
February 28, 2020

Mayor Bylsma
Township of West Lincoln
318 Canborough Street, PO Box 400
Smithville, Ontario, L0R 2A0

Dear Mayor Bylsma,

On September 19, 2019, Niagara Regional Council approved a motion for the Niagara Region to join the Canadian Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities. By way of background, I have enclosed for you the report titled **"CAO 14-2019 Action and Resources to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities"** which outlines the staff recommendations and resourcing to support this initiative.

On December 12, 2019, Niagara Regional Council approved the resource recommendations in the report as part of the 2020 Regional budget process, and we would like to finalize our commitment by officially joining the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities in early 2020.

What this entails, is signing a declaration to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, including a formal announcement via a media release and possible media event.

We would like to invite all twelve municipalities to join in signing this declaration, and participating in a media event, as one Niagara region. For municipalities to participate, the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities has requested that each municipal Council pass a motion of support. Attached is a draft declaration, which includes all twelve municipalities working with the Niagara Region to develop a joint Plan of Action.

We know that diversity, equity and inclusion matter to all of us in Niagara, and we are determined to work supportively together to tackle racism and discrimination and promote human rights and diversity.

Please respond to indicate your interest in joining in this work. Cassandra Ogunniyi will be reaching out in the coming weeks to follow up on any questions you may have, or additional information we can provide to you, your staff, or your municipal Council.

With thanks,



Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Area Municipal Mayors
Area Municipal CAOs

Declaration to Join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities

Given that:

1. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is calling on municipalities to join a Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities and to be part of UNESCO's international Coalition launched in 2004; and
2. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) endorses the Call for a Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities and encourages its members to join; and

Whereas:

3. Municipal governments in Canada, along with other levels of government, have responsibilities under Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* as well as federal, provincial and territorial human rights codes, and therefore have an important role to play in combating racism and discrimination and fostering equality and respect for all citizens;

Be it resolved that:

4. The Regional Municipality of Niagara, The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie, The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby, The Corporation of the Town of Lincoln, The Corporation of the City of Niagara Falls, The Corporation of The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, The Corporation of the Town of Pelham, The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne, The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines, The Corporation of the City of Thorold, The Corporation of The Township of Wainfleet, The Corporation of the City of Welland, and The Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln agree to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities and, in joining the Coalition, endorses the Common Commitments (see Appendix A) and agree to develop or adapt a joint Plan of Action led by the Regional Municipality of Niagara accordingly.
5. These Common Commitments and the Municipalities' joint Plan of Action will be an integral part of the Municipalities' vision, strategies and policies.
6. In developing or adapting and implementing the joint Plan of Action toward progressive realization of the Common Commitments, the Municipalities will cooperate with other organizations and jurisdictions, including other levels of government, Indigenous peoples, public and private sector institutions, and civil society organizations, all of whom have responsibilities in the area of human rights.
7. The Municipalities will set their priorities, actions and timelines and allocate resources according to their unique circumstances, and within their means and jurisdiction. The Municipalities will exchange their expertise and share best practices with other municipalities involved in the Coalition and will report publicly on an annual basis on actions undertaken toward the realization of these Common Commitments.

The Regional Municipality of Niagara, insert date (month day, year)

His Worship, Regional Chair Jim Bradley

SIGNATURE OF THE CHAIR



The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie, insert date (month day, year)

His Worship Wayne Redekop

SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR

The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby, insert date (month day, year)

His Worship Jeff Jordan

SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR

The Corporation of the Town of Lincoln, insert date (month day, year)

Her Worship Sandra Easton

SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR

The Corporation of the City of Niagara Falls, insert date (month day, year)

His Worship Jim Diodati

SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR

The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, insert date (month day, year)

Her Worship Betty Disero

SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR

The Corporation of the Town on Pelham, insert date (month day, year)

His Worship Marvin Junkin

SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR

The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne, insert date (month day, year)

His Worship Bill Steele

SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR

The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines, insert date (month day, year)

His Worship Walter Sendzik

SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR

The Corporation of the City of Thorold, insert date (month day, year)

His Worship Terry Ugulini

SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR

The Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet, insert date (month day, year)

His Worship Kevin Gibson

SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR

The Corporation of the City of Welland, insert date (month day, year)

His Worship Frank Campion

SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR

The Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln, insert date (month day, year)

His Worship Dave Bylsma

SIGNATURE OF THE MAYOR

Appendix A: Coalition for Inclusive Municipalities, Common Commitments

The municipality as a guardian of the public interest

1. Increase vigilance against systemic and individual racism and discrimination.
2. Monitor racism and discrimination in the community more broadly as well as municipal actions taken to address racism and discrimination.
3. Inform and support individuals who experience racism and discrimination.
4. Support policing services in their efforts to be exemplary institutions in combating racism and discrimination.

The municipality as an organization in the fulfillment of human rights

5. Provide equal opportunities as a municipal employer, service provider, and contractor.
6. Support measures to promote equity in the labour market.
7. Support measures to challenge racism and discrimination and promote diversity and equal opportunity in housing.

The municipality as a community sharing responsibility for respecting and promoting human rights and diversity

8. Involve citizens by giving them a voice in anti-racism initiatives and decision-making.
9. Support measures to challenge racism and discrimination and promote diversity and equal opportunity in the education sector, and in other forms of learning
10. Promote respect, understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity and the inclusion of Aboriginal and racialized communities into the cultural fabric of the municipality.