



SPEAKING NOTES

COVID-19 Community Update – Karen Redman Speaking Notes

December 4, 2020

Government support

Government, business and community must all work together to get through this pandemic. And support is needed.

Regional Council passed a unanimous motion at the Board of Health earlier this week requesting further assistance from the provincial and federal governments to help us tackle the increase in COVID-19 community spread in our region.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, Dr. Williams has applauded our local Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Wang for steps taken locally including Section 22 class order Region wide and specific Section 22 class orders for the Old Order, Markham, Old Colony, and David Martin Mennonite communities in the rural areas of our Region.

I spoke with Premier Doug Ford yesterday to stress the concerns of our community spread and specific issues within the Mennonite communities as well as outbreaks in workplace settings. He indicated his willingness to continue to be a strong partner and we are working with the Province.

I echoed the request that Dr. Wang has made to the provincial Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Williams to request additional resources in case and contact tracers as well as continued support personnel for enforcement, specifically Ministry of Labour officers.

We appreciate the help they've given us so far but as our case rate continues to rise, and we're seeing increased spread as well as outbreaks – especially in workplace settings, we need more help.



SPEAKING NOTES

Additional case and contact and enforcement staff will allow us to be more successful under the current restrictions and ideally slow the spread to avoid a future lockdown.

Region supports local business

Avoiding a future lockdown is exactly what our restaurants and local businesses want.

We are working with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and locally, our business network BESTWR to advocate for fair and manageable solutions for small businesses as well as providing as much information and support as possible to ensure businesses have that they need to comply with public health guidelines, keep patrons and the community safe and as a result, stay open.

Please remember to support your local businesses over the next few weeks. Many rely on the holiday season to get them through the winter.

Enforcement Update

The two week provincial multi-ministry education and enforcement campaign with over 30 provincial officers deployed in the Region of Waterloo ended Saturday November 28.

A summary from the provincial team includes:

- Almost 500 total businesses visited
- 77% of businesses visited were found to be in compliance
- 115 businesses had contraventions
- 3 total tickets issued (sports/fitness business; and a restaurant; and auto service/retail business)
- 5 total COVID related Occupational Health & Safety Act Orders to Comply were issued



SPEAKING NOTES

- 42 places were flagged for a return visit by the Multi-Ministry Team

The Regional enforcement update for the week of November 26 to December 2 includes a number of tickets issued:

- The City of Waterloo Bylaw issued 3 tickets to occupants of 3 different private residences for Failing to obey a continued Order, under the Re-Opening Ontario Act, for exceeding gathering limits. These tickets were all were a total payable ticket of \$880.
- The City of Kitchener Bylaw issued 1 ticket to the occupant of a private residence for Failing to obey a continued Order, under the Re-Opening Ontario Act, for exceeding gathering limits. This ticket was a total payable of \$880.
- The Region of Waterloo Bylaw issued 2 tickets under the Regional Mask Bylaw. Both were issued at an apartment building to tenants for not wearing a mask in a common area. Each ticket was \$200.

Community Support Control Group update

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Region has chaired the Community Support Control Group which is a collection of social service agencies working together to respond to those in need including housing, food security, children's services, animal care, volunteer services, and mental health supports.

This group continues to coordinate social supports for individuals and families who experienced these types of challenges.

In addition, a strong connection with the Volunteer Action Centre continues to ensure that volunteers were registered, training and ready and able to respond to gaps in service from front line delivery to administration.

During the height of the first wave, this group met several times weekly and continues to meet regularly with the same purpose in mind ... ensuring nobody falls through the cracks.



SPEAKING NOTES

Introduce Foodbank

A community leader who is critical to Community Support and helping to lead the local response to community need is our guest panelist this week, Wendi Campbell, CEO of the Waterloo Region Food Bank.

But first, I welcome Dr. Wang our Medical Officer of Health to deliver her update.