



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL pursuant to Section 26(3) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 THE NIAGARA FALLS OFFICIAL PLAN

The City of Niagara Falls is creating a new Official Plan - a roadmap that will guide the City through a period of unprecedented growth to the year 2051, while providing a high quality of living experience for both our residents and visitors from around the world.

TAKE NOTICE that The City of Niagara Falls invites all interested persons to attend a Special Meeting of Council for the purpose of informing about the initiation of a new Official Plan for the City of Niagara Falls. Public input is being sought at the initiation of the project to inform Council and the Project Team of community priorities that should be considered through the development of the new Official Plan.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Time: 4:30 pm

Place: Council Chambers, City Hall, 4310 Queen Street

Visit <https://niagarafalls.ca/city-hall/council/schedule.aspx> to watch the Council Meeting. The meeting will be archived on the same webpage for viewing after the event.

Any public individual/group interested in making comments on this application or viewing and/or participating in this meeting are encouraged to use the methods noted further below.

WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL PLAN?

An Official Plan is a document that guides and shapes the future of a community by identifying where, and under what circumstances, specific types of land uses can be located within the City's Municipal Boundary. An Official Plan applies to all lands within the Municipal Boundary.

It is the purpose of an Official Plan to focus new growth in a way that makes efficient use of land and infrastructure, creates attractive and livable communities with a variety of housing options, and protects the City's cultural and natural heritage and agricultural lands.

WHY DO WE NEED A NEW OFFICIAL PLAN?

The City's current Official Plan was approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs on October 6, 1993. The document is outdated and has been amended over 160 times. The City's Official Plan must also be brought into conformance with the new Region of Niagara Official Plan that was approved by the Province in November 2022.

A new Official Plan will apply a fresh approach to the City's land use policies and mapping, ensure conformity with new upper all tier documents and introduce new policies related the important issues facing the City such housing and employment targets, the provision of a spectrum of housing types, preparation for a changing climate, the protection of our resources and more.

The City will be engaging a Professional Planning Consultant in early 2024 to lead the project with a full program of community engagement and gathering public input, and updating legislative requirements to create a new planning approach in a user friendly document.



YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT

This Official Plan affects everyone who lives, works in or visits Niagara Falls. This Public Meeting, as required by the Ontario Planning Act, is an opportunity for you to participate as we develop a vision for the Official Plan. Your input is important to us, as an early guide to community priorities for the City's future. There will be ongoing opportunities throughout the preparation of the new Official Plan, over the next year, for continued participation and public input.

HAVE YOUR SAY

You are invited to provide input and participate in the Public Meeting, either in person or online. To participate in the Public Meeting virtually, please pre-register with the City Clerk by sending an email to billmatson@niagarafalls.ca before 4:30 on March 4, 2024. All registrants who indicate that they wish to attend virtually will be provided with instructions on how to participate using an electronic platform.

You can also:

- Provide written comment through mail to 4310 Queen Street, Niagara Falls, L2E 6X5 or email to fberardi@niagarafalls.ca
- Complete our surveys, polls and/or comments section throughout the term of the project on the Let's Talk Niagara Falls page <https://letstalk.niagarafalls.ca/>, coming soon.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, and for ongoing opportunities to offer your comments during the project, please visit the Official Plan page on Let's Talk Niagara Falls, available Tuesday, March 5 (<https://letstalk.niagarafalls.ca/>) or contact Francesca Berardi, MCIP, RPP, Official Plan Project Manager at (905) 356-7521, extension 4238 or fberardi@niagarafalls.ca.

DATED at the City of Niagara Falls, Ontario this 31st day of January 2024.

Andrew Bryce, MCIP, RPP, Director of Planning, Building & Development, City of Niagara Falls