

March 4, 2021

**CL 4-2021, February 25, 2021**  
**PHSSC 2-2021, February 16, 2021**  
**Minute Item No. 5.1, February 16, 2021**

***MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO)***

***SENT ELECTRONICALLY***

Motion respecting Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction in Niagara

Minute Item No. 5.1

Regional Council, at its meeting held on February 25, 2021, approved the following resolution from its Public Health and Social Services Committee:

WHEREAS Niagara Region prides itself as being a caring and compassionate community that continually strives to be a place where people want to live, work and play;

WHEREAS providing access to safe, adequate and affordable housing for everyone is fundamental to achieving that goal;

WHEREAS Niagara Region acknowledges that mental health, mental illness, addiction and homelessness, while important issues, are not homogenous, interchangeable or consistently interconnected, and doing so may over simplify exceptionally complex issues that require targeted policy solutions and intervention;

WHEREAS Niagara Region's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan (HHAP), A Home For All, outlines the Region's vision, challenges, and the actions required to achieve its goals;

WHEREAS Niagara Region has embarked on an ambitious effort to end chronic homelessness through participation in the national Built for Zero campaign;

WHEREAS Regional Council formally adopted Mental Health and Wellbeing (2.2) and Addressing Affordable Housing Needs (2.3) as strategic priorities for the current term of our Council;

WHEREAS a recent KPMG report commissioned by Niagara Region indicated that Council invests more levy funding than its peers into homelessness, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to addressing the issue;

WHEREAS Niagara Region acknowledges that people living in shelters are part of the crisis and not the solution;

WHEREAS Niagara Region has two planned housing projects that would directly address those in Niagara who experience chronic homelessness;

WHEREAS the implementation plan for Council's strategic objectives states that staff will identify gaps within the mental health system to increase the functionality and collaboration within it;

WHEREAS the same implementation plan directed staff to partner with Ontario Health (formally the LHIN) to review the local landscape to identify opportunities, including new investment;

WHEREAS the treatment and supports for mental illness, addiction, and homelessness are predominantly funded and directed by the Province;

WHEREAS the success of the Region's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan is dependent on a commitment of sustained and increased funding (both operational and capital) from all levels of government to address the issues of housing insecurity and homelessness in Niagara; and

WHEREAS the needs of the community far outweigh Niagara Region's available resources and funding required to effectively address these issues, and the support of both the Provincial and Federal governments are needed to meet these needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That Niagara Region Council officially **ACKNOWLEDGE** that a significant crisis exists in Niagara in regard to the prevalence of chronic homelessness and the lack of affordable housing that far surpasses the Region's ability to meet the vision dictated in its 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan (HHAP);
2. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send advocacy letters directly to the appropriate Federal and Provincial ministries outlining Niagara's current situation and requesting additional funding be provided to ensure Niagara can meet the vision outlined in its housing action plan;
3. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to advocate to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development for the required operational funding for the planned supportive and bridge housing initiatives;
4. That Regional staff **BE DIRECTED**, in alignment with the planned review of Council's strategic priorities, to produce a report specifically highlighting the progress being made and critical gaps in regard to services related to mental health, addictions and wellbeing;
5. That Regional staff **BE DIRECTED** to continue providing Regional Council updates on the HHAP and Built for Zero initiatives;
6. That Regional staff **BE DIRECTED** to request an update from the Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara (OPENN) regarding the current status of the actions being taken to address addiction related issues in Niagara; and

7. That a copy of this motion be sent to all members of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk

:kl

CLK-C 2021- 044

From:  
To:

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**Subject:** County of Peterborough Resolution Re: Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction in Niagara

**Date:** March-22-21 12:33:27 PM

**Attachments:** [CLK-C 2021-044 PHSSC Minute 5.1.pdf](#)

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Good Afternoon,

Please note at their meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Peterborough County Council approved the following resolution:

Be it resolved that County Council supports the Niagara Region's resolution dated February 25, 2021 regarding Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction in Niagara.

For your convenience I have attached the original letter from Niagara Region.

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Kari Stevenson at [kstevenson@ptbocounty.ca](mailto:kstevenson@ptbocounty.ca).

Thanks,

**Marissa Martin**

Administrative Services Assistant

Clerk's Division/Planning

(705) 743-0380 Ext. 2105

\* Individuals who submit letters and other information to Council should be aware that any personal information contained within their communications may become part of a public

record and may be made available to the public through the Council Agenda process.

