

# **COVID-19 Emergency Response: Update**

as of September 8, 2021

Corporate Services, Strategy, Risk &  
Accountability Committee

September 9, 2021

# Legislative Update

## Report Projection – October 2021

### Community Planning, Regulation and Mobility Committee

Meeting Date – October 5, 2021

#### Statutory Public Meeting

- PL-40-21 - 1600 Kerns Road

#### Consent Agenda

- TR-05-21 - Bus Cleaning Pilot Update

#### Regular Agenda

- PL-21-20 - Downtown Heritage Study Work Plan
- PL-50-21 - Floodplain and Spills Approach
- PL-46-21 - Revenue Funded Positions for Development Services

### Corporate Services, Strategy, Risk and Accountability Committee

Meeting Date – October 6, 2021

#### Consent Agenda

- F-28-21- Property Tax Software Award of Single Source Contract
- IT-03-21- Award of Contract- Professional Services to Implement Workday's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Solution

#### Regular Agenda

- CSSRA-XX-21- COVID-19 Verbal Update
- CL-13-21- Information Management Strategy
- CL-XX-21- Public Appointment Policy
- CM-XX-21- Service Re-Design Interim Modifications and Resumptions
- CC-03-21- Web Modernization Update
- CL-27-21- Information Management Policy
- CL-29-21- Procedure By-Amendments (changes to Remote Meeting Procedures Guide)
- CL-30-21- Delegated Authority By-law

#### Confidential Agenda

- L-21-21- Confidential Insurance Report
- L-24-21- Confidential Update on a Litigation Matter
- L-26-21 - Confidential Update on Real Estate Matter

# Report Projection – October 2021 (continued)

## Environment, Infrastructure and Community Services Committee

Meeting Date – October 7, 2021

### Regular Agenda

- ES-14-21 - Municipal Consent Bylaw Update
- ES-32-21 - Asset Management and Financing Plan

## Community Planning, Regulation and Mobility Public Committee

Meeting Date – October 12, 2021

### Statutory Public Meeting

- PL-42-21 - Statutory Public Meeting and Recommendation Report - Brant and Ghent

## Council Workshop

Meeting Date – October 18, 2021

### Regular Agenda

- CWC-XX-21 - Construction Management and Mobility Plan Guidelines Review

# COVID 19 Financial/Budget Update

Joan Ford,  
Chief Financial Officer

# COVID 19 Property Tax Update

June 22 Installment Due: \$111.9M (City, Region, & Education)

Collections to Aug 31, 2021: \$107.6M

Collection Rate: 96.09%

Class	June 22 Levy	Total June 22 Outstanding	% of June 22 Levy
COM	\$18,943,466.81	\$723,466.08	4%
IND	\$13,217,682.52	\$251,927.07	2%
RES	\$73,200,388.32	\$3,361,727.61	5%
MULTI-RES	\$6,217,152.85	\$19,258.95	0%
FARM	\$370,177.87	\$18,964.80	5%
Total	\$111,948,868.37	\$4,375,344.51	4%

# COVID-19 Property Tax Deferral Payment Plan

30 applications received for the monthly pre-authorized deferral payment plan representing \$531K of deferred taxes payable by the end of 2021.

Class	Total Taxes Deferred	# Applicants
COM	\$246,706.32	4
IND	\$39,480.39	1
RES	\$51,007.43	25
Total	\$337,194.14	30

# COVID 19 Cash Flow Update

## Cash Flow Projections (Sep 1/21)

	2021	2020
Aug 31 <sup>st</sup>	\$84.9M*	\$69.2M
Sep 30 <sup>th</sup>	\$54.3M**	\$58.5M
Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>	\$45.9M	\$78.9M

