

Our **Niagara** **Falls** plan

PLANNING THE FUTURE.
TOGETHER.

A New Official Plan for Niagara Falls

**Special Meeting of
Council**

March 5, 2024



Purpose of the Special Meeting



- **Learn** about the new Official Plan for Niagara Falls and the process over the year to prepare it
- **Learn** about what's important to you in the Official Plan



- **Hear** from people - how do you want to be involved in the Official Plan process?



What is an Official Plan?

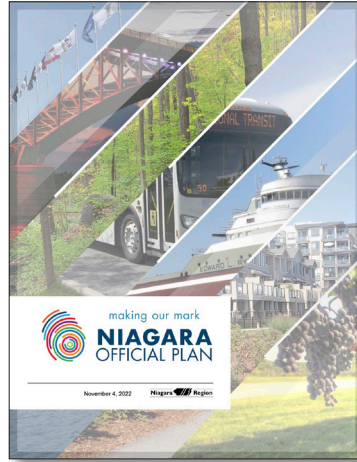
Determines how land should be used

Ensures that planning and development meets the needs of the community



Why a New Official Plan?

**Must conform
with the Region's
2022 Official Plan**



Current
Official Plan

OUTDATED

+ Need to address current issues such as affordable housing, urban design, climate change adaptation and the urban forest



Why the Official Plan is important

- ✓ Establish conformity with the Region's 2022 Official Plan and the Province's Planning Policies
- ✓ Modernize the readability, flexibility and interpretation of policies to reduce the need for numerous amendments
- ✓ Incorporate the policy recommendations of recent City studies, policy and master plans
- ✓ Include innovative policy to respond to current land use trends such as placemaking, complete communities, low impact development, adaptive reuse of sites and urban design
- ✓ Guide development of growth areas through secondary plans
- ✓ Set the stage for the City's future new Comprehensive Zoning By-law



Unprecedented Growth

population grows by
over 60%

141,000 by 2051

94,400 now

20,220 new
residential units
by 2051

Pledge to build
8,000 new
residential units
by 2031



Building Blocks of the new Official Plan



Process

Phase 1 Project Initiation and Visioning

February 2024

Phase 2 Background Research and Discussion Papers

Phase 3 Policy Direction

Phase 4 Draft Official Plan

Phase 5 Approval



December 2024

FEBRUARY

MARCH

Tasks

Finalize the Work Plan

Confirmation of the Community Engagement and Consultation Program

Background Review and Analysis

Consultation

Launch of the Project webpage (Let's Talk Niagara Falls)

Engagement on Visioning

Council Visioning Sessions

Focus Groups

First Nations

Online Survey

Meetings

Special Meeting of Council

2 Background Research and Discussion Papers

APRIL ←

→ MAY

Prepare Guiding Discussion Papers

Engagement on Background and Discussion Papers

7+ Open Houses on Discussion Papers

Technical Advisory Committee

Focus Groups

First Nations

Online Survey

Engagement Summary document for Phase 2

Present to Council

MAY ←

→ SEPTEMBER

Tasks

Prepare Policy Directions Document based on work and feedback of Phase 2

Submit alternate formats for document

Consultation

Stakeholder, Partner and Community Engagement Activities

Public Open House

Technical Advisory Committee

Focus Groups

First Nations

Online Survey

Meetings

Engagement Summary Phase 3

Present to Council ●

4

Draft Official Plan

5

Approval Process

SEPTEMBER ← → NOVEMBER

← → DECEMBER

Prepare and present complete draft Official Plan document with policies, mapping etc.

Council Workshops (4 Sessions)

Statutory Public Meeting

Stakeholder, Partner and Community Engagement Activities

Public Open House

Technical Advisory Committee

Focus Groups

First Nations

Online Survey

Engagement Summary Phase 4

Update Official Plan

Feedback review and amendments to Official Plan

Refine and finalize draft Official Plan, based on consultation and Council direction

Inform stakeholders, partners and agencies

Update with amendments subject to decision of Council

Submit for approval and present to the applicable approval authority

Submit final Official Plan to Council for adoption

Statutory Public Meeting

Public Engagement



Talk to People Early & Often

Profile of the current population of Niagara Falls



POPULATION
88,071

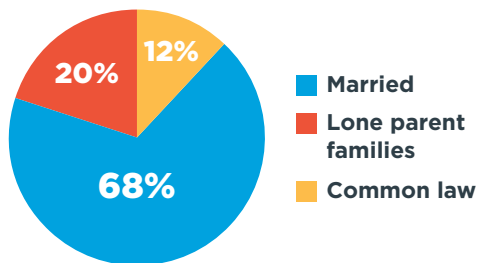


HOUSEHOLDS
33,380

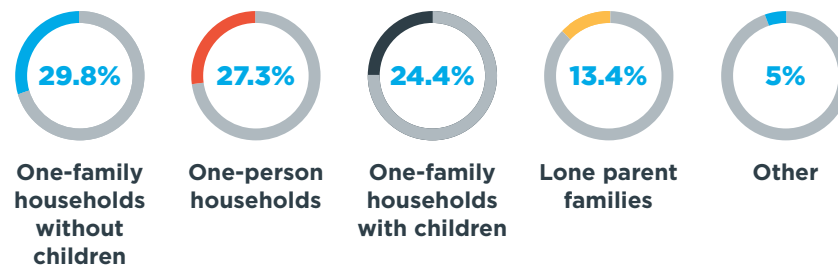


PERSONS PER
SQUARE KM
395.8

FAMILIES TYPES IN NIAGARA FALLS



HOUSEHOLD TYPES IN NIAGARA FALLS



AGE GROUPS

- 0 to 14: **12,930**
- 15 to 19: **5,405**
- 20 to 39: **19,445**
- 40 to 64: **30,355**
- 65+: **14,875**

