



BRIEFING NOTE

COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman Friday, July 3, 2020

Good morning, I hope you all had a good Canada Day.

I have to say, I felt a lot of community spirit this Canada Day. I noticed more porches decorated with Canada flags and although we couldn't gather to view firework displays like we usually do, it seems like we were still able to celebrate together while staying apart.

COVID-19 Economic Recovery Committee

Today I'd like to update you on the activities of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Committee.

This Ad Hoc committee is focused on reviewing the Region's post COVID-19 economic strategy to support our community through its recovery by reviewing stimulus activities such as:

- tax policy;
- reducing red tape;
- development charges;
- capital spending and
- stimulus activities in general.

The committee would like to engage the local business community to discuss how the Region can help support economic recovery in Waterloo region.

We'll be looking for input and feedback from businesses on their needs, challenges, as well as what tools and tactics we can put in place locally to help stimulate our economy

A virtual public meeting has been scheduled for **Thursday, July 16, 2020 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held via Zoom and broadcast on the Region's YouTube channel.

We hope you'll join us to work together on Waterloo Region's post COVID-19 economic plan.

COVID-19 Mask by-law special Council meeting

At a special Council meeting this Monday, Regional Council will be voting on two by-laws that will require mask wearing on transit and in indoor public settings such as retail stores, restaurants, museums and more.

The draft by-laws ensure that considerations are made for those who are unable to wear a face covering due to medical conditions or disabilities.

There will be no requirement for people to prove their disability. The by-law will also exempt children under the age of five.

If the by-laws are passed, we will share more information about timelines and undertake an education campaign for the public. The report will be made public this afternoon and we can answer more questions about the by-laws at that time.

Extended heat wave

During the current heat wave we're having, I recommend all of Dr. Wang's suggestions for staying cool and safe, but I would also like to add a reminder to check in on loved ones and vulnerable neighbours either virtually or at a distance if you're not in the same social circle. I'm sure it will be greatly appreciated.

Have a great weekend and stay safe.