



The Municipal Corporation of the
Town of Fort Erie

Special Council Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 8, 2021 - 5:30 PM

Council Chambers via Video Teleconference

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic all Meetings are being held via a Hybrid Model. All meetings can be viewed at: Town's Website:

<https://www.forterie.ca/pages/CouncilAgendasandMinutes>

Town's YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/townofforterie

or click on the YouTube icon on the home page of the Town's website (www.forterie.ca) or Cogeco TV

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Announcements/Addenda**
4. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**
5. **Correspondence**

- 4 - 6
- (a) Receive & Support - City of Niagara Falls - Request Federal Government to Remove COVID-19 Testing at Land Border Crossings for Fully Vaccinated Travellers

Resolution:

That: Council receives and supports correspondence from the City of Niagara Falls requesting the Federal Government to remove COVID-19 testing at land border crossings for fully vaccinated travellers.

[Comm\(a\)-NF-COVID Testing at Land Borders](#)

6. Motions

- (a) Councillor Dubanow

Re: COVID-19 Testing - Land Border Crossings

Resolution:

Whereas the Canada-United States border along the Niagara Frontier forms an integrated binational community bound by

families, friends and economic growth and prosperity that was detrimentally impacted by its unprecedented closure during the COVID-19 pandemic, and

Whereas the United States has announced that they will open their land border with Canada to non-essential discretionary traffic on November 8th 2021, after Canada opened theirs on August 9th 2021, and

Whereas the United States will require travelers over eighteen years of age to be fully vaccinated from COVID-19 with no pre-arrival testing, and

Whereas entry to Canada from the United States at the land border currently requires proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test (including, but not necessarily limited to, a PCR test) within 72 hours of the date of entry in addition to vaccination for all individuals aged twelve and older, regardless of whether that test was obtained in Canada or the United States, and

Whereas access and costs of molecular testing (including PCR) is a significant barrier to the flow of individuals across the Canada-United States border, preventing economic recovery and family unification, and

Whereas there remain businesses in Fort Erie that rely on cross-border visitors from the United States that are still closed due to this testing barrier, despite otherwise being permitted to operate at full pre-pandemic capacity under provincial public health regulations with proof of vaccination alone and no further testing requirements, and

Whereas with COVID-19 vaccination offering protection to residents in both countries and being readily available, it is desirable to proceed with normalizing the movement of people and goods across the Canada-US land border;

Now therefore be it resolved,

That: The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie requests that the Canadian Federal Government discontinue the requirement for pre-arrival molecular testing at land ports of entry along the Canada-US border, and further

That: The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie continues to extend their appreciation to all officials in both Canada and the United States who were involved in the efforts to reunify our binational community; and further,

That: This resolution be circulated to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety, The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health (Canada), Tony Baldinelli, Member of Parliament for Niagara Falls, all Members of Parliament representing constituencies located along the Canada-US border, and all Canadian municipalities located along the Canada-US border.

7. Consideration of By-laws

- 7 **138-2021** To Authorize the Entry into a Transfer Payment Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing under the Municipal Modernization Intake 2 Program (Town of Fort Erie Permits, Planning and Business Processes Integration Program)
[138-2021 Authorize Entry - Transfer Payment Agreement Municipal Modernization Intake 2 Program](#)
- 8 **139-2021** To Confirm the Actions of Council at its Special Meeting Held on November 8, 2021
[139-2021 Confirmatory](#)

8. Adjournment



A

October 27, 2021

Prime Minister of Canada
Mr. Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Sent via email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

**Resolution from City of Niagara Falls – Regarding COVID-19 Testing –
Land Border Crossing**

Please be advised that the City of Niagara Falls' City Council at its meeting of October 26, 2021 adopted the following motion:

ORDERED on the motion of Councillor Chris Dabrowski, Seconded by Councillor Mike Strange that the resolution from the City of Niagara Falls regarding the request that the Federal Government remove the requirement to show negative PCR test results for all travelers at land borders who prove they are fully vaccinated, be approved.

No. 11

October 26, 2021

**Moved by: Councillor Chris Dabrowski
Seconded by: Councillor Mike Strange**

**RESOLUTION
COVID-19 Testing – Land Border Crossing**

WHEREAS the communities of Niagara Falls, Ontario and Niagara Falls, New York enjoy a close, longstanding history that goes back centuries and includes many ties of friendship and family across the world's longest undefended border; and

WHEREAS Niagara Falls, Ontario and Niagara Falls, New York are like one City, divided by our international border; and

Working Together to Serve Our Community

Clerks
Ext 4342 Fax 905-356-9083
billmatson@niagarafalls.ca

WHEREAS the nations of Canada and the United States enjoy bonds and alliances that include a shared history, supporting one another through challenging times, world wars, and the aftermath of 9/11, both here at home and abroad during the shared mission to Afghanistan that cost many Canadian lives; and

WHEREAS Canadian citizens have endured hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the unprecedented extended closure of the land border between Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS the United States government will be opening the land borders to Canadian travelers as of November 8, 2021, following the opening of our border to American travelers as of August 9, 2021; and

WHEREAS the Canadian government is continuing to insist that fully vaccinated Canadian and American travelers to Canada pay for a costly and difficult to source molecular COVID-19 (PCR) test in order to return through the land borders into Canada; and

WHEREAS this test will continue to make travel between the United States and Canada through the land borders prohibitive due to its high cost and added time, especially for day travelers who make up the vast majority of local visitors using any one of our international bridges into Niagara; and

THEREFORE be it resolved that the City of Niagara Falls request that the Federal Government remove the requirement to show negative PCR test results for all travelers at land borders who prove they are fully vaccinated.

