



# Report of Regional Councillor

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Diana Huson

# Overview of Updates

Staff Vaccination Policy

Regional Chair's Youth Advisory Panel

Regional Incentive Review

# Staff Vaccination Policy

- ❖ Direction to develop a vaccination policy for all Regional Staff
- ❖ Policy to take effect in September
- ❖ Staff will be required to provide proof of full vaccination unless there is a reason related to a protected ground under the Human Rights Code
- ❖ The policy is similar to those implemented for child care, post-secondary and retirement homes.

# Regional Chair's Youth Advisory Panel

- ❖ Proposal received by the Niagara Falls Mayors Youth Advisory Committee
- ❖ Committee will be comprised of one representative from each municipality plus one Regional Councillor
- ❖ Committee to commence in October
- ❖ Recruitment to be conducted by the Region

# Incentive Review

- ❖ Incentive suite was developed 20 years ago.
- ❖ Review began in 2018 and included both process and value-for-money audits of incentive programs; public, stakeholder and local municipal partner engagement; and research into comparator programs and best practices.
- ❖ Incentives represent the largest discretionary item in the Niagara region budget amounting to 14 mil or 3.5% of the tax levy

## 4 Strategic Pillars



*In 2018 – 73% (\$13 mil) of awarded grants did not align with one of these objectives*

- New strategy aims to repurpose incentive funding to align with 4 strategic pillars
- Also includes improvement to delivery including enhancement of online information, one-window approach for applicants, improving on data & metrics, and a regular policy and procedure review.
- Important to make these changes now because Regional tax increment grants commitments will double 2019 levels over the next 5-7 years
- Next year there is an estimated \$17 million shortfall in the RDC grant budget
- Regional Council approved the changes at Council of the Whole and added back in the SNIP program. This item was not ratified by Council on Aug. 26 and will need to come forward at the September meeting of Council for a final decision on policy.

Questions?