

December 21, 2020

CL 23-2020, December 17, 2020

LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

**RE: Motion – Creation of a Lobbyist Registry for the Region of Niagara
Minute Item 11.1**

Regional Council, at its meeting held on December 17, 2020, passed the following motion:

WHEREAS access to local government is an essential element of democratic governance;

WHEREAS lobbying by honest and appropriate means is a legitimate activity;

WHEREAS it is reasonable for Members of Council and the public at large to know the nature and amount of legitimate lobbying of local government;

WHEREAS Section 223.9 of the Municipal Act, 2001, authorizes the Region of Niagara to establish and maintain a Lobbyist Registry in which shall be kept registrations and returns filed by persons who lobby the Region of Niagara's public office holders;

WHEREAS Section 223.11 of the Municipal Act, 2001 authorizes the Region of Niagara to appoint a Lobbyist Registrar who is responsible for performing in an independent manner the functions assigned by the Region of Niagara with respect to the Lobbyist Registry; and

WHEREAS Sections 8, 9, and 10 of the Municipal Act, 2001 authorize the Region of Niagara to pass by-laws necessary or desirable for municipal purposes, and in particular paragraph 2 of subsection 10(2) authorizes by-laws respecting the accountability and transparency of the municipality and its operations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Council **DIRECT** staff to research and report back with recommendations for the creation and maintenance of a Lobbyist Registry, which should include a regular, transparent reporting process and contains a jurisdictional scan for best practices from other municipal governments in Ontario, such as Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Brampton, Peel Region, Vaughan, and Collingwood; and
2. That this motion **BE CIRCULATED** to Niagara's 12 local area municipalities.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Marie' followed by a stylized flourish.

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

CLK-C 2020-243