\* Includes receipt of \$5.6M Federal Gas Tax top up funding

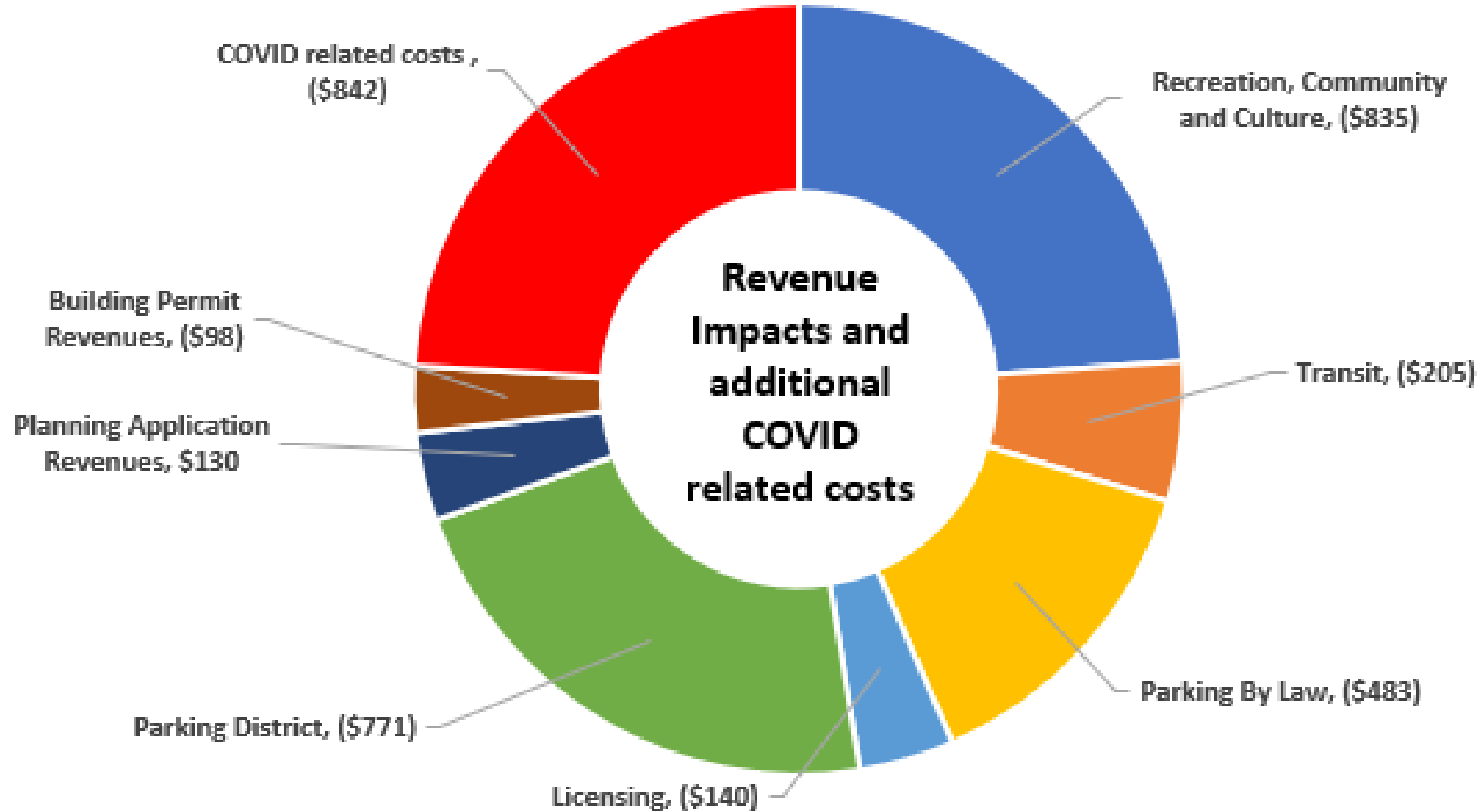
\*\* Includes the School Board's requisition payments of approximately \$30M and Region's requisition payment of approximately \$35M.

