

Town of Pelham | Regional Councillor Report

May 15, 2019

Cannabis Production Issue

- Recently took part in a Town of Pelham roundtable discussion on Cannabis issues involving all levels of government.
 - Brought back discussion to the Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee.
 - Motion passed to hold a roundtable forum that including the federal and provincial partners as well as local planners.
1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to prepare a proposal and budget for a facilitated Regional roundtable/forum to discuss regulations, policies and enforcement pertaining to the cannabis production and greenhouse industry which would include Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and local area municipalities.

Airport Project

Recently received a presentation including both airport locations and held discussion regarding potentially assuming responsibility for the airports at the regional level.

That Report CAO 4-2019, dated May 2, 2019, respecting Airport Project Update, BE RECEIVED and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Niagara Regional Council **APPROVE** the Action Plan outlined in Appendix 1 of Report CAO 4-2019 which directs staff to enact Regional Council's direction to: pursue adopting sole-responsibility for the operations and governance of Niagara District Airport (NDA) and Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport (NCDRA);
2. That the outcomes of the Action Plan **BE REPORTED** back to Council; and
3. That outcomes of the Action Plan and/or adoption of the operations of the airports, resulting in incremental operating and/or capital budget requirements **BE REFERRED** for consideration as part of the 2020 budget process.

Amalgamation of Public Health

- Provincial government advised public health that it was being reorganized into 10 regional public health entities.
- Niagara will form part of an entity that includes City of Hamilton, Haldimand County, Norfolk County, and Brant County
- The new Board of Health will be in place for April 1, 2020.

- Public health funding ratio is currently 75% provincial and 25% local with some programming at 100% provincial
- New ratio will be changed April 1 to 70%-30%, and further revised to 60%-40% split by April 21, 2021.
- \$2.1 million allocation for a seniors dental program.

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

- Hired a new Interim CAO effective March 1.
- CAO Selection Committee in place to secure a permanent CAO.
- City of Hamilton had challenged their levy apportionment which was unsuccessful.
- Court recently ruled that Niagara Region is entitled to 27 members.
- Board put forward a skills matrix for review and implementation by the region.

Ohnia:Kara Geopark

- Recently received a presentation at the Region by UNESCO.
- 29 sites in and around Niagara have been identified for potential inclusion.
- This initiative would take a significant step forward in promoting eco-tourism in Niagara.
- Niagara currently is designated as a biosphere reserve.