



## STATEMENT FROM NICK RULLER, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

# Statement Supporting Staff and Responsible Public Dialogue

For Immediate Release

February 5, 2026

As Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, I respect the essential role of a free and independent media. However, I have growing concerns about media coverage or commentary that, whether intended or not, relies on incomplete or inaccurate information or a lack of appropriate context. I am even more concerned about the increasing practice of individual Town staff being identified by name in opinion-based commentary.

These individuals are not public figures or decision makers. Their role is to carry out their Council-approved responsibilities on behalf of the community and, like any employee at any organization, they deserve to work in a safe and respectful workplace.

The media play a key role in keeping local governments accountable. However, I draw a clear distinction between accountability and commentary when individuals are associated with unverified claims, misleading narratives, or personalized criticism. Even if not intentional, the outcome is that it needlessly encourages abuse, erodes public trust, and affects employee well-being, professional reputation, and workplace morale.

The Town has spent significant public resources and tax dollars responding to opinion-based inquiries that are not rooted in verifiable facts and do not meaningfully advance transparency or accountability. This is not an effective use of public funds.

It is my responsibility as CAO to ensure accurate communication, responsible stewardship of public resources, and, like any employer, to maintain a respectful and psychologically safe workplace for Town employees. That's why I have directed that Town staff no longer respond to these types of opinion-based requests, and to focus only on matters of fact and policy by reporters acting in a reporting capacity. The Town will continue to support journalism and correct factual inaccuracies when they arise. Access to public information and statutory processes will not change.

Further, any member of the community with concerns about the work of Town staff may contact an elected official with the appropriate information, or use our [online Feedback Form](#).

We look forward to ongoing, open engagement with the community in ways that support public dialogue and information that is timely, accurate, respectful, and constructive.