

What Do You Think Niagara's Population Will Be in 2031?

NIAGARA REGION, January 28, 2008 – As part of its overall Growth Management Strategy (GMS) – *Niagara 2031: A Strategy for a Healthy, Sustainable Future*, Niagara Region has released two foundational reports that will be key for future strategy development and action planning. The Region is committed to a wide-ranging public engagement process on growth management and, in this stage of the process, we are looking for your feedback on population growth forecast scenarios.

The first report, titled ***Understanding Niagara***, is a background study of the existing Niagara situation containing baseline data that will help in developing future growth strategies.

The second report, titled ***Anticipating Niagara***, provides an assessment of alternative growth projection scenarios as a whole to 2031. It addresses future trends analysis on population growth and distribution, employment trends, economic indicators and more. The report analyzes three population and employment scenarios, including:

- Low Growth Scenario – a forecast population growth to 511,000 , including 218,000 employees by 2031
- Medium Growth Scenario – a forecast population growth to 545,000, including 249,000 employees by 2031
- High Growth Scenario – a forecast population growth to 700,000 by 2031

The recommendation in the ***Anticipating Niagara*** report is to adopt the Medium Growth scenario for growth forecasting, but the Region would like to hear what you think. As Patrick Robson, Director of Community Integration commented, "Niagara is expected to grow substantially over the next few decades, how and when we grow needs to be decided now to get the type of community we want in the future. Feedback we've received thus far through a public survey, community workshops on NiagaraQuest and use of NiagaraQuest Online, indicates a thoughtful public that is passionate about Niagara," he added.

Review both reports at www.regional.niagara.on.ca/Niagara-2031. Comment on the ***Anticipating Niagara*** recommendations by emailing: Niagara2031@regional.niagara.on.ca or fax comments directly to 905-641-5208, attention Niagara 2031, by February 25, 2008.

-30-

For more information, contact:
Patrick Robson, Director of Community Integration
Niagara Region
905-685-4225 ext. 3276

Growth Management Strategy – Niagara 2031

Niagara 2031: *Strategy for a Healthy, Sustainable Future*, is part of an overall Growth Management Strategy (GMS) that was initiated by Niagara Regional Council in 2007 to examine land use and supporting infrastructure to set the stage for where and how Niagara will grow until 2031. The GMS process includes technical work and community engagement efforts.

- **Community Engagement:** In June 2007, residents were surveyed to establish a baseline appreciation of how they see their community in the coming years, including perceptions of growth related topics like downtown redevelopment, transit, smart growth and intensification, to name but a few.

Innovative software that allows users to make decisions today that will affect the future of a community was demonstrated at a variety of workshops throughout the summer and into the fall. An online version of the software is still available at: www.regional.niagara.on.ca/government/initiatives/2031/NiagaraQuest.aspx. This is an easy and fun interactive tool that allows users to take on the role of municipal planner, making decisions that impact on land use and other matters.

- **Technical Assessment:** While the community engagement aspect addresses the perceptions of residents, the technical work is focused on evidence and professional planning advice. The technical assessment is divided into five main reports:
 - Understanding Niagara;
 - Anticipating Niagara;
 - A Range of Options;
 - Develop and Refine Preferred Option; and,
 - Regional Policy Plan Update and Subsequent Strategies and Actions.
- The Region has completed the first two reports of the technical assessment for the strategy and is releasing them to the public: ***Understanding Niagara*** and ***Anticipating Niagara***.
- ***Understanding Niagara*** is a background study of the existing Niagara situation containing baseline data that will help in developing future growth strategies.
- ***Anticipating Niagara*** provides an assessment of alternative growth projection scenarios for Niagara as a whole to 2031.

-30-

For more information, contact:
Patrick Robson, Director of Community Integration
Niagara Region
905-685-4225 ext. 3276