## 2021 Year End Projections for COVID-19 pandemic

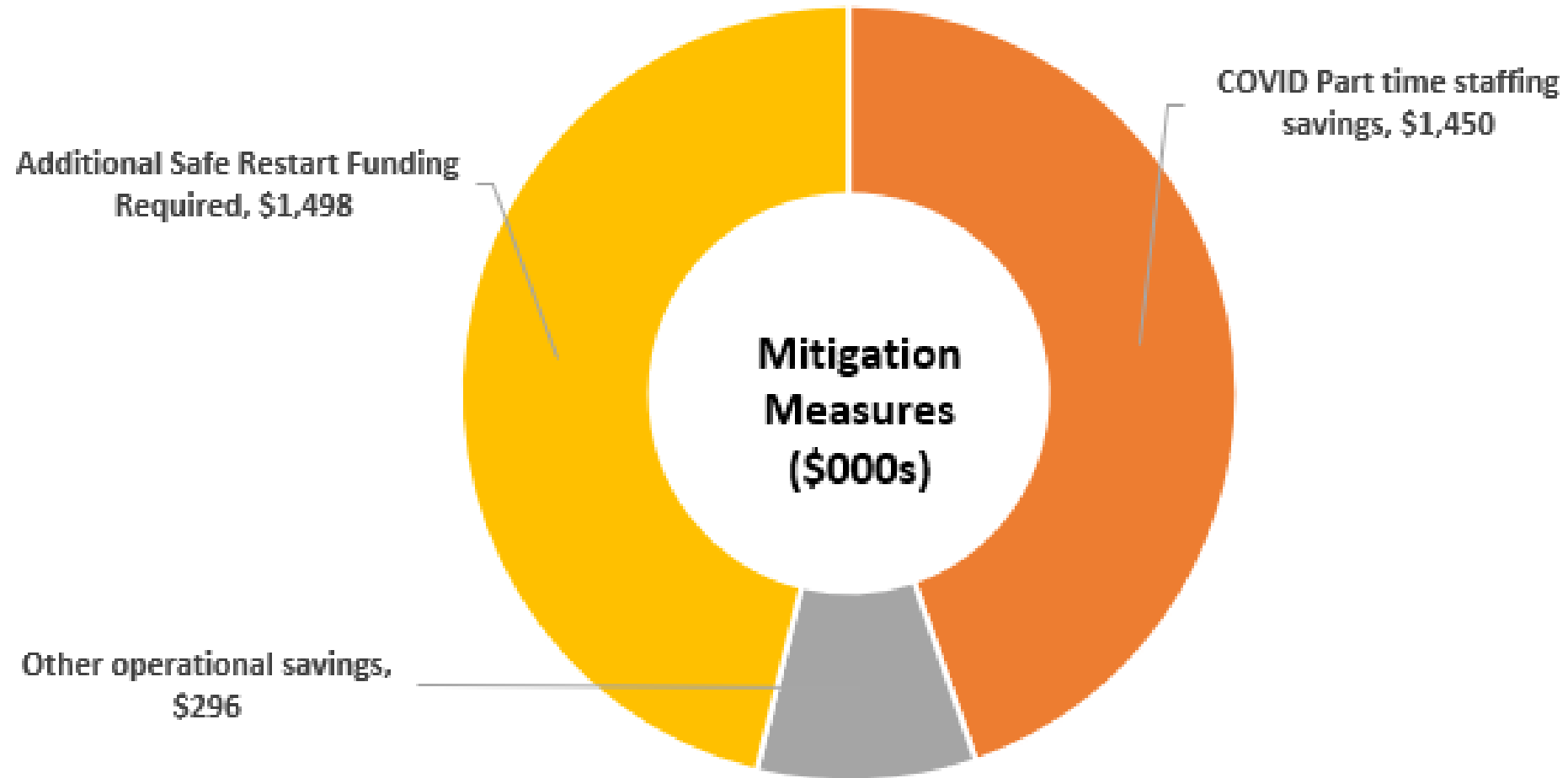
Estimated Year End Net Financial Impact	
Revenue Impact ( Tax Supported )	\$ 1,663,309
Revenue Impact ( Non-Tax Supported )	\$ 738,838
COVID Related costs	\$ 842,321
<b>Total Revenue Impacts and COVID related costs</b>	<b>\$ 3,244,468</b>
COVID Part time staffing savings	\$ 1,450,283
Other Operational Savings	\$ 296,179
<b>Total City-Initiated Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>\$ 1,746,463</b>
<b>Projected Position</b>	<b>\$ (1,498,005)</b>
<b>Additional Safe Restart Funding Required</b>	<b>\$ 1,498,005</b>
<b>Net Year End Position</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



