



BRIEFING NOTE

COVID-19 media briefing notes - Karen Redman June 2, 2020

Diversity and inclusion

We at the Region are saddened by the global chaos, loss of life, pain and suffering of all those impacted by events happening south of border. We know there is still work to do locally as well, and we must all continue to challenge and eliminate systematic racism and all forms of discrimination. Our strength in Waterloo Region IS our collective differences.

I believe we are a community that genuinely cares for one another, and we at the Region are committed to offering programs that continue to foster healthy, safe and inclusive communities – for everyone!

In honour of PRIDE month and our LGBTQ community, we are flying the Pride flag at our Regional Headquarters to celebrate diversity and promote inclusion.

June is also seniors' month. And we are participating in a campaign launched yesterday called Stay Safe - Lead the Way. It's a campaign designed to keep older adults safe, healthy and connected throughout the phases of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although all age groups are at risk of contracting COVID-19, older people face significant risk of developing severe illness and are at greater risk of social isolation and frailty. If you or someone you know is in need of help or services visit www.caredove.com

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Funding news

Regional councillors and myself were pleased to hear the federal government announce some rush funding to help municipalities like ours whose revenues have plummeted because of the pandemic.

We'll be getting money we typically receive from the Federal Gas Tax program early this year, to help ease budget concerns.

The \$2.2 billion will help Canadian municipalities provide essential services, however we will continue to support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' appeal for at least \$10 billion in emergency funding.

The Region's revenue shortfalls are totalling approximately \$4.8 million per month during the pandemic.

The early release of this money will help in the short term, and we're encouraged to hear there are plans for more.

We're committed to keeping essential services running when people need them most.