

November 11, 2022

CL 17-2022, September 22, 2022

LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES

NORFOLK COUNTY

ESSEX COUNTY

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Motion Respecting Active Transportation and Migrant Workers

Regional Council, at its meeting held on September 22, 2022, passed the following motion:

Whereas approximately 4,000 seasonal workers from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean spend up to eight months a year living and labouring in Niagara, forming the backbone of Niagara's billion-dollar agricultural industry;

Whereas the population of these farmworkers is significant, being roughly equal in number to the population of people aged 20 to 65 who live in the township of Wainfleet;

Whereas seasonal agricultural workers are not only our constituents, work colleagues, neighbours, and friends, they have inherent rights and freedoms to travel freely and safely in this community that must be recognized and supported;

Whereas migrant workers and other travellers face numerous transportation barriers that restrict their ease of movement including, but not limited to, lack of access to various modes of transportation and housing and workplaces in rural settings that are isolated and along rural roads that do not have dedicated space for pedestrians or cyclists to separate them from vehicle traffic; and

Whereas most migrant farm workers are vulnerable road users who walk or use bicycles as their primary modes of transportation and are at statistically higher risk of injury and death on Niagara's roads.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Region **DEMONSTRATE** leadership in addressing migrant workers' historic and ongoing exclusions by supporting their rights to safe mobility in and around Niagara;

2. That Niagara Region **ESTABLISH** policies and protocols that ensure migrant workers are included in consultations related to transportation plans, as well as other Regional initiatives that affect them, and that barriers to consultation, such as language, work hours, and lack of transportation be recognized and addressed;
3. That Niagara Region **ADOPT** policies to improve the participation, mobility and safety of migrant workers;
4. That Niagara Region **LEVERAGE** its data on farm businesses and migrant worker residences, garnered by virtue of its agreement with the federal government through the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program, for consultation and transportation planning purposes;
5. That Niagara Region and the 12 Local Area Municipalities **CONTINUE** to work together on implementing active transportation initiatives that link both regional and municipal roads, as identified in Transportation's Bikeways Master Plan in the Transportation Master Plan, to allow for a continuous network for all road users; and
6. That this motion **BE CIRCULATED** to all local area municipalities in Niagara and the Counties of Essex and Norfolk.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk