

**BACCC Delegation to Burlington City
Council**

April 23, 2019

Madame Mayor, Members of Council, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Richard Koroscil. I am the Chair of the Bay Area Climate Change Council. The Bay Area Climate Change Council – also known as “BACCC” – it is a collective impact initiative advancing climate change action in the Cities of Burlington and Hamilton. By working together, the Bay Area Climate Change Council leverages collective expertise and public support to advocate for the adoption of local climate change actions at the community and municipal levels.

Given the discussion today on declaring a climate change emergency, I would like to provide Council with brief informational update on BACCC and why we urge Council to support a climate change emergency.

Climate change is a multi-sector issue and it’s widely recognized that climate change solutions require an unprecedented level of partnership and collaboration. Recognizing the need for multi-sector solutions, in 2017, the Cities of Hamilton and Burlington joined together to develop a multi-sector coordinating committee on climate change. By joining together and taking a regional approach, that Committee would increase its impact to address shared challenges and opportunities in our communities.

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So, in partnership with the Centre for Climate Change Management at Mohawk College, the Cities joined together to develop the Bay Area Climate Change Council -- again, known as BACCC. BACCC met for the first time this past October. BACCC is a collective impact initiative advancing climate change action in the Cities of Burlington and Hamilton through strategic leadership and shared expertise. The Climate Change Council is made up of 14 community leaders whose goal is to support a climate change-ready region. BACCC is accomplishing this by promoting the adoption of deep mitigation and adaptation strategies that will reduce the impacts of climate change and foster vibrant, resilient neighborhoods.

The Bay Area Climate Change Council members include representatives from a diverse group of stakeholders. This includes both the Hamilton and Halton Conservation Authorities, Burlington Green, the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Burlington Economic Development, the Burlington Sustainable Development Advisory Committee, the Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association, and several others who have expertise and an important role to play in climate change policy and practice.

With such a big mandate, the Climate Change Council requires coordination support. BACCC is currently supported by the Cities of Burlington and Hamilton. A staff member from each of the two cities, Burlington and Hamilton, provide in-kind project management and coordination support. BACCC is currently hosted at the Centre for

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Climate Change Management at Mohawk College, and as the Cities' lead partner, Mohawk has been providing ongoing strategic support in the development and leadership of the Council. BACCC's structure was inspired by the Bay Area Restoration Council -- a multi-sector collaboration that has successfully helped us manage the restoration of our harbour.

Over the next few months you will be hearing more from us as we will be back to let you know more of the specifics of our work to reduce GHG emissions in the Bay area and how we can help Burlington take action on climate change.

I now go back to the issue at hand, the declaration of a Burlington Climate Change Emergency and what would it mean?

Climate change is a global and local emergency. This is an opportunity for Burlington to join the more than 435 municipal councils around the globe representing more than 36 million citizens. It is chance to stand up and say with one voice, "We need to act now in order for us to achieve the necessary change for our planet to prevent a global average temperature rise of 1.5 degrees C.

We know the there is consensus with scientists around the globe that a rise of 1.5 degrees C is the upper limit of warming we can afford before, the consequences become so great as to threaten the stability of human life.

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In addition, an International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report in October 2018 also warns that if global carbon emissions are not halved by 2030 and eliminated by 2050 we will have lost the opportunity to hold warming to that level.

Just in the last few weeks the federal Government of Canada's report titled "Canada's Changing Climate" reaffirmed the IPCC's conclusions, and added that Canada is warming twice as fast as the global average.

Here in the Bay area we are already experiencing climate change impacts including flooding, extreme weather events, more ice storms, heat waves, erosion of the shoreline and the escarpment. It is clear climate change is affecting us right now and right here in Burlington. We urge Council not to let this opportunity to by, but to join with those hundreds of communities that see the urgency and the need to act now and declare that we need immediate action to push for change.

Thank you for your time today.