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**From:** Lotimer, Kelly <[kelly.lotimer@niagararegion.ca](mailto:kelly.lotimer@niagararegion.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 4, 2021 1:26 PM

**Subject:** Niagara Region Motion Respecting Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction in Niagara

Good afternoon,

Please see the correspondence attached hereto regarding the above-noted subject matter.

Kelly Lotimer  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the Regional Clerk

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## Community Services

### Legislative Services

March 23, 2021  
File #120203

Association of Municipalities of Ontario Members:

**Re: Niagara Region – Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction in Niagara**

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of March 22, 2021 received and supported correspondence from the Niagara Region dated March 4, 2021 acknowledging a significant crisis exists in Niagara regarding the above; and that the Niagara Region be directed to send advocacy letters to the appropriate Federal and Provincial Ministers and advocate to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development for the required funding; to align with the Niagara Region's Strategic Plan and request an update from the Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara regarding the current status of the actions being taken to address addiction related issues in Niagara.

Attached please find a copy of the Niagara Region's correspondence dated March 4, 2021.

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

Attach

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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)

**Administration**

Office of the Regional Clerk

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

Telephone: 905-685-4225 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977

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

March 4, 2021

**CL 4-2021, February 25, 2021**  
**PHSSC 2-2021, February 16, 2021**  
**Minute Item No. 5.1, February 16, 2021**

***MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO)***
***SENT ELECTRONICALLY***
Motion respecting Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction in Niagara

Minute Item No. 5.1

Regional Council, at its meeting held on February 25, 2021, approved the following resolution from its Public Health and Social Services Committee:

WHEREAS Niagara Region prides itself as being a caring and compassionate community that continually strives to be a place where people want to live, work and play;

WHEREAS providing access to safe, adequate and affordable housing for everyone is fundamental to achieving that goal;

WHEREAS Niagara Region acknowledges that mental health, mental illness, addiction and homelessness, while important issues, are not homogenous, interchangeable or consistently interconnected, and doing so may over simplify exceptionally complex issues that require targeted policy solutions and intervention;

WHEREAS Niagara Region's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan (HHAP), A Home For All, outlines the Region's vision, challenges, and the actions required to achieve its goals;

WHEREAS Niagara Region has embarked on an ambitious effort to end chronic homelessness through participation in the national Built for Zero campaign;

WHEREAS Regional Council formally adopted Mental Health and Wellbeing (2.2) and Addressing Affordable Housing Needs (2.3) as strategic priorities for the current term of our Council;

WHEREAS a recent KPMG report commissioned by Niagara Region indicated that Council invests more levy funding than its peers into homelessness, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to addressing the issue;

WHEREAS Niagara Region acknowledges that people living in shelters are part of the crisis and not the solution;

WHEREAS Niagara Region has two planned housing projects that would directly address those in Niagara who experience chronic homelessness;

Received by  
 MARCH 22, 2021  
 COUNCIL



WHEREAS the implementation plan for Council's strategic objectives states that staff will identify gaps within the mental health system to increase the functionality and collaboration within it;

WHEREAS the same implementation plan directed staff to partner with Ontario Health (formally the LHIN) to review the local landscape to identify opportunities, including new investment;

WHEREAS the treatment and supports for mental illness, addiction, and homelessness are predominantly funded and directed by the Province;

WHEREAS the success of the Region's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan is dependent on a commitment of sustained and increased funding (both operational and capital) from all levels of government to address the issues of housing insecurity and homelessness in Niagara; and


WHEREAS the needs of the community far outweigh Niagara Region's available resources and funding required to effectively address these issues, and the support of both the Provincial and Federal governments are needed to meet these needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That Niagara Region Council officially **ACKNOWLEDGE** that a significant crisis exists in Niagara in regard to the prevalence of chronic homelessness and the lack of affordable housing that far surpasses the Region's ability to meet the vision dictated in its 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan (HHAP);
2. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send advocacy letters directly to the appropriate Federal and Provincial ministries outlining Niagara's current situation and requesting additional funding be provided to ensure Niagara can meet the vision outlined in its housing action plan;
3. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to advocate to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development for the required operational funding for the planned supportive and bridge housing initiatives;
4. That Regional staff **BE DIRECTED**, in alignment with the planned review of Council's strategic priorities, to produce a report specifically highlighting the progress being made and critical gaps in regard to services related to mental health, addictions and wellbeing;
5. That Regional staff **BE DIRECTED** to continue providing Regional Council updates on the HHAP and Built for Zero initiatives;
6. That Regional staff **BE DIRECTED** to request an update from the Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara (OPENN) regarding the current status of the actions being taken to address addiction related issues in Niagara; and

7. That a copy of this motion be sent to all members of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk

:kl

CLK-C 2021- 044