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**SENT ELECTRONICALLY**

October 16, 2025

Regional Municipality of Niagara  
1815 Sir Issac Brock Way,  
Box 1042  
Thorold ON  
L2V 4T7

Attention: Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Dear Ms. Norio:

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

Please be advised the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the Lake, at its regular meeting held on September 23, 2025, approved the following resolution:


**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%;

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	October 20, 2025 9:38 am
Original To:	CIP
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Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**WHEREAS** human trafficking thrives in secrecy, but with leadership and commitment, local government can be on the front line of prevention and protection the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified concerning trends with fewer people voting in local elections and running for municipal office;

**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.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake 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; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake 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; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake 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; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake write letters to all 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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** 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 you have any questions or require further information, please contact my office at 905-468-6488.

Sincerely,



Grant Bivol  
Town Clerk/ Manager of Legislative Services

c.c. 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 (FCM)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Niagara Region Municipalities  
Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO)  
Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM)  
Ontario and Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Police