43

MEDIAN AGE

Talk to People Early & Often

- ✓ Youth, seniors, young families, specific cultural/ethnic groups
- ✓ Residents in neighbourhoods across the City
- ✓ Business owners and employers
- ✓ Indigenous communities and service providers
- ✓ First Nations
- ✓ Mayor and councillors
- ✓ City staff and approving agencies

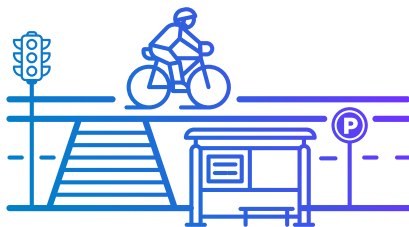
Talk to everyone in every phase from now until December 2024

Discussion Papers

Prepare Discussion Papers as a point of departure for conversations about new opportunities, design strategies and policy direction.



Cultural city



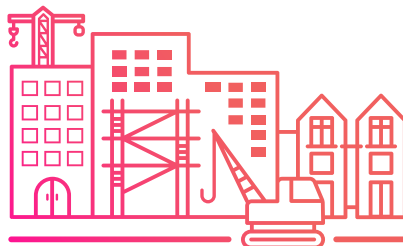
**Connected
& Mobile** city



Attractive city



**Green &
Resilient** city

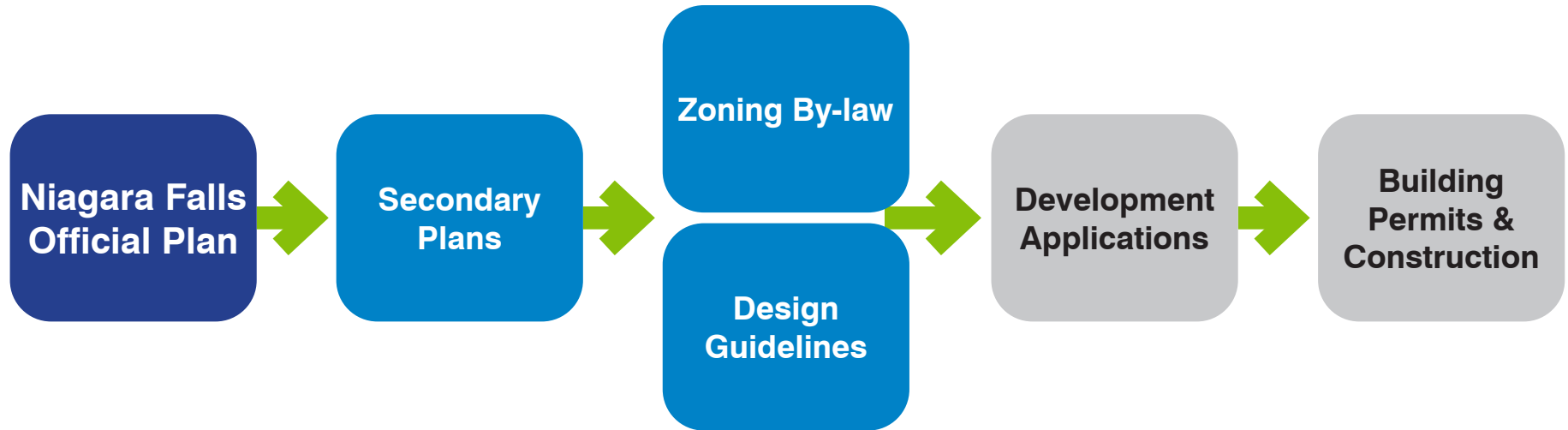


Growing city



International city

The Official Plan “sets the stage”



Visioning

Let's imagine the
City in 2051.....

*How do people move
around the City?*

*How do we protect
agriculture?*

*Where and how do
we provide affordable
housing?*

*How do we protect
natural heritage?*

*Where do people live, work,
go to school and play?*

*What does the city
look like, what do our
neighbourhoods look like?*

*How do we make sure
heritage and cultural
resources are protected?*

*How do we sustain
tourism?*

*Where are the city's
green space and parks?*

*How do we adapt to a
changing climate?*

Talk to us

We've just started and are in the first phase of the project.

- ✓ Check out *Let's Talk Niagara Falls* (letstalk.niagarafalls.ca)
- ✓ Click the Official Plan project page
- ✓ Add your name to make sure you're kept up to date on where and how to share your thoughts
- ✓ Talk to us at our engagement activities planned over the coming months