

Aug 12, 2025

Niagara Region

Dear Ann-Marie Norio:

Re: Endorse the Development of a Code of Conduct for Human Trafficking Prevention in Niagara Region

This is to confirm that at the Aug 11, 2025 Council Meeting the following resolution was adopted with respect to the above noted matter:

WHEREAS human trafficking in Niagara is currently a persistent challenge impacting the hospitality and tourism sectors;

WHEREAS human trafficking is a critical issue due to the region's proximity to the U.S. border and the thriving tourism and hospitality sectors, which create environments where sexual and labour exploitation can go unnoticed;

WHEREAS women, newcomers, racially-marginalized people, people experiencing poverty, people living with disabilities, and children in the child welfare system are disproportionately targeted and impacted by the harms perpetuated by traffickers;

WHEREAS 60% of human trafficking cases in Ontario occur along the corridor linking Toronto and Niagara;

WHEREAS data from the Niagara Regional Police Service comparing 2023 to 2024 indicates the number of human trafficking investigations increased by 61%; the number of victims identified increased by 700%; the number of accused charged increased by 190%; the number of criminal charges laid increased by 75%; and the number of referrals from NRPS' Human Trafficking Unit to Victim Services Niagara increased by 133%;

WHEREAS human trafficking thrives in secrecy, but with leadership and commitment, local government can be on the front line of prevention and protection;

WHEREAS local businesses and organizations are key to preventing human trafficking through proactive measures such as The 4 Ps: prevention, protection, partnership, and prosecution;

WHEREAS local area municipalities have already begun to assist in making the Niagara region inhospitable to human traffickers;

WHEREAS Tools of Empowerment for Success (TOES) Niagara and Brock University have undertaken work funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada to develop a Code of Conduct to Prevent Human Trafficking in the Niagara Region through education, increasing awareness, and providing resources, including prevention strategies; and

WHEREAS TOES Niagara and Brock University created a Steering Committee of representatives from across tourism, business, education, law enforcement, government, and non-profit sectors to engage in broad community collaboration through focus groups, surveys, and feedback sessions to develop the Code of Conduct for Human Trafficking Prevention in the Niagara Region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Township of West Lincoln **RECOGNIZE** that human trafficking in Niagara has serious impacts on the health and wellness of local residents and their families, as well as negative economic impacts on local businesses and communities;
2. That Township of West Lincoln **ENDORSE** the work of TOES Niagara and Brock University in developing a Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Niagara Region;
3. That Township of West Lincoln **COMMIT** to reviewing and assessing the applicable local government sectoral guidelines and responsibilities outlined in The Code upon its finalization, with the intent to implement measures that align with Regional priorities and capacity;
4. That Township of West Lincoln **WRITE** letters to all of Niagara's 12

Local Area Municipalities encouraging them to also endorse the work of TOES Niagara and Brock University in the development of the Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Niagara Region and commit to reviewing and assessing the applicable local government sectoral guidelines and responsibilities outlined in The Code upon its finalization, with the intent to implement measures that align with municipal priorities and capacity; and

5. That a copy of this motion **BE SENT** to Niagara's four MPs; Niagara's four MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO); Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM); and the Ontario and Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Police.

If any further information is required, please contact the undersigned at 905-957-3346, Ext 5129.

Yours Truly,



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JJP/jmt

cc. Dean Allison, MP
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP
Chris Bittle, MP
Tony Baldinelli, MP
Fred Davies, MP
Jennifer Stevens, MPP
Wayne Gates, MPP
Jeff Burch, MPP
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Niagara Region Municipalities
Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO)
Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM)
Ontario and Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Police