

## **THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

#### **REPORT 7-2005**

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on April 4, 2005, commencing at 3:10 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Almas; Bailey; Baty; Casselman; Katzman; Marshall; Mastroianni.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

#### **Staff**

Part-time: Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Mr. Hunter, Acting Director, Seniors Services; Ms. Noel, Data Analysis Coordinator; Ms. Stewart, Manager, Community Services; Ms. Watson, Manager, Community Services.

Others: Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

62. **Newcomer Employment Model and Immigration Strategy:  
Niagara Regional Newcomer Employment Advisory Group**

Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, introduced Ms. Mindorff, Chair, Niagara Regional Newcomer Employment Advisory Group, who was in attendance to apprise Committee of the plan to develop an employment model and immigration strategy.

Ms. Mindorff advised that the Newcomer Employment Advisory Group was formed in an effort to address the labour market needs in the Niagara Region and the overall employment opportunity issue for the newcomer population. Ms. Mindorff introduced Trudy Parsons, Niagara Training and Adjustment Board, Lori Watson, Manager, Community Services, Dr. Maria Carvello, Brock University and Kay Pallock, Brock University, members of the Newcomer Employment Advisory Group. Ms. Mindorff highlighted the newcomer employment strategy, commenting that a "Made in Niagara" model needs to be developed that will attract and retain skilled workers, investors and entrepreneurs in the Niagara Region.

Moved by Councillor Baty  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Report COM 31-2005, April 4, 2005, respecting Newcomer Employment Model and Immigration Strategy: Niagara Regional Newcomer Employment Advisory Group, be received.

That the Regional Chair correspond with the Honorable Marie Bountrogianni, Provincial Minister of Citizenship and Immigration requesting input into the Federal/Provincial settlement agreement.

That the Regional Chair correspond with the Honourable Joe Volpe, Federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) requesting input into the Federal/Provincial settlement agreement.

That staff be authorized to develop an employment model and immigration strategy that attracts and retains skilled workers, investors, and entrepreneurs in the Niagara Region, in collaboration with the Niagara Regional Newcomer Employment Advisory Group.

Carried.

63. Proposed Cemetery Pricing Model

Moved by Councillor Mastroianni  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 34-2005, April 4, 2005, respecting Proposed Cemetery Pricing Model, be deferred pending a legal opinion regarding the amount of \$1,000 as set out in subsection 44(4) of Ontario Regulation 130/92 of the Cemeteries Act.

Carried.

64. 2004 Ontario Works Service Contract

Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report COM 35-2005, April 4, 2005, respecting 2004 Ontario Works Service Contract, be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2004 Ontario Works Service Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services (Provincial Subsidy = \$11,713,373/Regional Levy = \$6,586,866).

Carried.

65. Funding Increase for Long Term Care:  
A Request for the 2005 Provincial Budget

Moved by Councillor Mastroianni  
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That Report COM 36-2005, April 4, 2005, respecting Funding Increase for Long Term Care: A Request for the 2005 Provincial Budget, be received for information.

Carried.

**JOINT REPORTS**  
**(Joint Reports can be found behind the  
Joint Reports Tab in the Blue Book)**

66. People Needing Housing: A Collaborative Housing  
Strategy for the Niagara Community

Moved by Councillor Bailey  
Seconded by Councillor Katzman

That Report COM 32-2005, April 4, 2005 (CSD 41-2005/DPD 47-2005, March 30, 2005) respecting People Needing Housing: A Collaborative Housing Strategy for the Niagara Community, be received.

- 1) That the actions proposed in the attached Appendix "A" People Needing Housing: A Collaborative Housing Strategy for the Niagara Community be undertaken by the understanding that specific actions may require subsequent consideration by Council.
- 2) That Regional staff proceed on the actions as described in this report.
- 3) That an interdepartmental team of senior Regional staff and Niagara Regional Housing staff be established to steer implementation of the Strategy and obtain community input for relevant recommendations.

Carried.

67. Overview – "Niagara Nurtures...A Snapshot of Niagara's Children"

Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services, advised that Early Years Niagara (EYN) will be launching its "Niagara Nurtures...A Snapshot of Niagara's Children" on Friday, April 8, 2005 at 8:45 a.m. at the Community Services Building at 3340 Schmon Parkway. The media have been invited to attend and the Regional

Chair will be presented with the “Snapshot” document at that time. Members of Committee are invited to attend and the document will also be made available to them.

Ms. Noel, Data Analysis Coordinator, advised that the “Snapshot” document highlights how well Niagara’s youngest citizens are faring, and identifies areas where Niagara is well serviced. Also identified are the gaps that need to be addressed in order to meet the goal of providing optimal conditions for early childhood development. The Snapshot consists of three sections: Early Learning and Care, Safety and Security and Health and Wellness.

Moved by Councillor Baty  
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report PHD 20, 2005, April 4, 2005 (COM 37-2005) respecting Overview – “Niagara Nurtures...A Snapshot of Niagara’s Children” be received for information.

Carried.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

68. **Youth Advisory Council Symposium**

Ms. Heidebrecht circulated a proposed draft agenda for the Youth Advisory Council Symposium being held on Monday, April 11, 2005 in the Newman Room at the Four Points Sheraton, Thorold. 50 students aged 13 to 18 will be attending the symposium which will provide them with an opportunity to network and learn leadership skills. Mayors and Councillors are invited to attend the round table sessions scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (including lunch). They are also invited to attend the entire day’s symposium, involving guest speakers and a hands-on leadership workshop if interested. Further information and a final agenda will be circulated to Regional Councillors.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

69. Moved by Councillor Marshall  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to legal matters.

Carried.

70. Proposed Funeral and Cremation Service Pricing Model

Moved by Councillor Katzman  
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report COM 33-2005, April 4, 2005, respecting Proposed Funeral and Cremation Service Pricing Model, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

71. Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 5:00 p.m. to meet again on Monday, April 18, 2005, at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters Building.

Jill Hildreth  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy  
Regional Clerk/  
Associate Director of Corporate Strategy