AND THAT copies of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness; the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Tony Baldinelli, MP, Niagara Falls; Wayne Gates, MPP, Niagara Falls; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and to the Canadian border cities in the Niagara Region.

AND The Seal of the Corporation be hereto affixed.

Carried

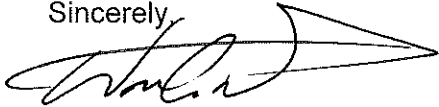
**WILLIAM G. MATSON
CITY CLERK**

**JAMES M. DIODATI
MAYOR**

Attached is the signed resolution that was passed at the City Council Meeting on October 26, 2021.

I trust that this information will be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Matson', written over a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Bill Matson
City Clerk

cc.

Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness,
marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca

Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, premier@ontario.ca

Tony Baldinelli, MP, Niagara Falls tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca

Wayne Gates, MPP, wgates-co@ndp.on.ca

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), amo@amo.on.ca

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

City of Fort Erie, ON, Carol Schofield, cschofield@forterie.ca

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON, clerks@notl.com



The Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie

By-law No. 138-2021

Being a By-law to Authorize the Entry into a Transfer Payment Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing under the Municipal Modernization Intake 2 Program (Town of Fort Erie Permits, Planning and Business Processes Integration Program)

Whereas the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing created a new Municipal Modernization Intake 2 Program to support the modernization of 224 small and rural municipalities across the province by improving the delivery of critical programs and services that people rely on every day, while saving taxpayers' dollars; and

Whereas the Town of Fort Erie has been approved to receive funding for up to a maximum of \$252,850 for the Town of Fort Erie Permits, Planning and Business Processes Integration Project to purchase and implement an integrated Building Permit, Inspection, Planning and By-law business solution that digitally tracks the Town's business processes, offers a customer self-service portal, and digitizes workflows and document management, subject to the execution of a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry; and

Whereas it is deemed desirable to enter into the said Agreement to receive the said funding;

Now therefore the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie enacts as follows:

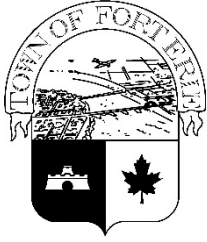
- 1. That** the entry into a Transfer Payment Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, under the Municipal Modernization Intake 2 Program for the Town of Fort Erie Permits, Planning and Business Processes Integration Project, is authorized and approved.
- 2. That** the Mayor and Clerk are authorized and directed to execute the said Agreement, in a form satisfactory to the Town Solicitor, and to affix the corporate seal thereto.
- 3. That** the Clerk of the Town is authorized to effect any minor modifications, corrections or omissions, solely of an administrative, numerical, grammatical, semantical or descriptive nature to this by-law or its schedules after the passage of this by-law.

Read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 8th day of November, 2021.

Mayor

Clerk

I, Carol Schofield, Clerk, of The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie, certify the foregoing to be a true copy of By-law No. 138-2021 of the said Town. Given under my hand and the seal of the said Corporation, this _____ day of _____, 20__.



The Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie

By-law No. 139-2021

Being a By-law to Confirm the Actions of Council at its Special Meeting Held on November 8, 2021

Whereas it is desirable to have the actions and proceedings of Council adopted, ratified and confirmed by by-law;

Now therefore the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie enacts as follows:

1. **That** the actions of Council at its Special meeting held on November 8, 2021 including all motions, resolutions and other actions are adopted, ratified and confirmed as if they were expressly embodied in this by-law, except where the law requires the prior approval of the Ontario Municipal Board or other authority.
2. **That** where no individual by-law has been or is passed with respect to the taking of any action authorized in or with respect to the exercise of any powers by the Council, then this by-law is deemed for all purposes to be the by-law required for such authorization or exercise of any powers.
3. **That** the Mayor and officers of The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie are authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to such actions or to obtain approvals where required.
4. **That** except where otherwise provided, the Mayor and the Clerk are authorized and directed to execute all documents arising from such actions.
5. **That** the Clerk of the Town is authorized to effect any minor modifications, corrections or omissions, solely of an administrative, numerical, grammatical, semantical or descriptive nature to this by-law or its schedules after the passage of this by-law.

Read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 8^h day of November, 2021.

Mayor

Clerk

I, Carol Schofield, the Clerk, of The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie certifies the foregoing to be a true copy of By-law No. 139-2021 of the said Town. Given under my hand and the seal of the said Corporation, this day of _____, 20 .