



Department of Corporate Services
1593 Four Mile Creek Road
P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
905-468-3266 • Fax: 905-468-2959

www.notl.com

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

February 26, 2026

Ministry of Education
438 University Ave, 15th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2A5

Attention: Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education

Dear Minister Calandra:

RE: Swim to Survive

Please be advised the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the Lake, at its regular meeting held on January 27, 2026, approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS drowning is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths among children in Ontario and research by the Lifesaving Society of Ontario shows that most children who drown never intended to be in the water; and

WHEREAS evidence demonstrates that even basic swimming and water survival skills significantly reduce the risk of drowning; and

WHEREAS many children in Ontario do not have equitable access to swimming lessons outside of school due to financial, cultural or geographic barriers; and

WHEREAS several municipalities across Ontario have expressed strong interest in improving water safety education for children; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education has the authority to incorporate water safety and survival training into the regular elementary school curriculum as a universal, life-saving skill comparable to fire safety and road safety instruction;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Town of Niagara-on-Lake respectfully urges the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Minister of Education of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities, with a request for their endorsement.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact my office at 905-468-6488.

Sincerely,

Grant Bivol
Town Clerk/ Manager of Legislative Services

c.c. Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities