



# BRIEFING NOTE

**COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman  
Friday, June 5, 2020**

## **Solidarity in Waterloo Region**

Yesterday I was heartened to see the solidarity in Waterloo Region. Thousands turned out for a peaceful march in downtown Kitchener to protest anti-black racism and police brutality and thousands more watched the Facebook Live Stream. I want to thank the organizers for a job well done.

I was also very glad to see that most people who participated were protecting **each other** by wearing masks and other personal protective equipment.

There are two more solidarity marches today and I am hopeful that these will also be peaceful and safe gatherings for a truly important cause.

## **Premier's Council on Equality of Opportunity**

Yesterday, the Ontario government announced the Premier's Council on Equality of Opportunity, a new advisory group that will provide advice on how young people can overcome social and economic barriers and achieve success. The council will also advise government on long-term actions that can be taken to support youth during the COVID-19 outbreak.

It is also good to hear that the Ontario government will be supporting Black communities to address the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 by allocating \$1.5 million in funding to organizations that support Black families and youth. This funding will be used to provide urgent COVID-19 supports and address the immediate needs of children, youth and families.



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## The new normal

As things begin to re-open and staff return to work, I often wonder what this new normal will be like.

One thing is certain is that we won't emerge from lockdown suddenly immune to COVID-19. The vast majority of us still remain susceptible.

In this "in-between" time we must maintain a delicate balance of restarting the economy and keeping the virus at bay.

That's why we must work physical distancing and public health measures, like wearing a mask and washing our hands, into **every** aspect of our daily lives until a vaccine is developed and the World Health Organization declares this pandemic over. – **This is the new normal.**

So in order to move successfully into the next phase of the pandemic response, I must continue to emphasize that we all need to remain vigilant with our Public Health measures and physical distancing.

Businesses are working hard to prepare their establishments and provide a safe environment for their employees and the public.

AND at the Region of Waterloo, we will continue to provide residents with the municipal programs and services you depend on.... but we will have a new normal as well. We are adapting our buildings, service delivery and programming to ensure the health and safety of citizens and staff. Stay tuned for more details on this and new ways you can interact with us online.



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## **Weekend Forecast**

The weather looks wonderful this weekend, please try to get out and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine with your family.

Stay safe and have a great weekend.