



# **SPEAKING NOTES**

## **COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman April 16, 2021**

### **Welcome**

Welcome everyone to this week's livestream broadcast.

Today we will hear updates from our medical officer of health, Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, and vaccine task force chair, Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton. We will also hear from our special guest Fauzia Baig, the Region's Equity and Anti-Racism Advisor, who will talk about vaccine outreach by the Community Engagement Working Group.

### **Volunteer Week**

Next week is National Volunteer Week. On behalf of Regional Council, I want to thank our Regional volunteers as well as the thousands the citizens who have helped each other, even in a small way, through the pandemic.

This includes hundreds of volunteers who have made transformative contributions at the vaccine clinics, as well as important areas like food services, housing and homelessness.

The theme for volunteer week 2021 is "The Value of One, The Power of Many." This reflects the awe-inspiring acts of kindness by thousands of community members AND the magic that happens when we work together toward a common purpose.

During the pandemic we've seen people supporting family, friends, neighbours, and strangers...people standing up to systemic racism, and people sharing insights on how to create a more just and equitable society.



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Yesterday was the International Day of Pink – an important reminder to celebrate inclusive and diverse communities, and to stand against bullying, homophobia, transphobia and discrimination.

This year has shown us the power of people, organizations and sectors working together.

On that note, I want to share an email we received from one of our vaccination clinic volunteers. I think it conveys the true meaning and reward of volunteering, and the service-oriented volunteers in our community:

*"I did my first volunteer shift yesterday at the Boardwalk. I was overcome with emotion as I drove home last night. I was hoping to share this with you and perhaps you could share it with others.*

*Last night I was met with love, compassion, gratitude and hope.*

*I had people well up with tears as they thanked me for volunteering.*

*People shared personal stories of what getting the vaccine means to them.*

*So many smiled and said we wouldn't be here without volunteers like you.*

*One man was so excited while waiting in line he danced and sang, bringing joy to everyone. As he left, he yelled at me from the entrance, "I got it, I got it (as he pointed to his arm) I will see you for my next needle " and danced out the door.*

*For the first time in a long time, I felt hope and a real sense of community.*

*Cheers to all the frontline workers and volunteers.*

Thank you to this anonymous volunteer for sharing that experience and for their service to their community.



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## **Enforcement update**

While most in our community continue to follow public health guidelines, we continue to see the need for enforcement.

Yesterday, two more charges were laid against Trinity Bible Chapel. They were Two Part III Summons with fines to be decided by the courts.

There have been 10 enforcement actions since the last media update.

There are 9 charges for the reporting period April 8 to April 14, 2021.

There was also 1 charge from the previous reporting period that was not reported at the time of the update.

- City of Cambridge By-Law issued 3 tickets to private residences for gatherings – total payable is \$880 each.
- City of Waterloo By-Law issued 4 tickets to private residences for gatherings – total payable is \$880 each.
- City of Kitchener By-Law issued 2 tickets to private residences for gatherings – total payable is \$880 each.
- GRT Security issued 1 ticket at Fairway Terminal for Failing to Comply with the Face Covering by-law - \$240 fine.

**Now we will move on to our weekly update from Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang.**

**Vaccine Task Force Chair, Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton update**



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## **Special Guest**

I would now like to introduce our special guest Fauzia Baig, Equity and Anti-Racism Advisor for the Region.

## **Extro – Hear stories from our Community**

Today we are leaving you with a video from a new series created by the Region called “Hear stories from our community”.

They feature community leaders and medical professionals who share their reasons for getting vaccinated to help build trust in vaccine safety in priority communities.

As Fauzia has mentioned, much effort and work has gone into understanding the root causes of vaccine hesitancy so information can be provided in a culturally appropriate way.

Let’s watch.