# Revenue Losses/COVID costs



# Mitigation Measures

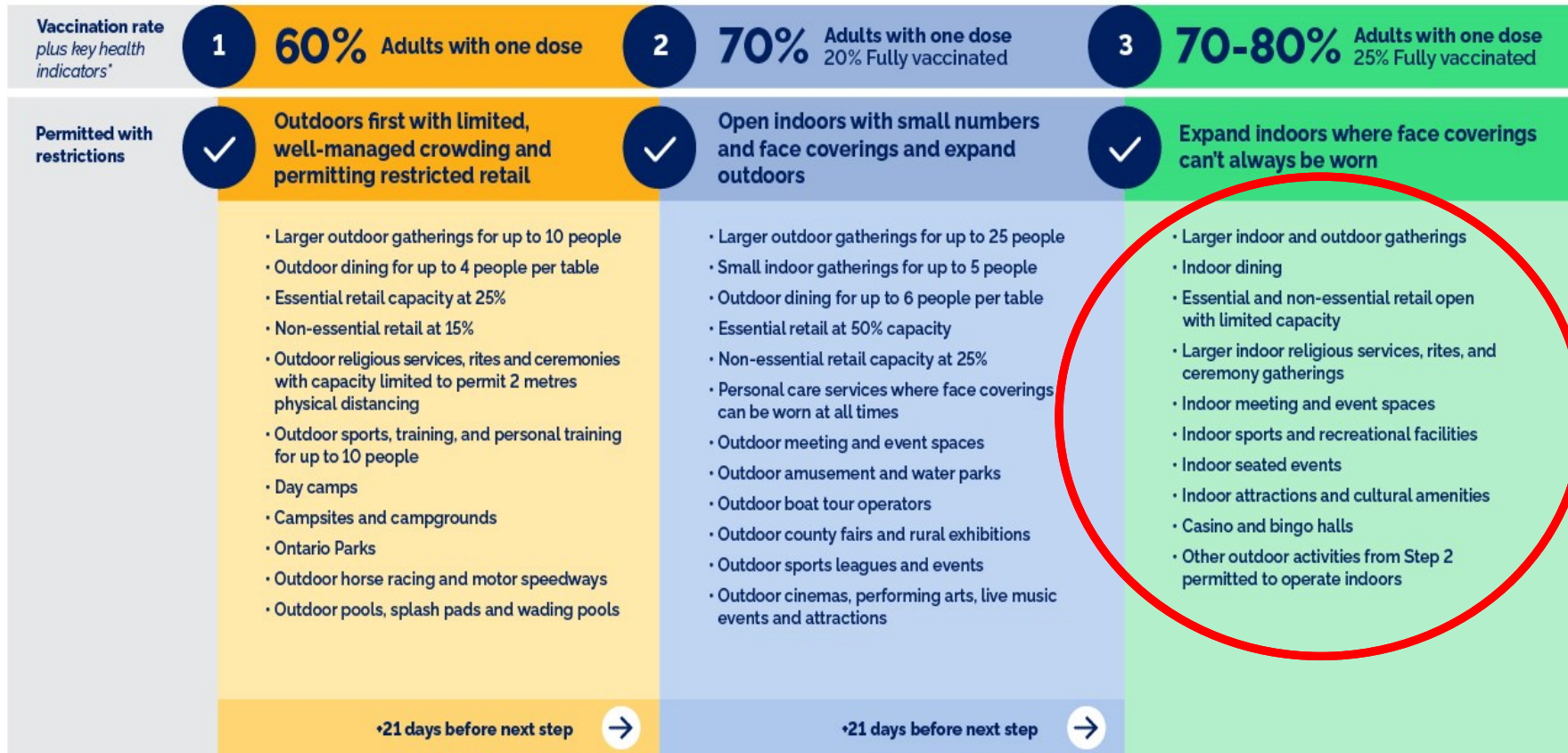


# Economic Update Briefing

Anita Cassidy, Executive Director,  
Burlington Economic Development

# Step 3 Reopening in Burlington

## COVID-19 Roadmap to Reopen – Key Highlights



\* Key health indicators include declining hospitalization, ICU, cases rate and % positivity

Based on current trends in key health indicators, including the provincial vaccination rate, Ontario expects to enter Step One of the roadmap around June 14, 2021.

For the full plan, visit [ontario.ca/reopen](https://ontario.ca/reopen)

## Post Step 3 Reopening

Removal of most COVID-19 restrictions for business including capacity limits.

Continuing measures:

- Facemasks
- Social Distancing
- 2m separation and physical barriers in restaurants
- PPE for staff in settings where face masks removed e.g. restaurant, spa
- Contact Tracing
- Passive screening
- Compliance with MOH and provincial orders

# COVID-19 Supports Digital Main Street (DMS)



- DMS 2.0
  - Ended June 2021
  - Over 500 businesses reached and 272 supported
- DMS 3.0 began in July
  - Expansion of support to all commercial areas
  - Renewal of DMS Transformation grants of \$2,500

# Work Place and Proof of Vaccination Policies

- Ontario Vaccine Certificate System
  - Will be implemented September 22
  - Certificate will be required for non-essential settings (e.g. restaurants, gyms, movie theatres, etc.)
  - Focuses on higher-risk indoor public settings where face coverings cannot always be worn
  - Not required for outdoor settings e.g. patios and under age 11 exempt
- Halton Region Guidance
  - Halton's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hamidah Meghani, is recommending that local employers address the need for a workplace vaccination policy
  - Workplace vaccination policies should explain their purpose, specific actions workers must take (including providing proof of vaccination status or a medical exemption) and timelines.
- Workplace Vaccination Clinics
  - Working with employers interested in hosting pop ups on site to promote vaccination uptake by employees

