



# **SPEAKING NOTES**

**COVID-19 Community Update – Chair Karen Redman**

**February 5, 2021**

## **Welcome**

Welcome everyone to this week's community update.

This morning, we will have our weekly update from Medical Officer of health Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang and Vaccine Task Force Chair, Deputy Chief Shirley Hilton, and today we welcome guest Jessica Bondy, Housing Director for the House of Friendship.

## **Board of Health motion**

At this week's Board of Health meeting Council passed a unanimous motion calling on the province to amend the Reopening Ontario Act. This is a formal request for the province to reduce frustration among businesses and enforcement agencies by ensuring timely enforcement responses built on consistent application of the law.

We're asking for capacity limits to be more equitable across businesses so that it's fair for small businesses, restaurants and big box stores alike.

We have heard from many local small businesses, retailers and restaurants, who are looking for fairness once the province lifts the lock down and starts to reopen again.

We're asking for better provincial inquiry processes to help public health units and enforcement agencies with timely and consistent interpretation of the law.

And we want the Province to clarify regulations so we get consistent applications of the regulations across Ontario.



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## **Black History month**

February is Black History Month, where all Canadians can learn about the achievements and many contributions of Black Canadians in shaping Canada's growth and development, both past and present.

Recognition of Black History Month is even more significant given events of the past year, including the death of George Floyd and the demonstrations on Capitol Hill, which remind us we can't take democracy and fair treatment for all for granted.

These incidents speak to the importance of addressing racial discrimination for black, indigenous, and racialized community members and social injustice for all. Addressing systemic racism will foster relationships built on trust and restore faith in government services and systems; while bringing about healing and reconciliation.

Here are some of the actions Regional Council is taking to address racial intolerance. We have:

- Created an Equity, Inclusion & Human Rights Unit aimed at a just, equitable and accessible Region where all people can reach their full potential.
- We've created an Anti-Racism Advisory Working Group that will provide recommendations, advice and information to Regional Council. This includes the development and implementation of an Anti-Racism Plan to address systemic racism within the workplace and within Regional services.
- We've created an Equity Diversity & Inclusion Staff Working Group who will identify key corporate initiatives to support equity and inclusion



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for all and support the Region's Multi-Year Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusion Plan.

- We are continuing to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #57: Educating Regional staff about "the history of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Indigenous rights, Indigenous Law and the Indigenous-Crown relations."
- And we continue to support our internal First Nations, Metis and Inuit committee.

## **Enforcement update**

Today's update is from January 28 to February 3 and includes actions from our local enforcement partners.

There have been 7 enforcement actions since the last media update:

- 4 for the reporting period Jan 28 to Feb 3
- 3 charges from the previous reporting period, but were not reported at the time of the update
- All charges under the Re-Opening Ontario Act
  
- City of Waterloo By-Law issued 3 tickets at three separate private residences for gatherings. Total payable is \$880.00 for each ticket.
- 1 ticket was issued by City of Kitchener By-Law at a private residence for gathering. Total payable is \$880.00.
- City of Cambridge By-law issued 3 tickets at three separate private residences for gatherings. Total payable is \$880.00 for each ticket.



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Last weekend we also had the provincial enforcement campaign in the Region, the final results include:

- 143 stores/businesses were visited by teams of Provincial inspectors, also joined by local bylaw inspectors and Public Health Inspectors.
- 55% compliance rate
- 65 businesses had an infraction noted
- 19 tickets issued under the Re-Opening Ontario Act

## **Dr. Wang's COVID-19 public health update**

## **Deputy Hilton's Vaccine Distribution Task Force update**

### **Special Guest**

We know there's a lot of great work being done in the emergency shelter system, but also a lot of anxiety and burnout and fatigue during the pandemic. We recognize this and we know that sometimes it can feel like this work goes unnoticed. Today we want to bring to this work to the forefront by talking to Jessica Bondy, Housing Director from the House of Friendship to bring this perspective on behalf of the many organizations and staff across our regions working in front line shelter support roles. Welcome Jessica.

### **Closing Remark**

Before we go I'd like to let you know we are hosting a free State of the Region event on Feb. 26th. It's a free virtual presentation in partnership with the Rotary Clubs of Waterloo Region and an opportunity to support KidsAbility. Go to the Region's website to register if you'd like to attend.