts in our municipality.

We are committed to working with the NPCA in the coming months to identify suitable land within our municipality where we can restore and expand tree cover. We also intend to cost-share planting projects to scale our planting efforts with Federal funding support.

With more than 60 years of expertise, the NPCA is ideally positioned to successfully implement this project. Their emphasis on evidence-based conservation will ensure we leverage forestry best practices tailored to our unique geography. Meanwhile, their collaborative approach means efforts will be strategic and well-coordinated with the region's many stakeholders and partners.

As one of those partners, we look forward to working alongside the NPCA to plant, grow and maintain forests within our jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

[name]

[title]