# Insights and Recommendations from BERN

BURLINGTON ECONOMIC RECOVERY NETWORK  
LED BY TEAM BURLINGTON





# What are we seeing from businesses?

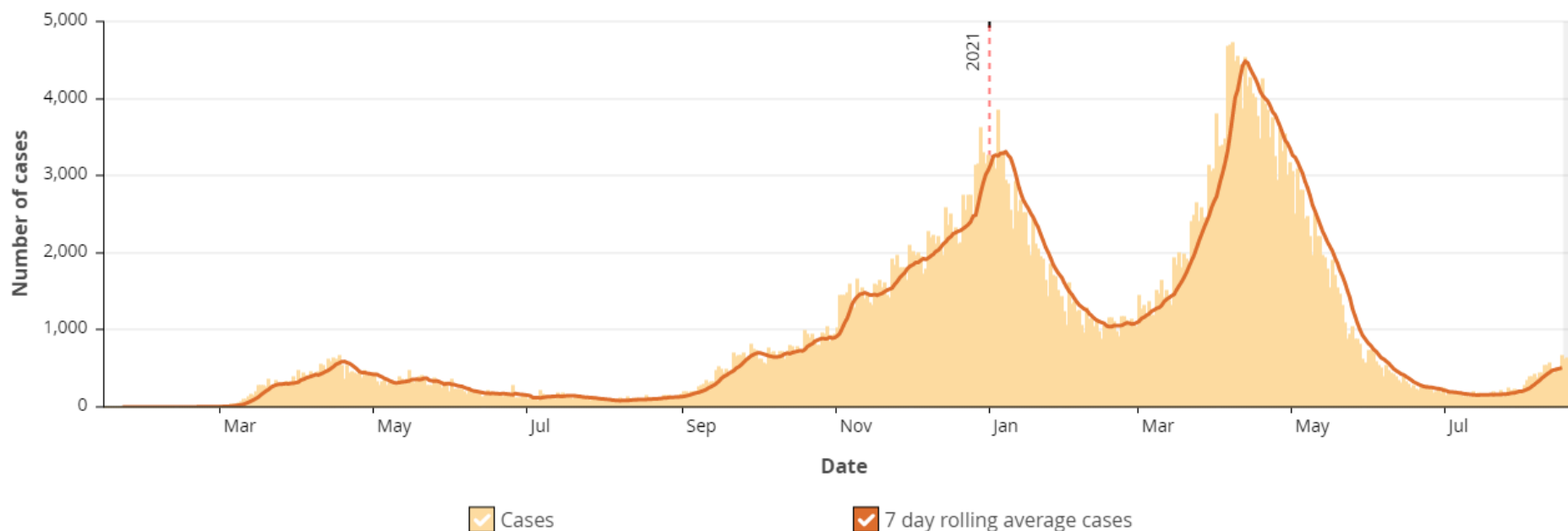
- Increased staffing attraction and retention issues across all sectors
  - Restaurants reducing hours or capacity
- Continued supply chain impacts for both manufacturing, retail and restaurants
- Confusion on policies for vaccination in the workplace and need for new safety guidelines across all sectors
- Hospitality sector still struggling and facing issues around vaccination status of staff and patrons



# BERN Advocacy and Support Focus

- Provincial Vaccination Policy and Guidelines for Employers
- Growth of Manufacturing and building on COVID-19 reshoring
- Workforce recruitment & retention support across all sectors
- Supports for long term Return to Office
- Alignment with [Coalition of Hardest Hit Businesses](#)
- Engagement with Burlington Restaurant Association for Winter Patios support 21/22
- Sector specific engagement in Fall/Winter for long-term recovery planning

# Fourth Wave continuing to impact Economic Recovery



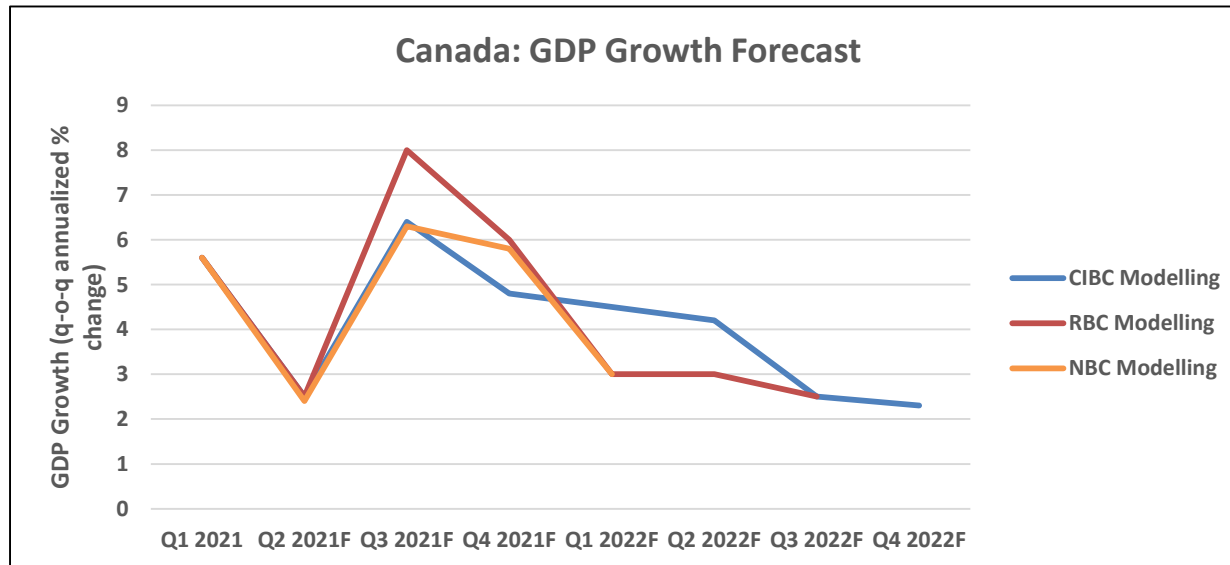
## COVID-19 daily case counts by episode date in Ontario

Source: Public Health Ontario. Accessed August 30, 2021 at:

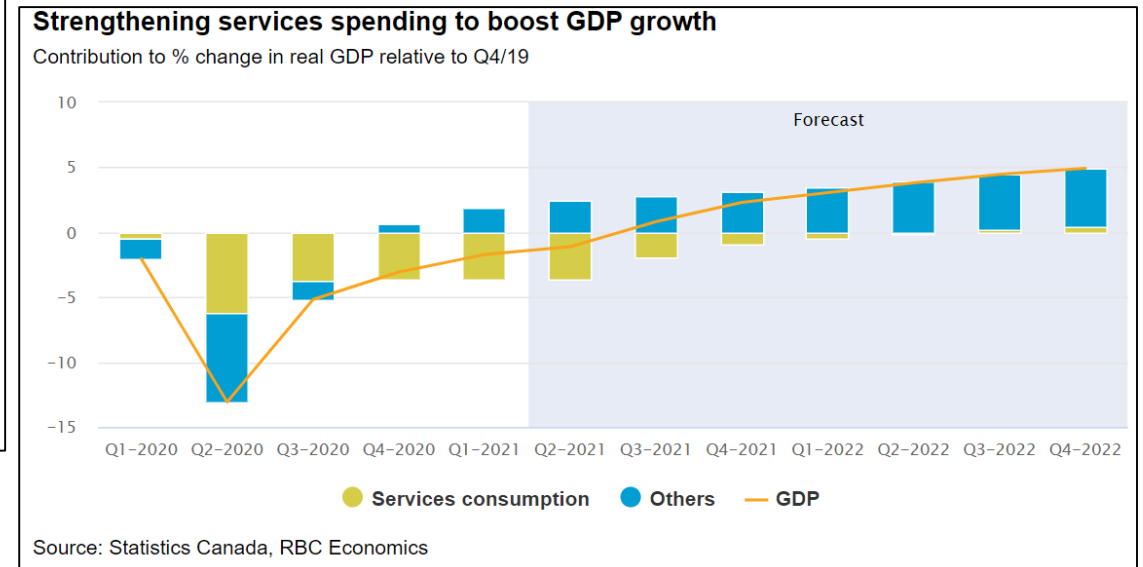
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/infectious-disease/covid-19-data-surveillance/covid-19-data-tool?tab=trends>

# Fourth Wave Impact on Economic Recovery

- Due to high vaccination uptake, Delta unlikely to cause significant disruption to Canadian economy, although growth is expected to slow
- RBC forecasts Q3 GDP growth to peak at 8% q-o-q, followed by slower growth in Q4 of 6% due to 4<sup>th</sup> wave
  - Q3 growth indicates Canada's full recovery to pre-pandemic levels

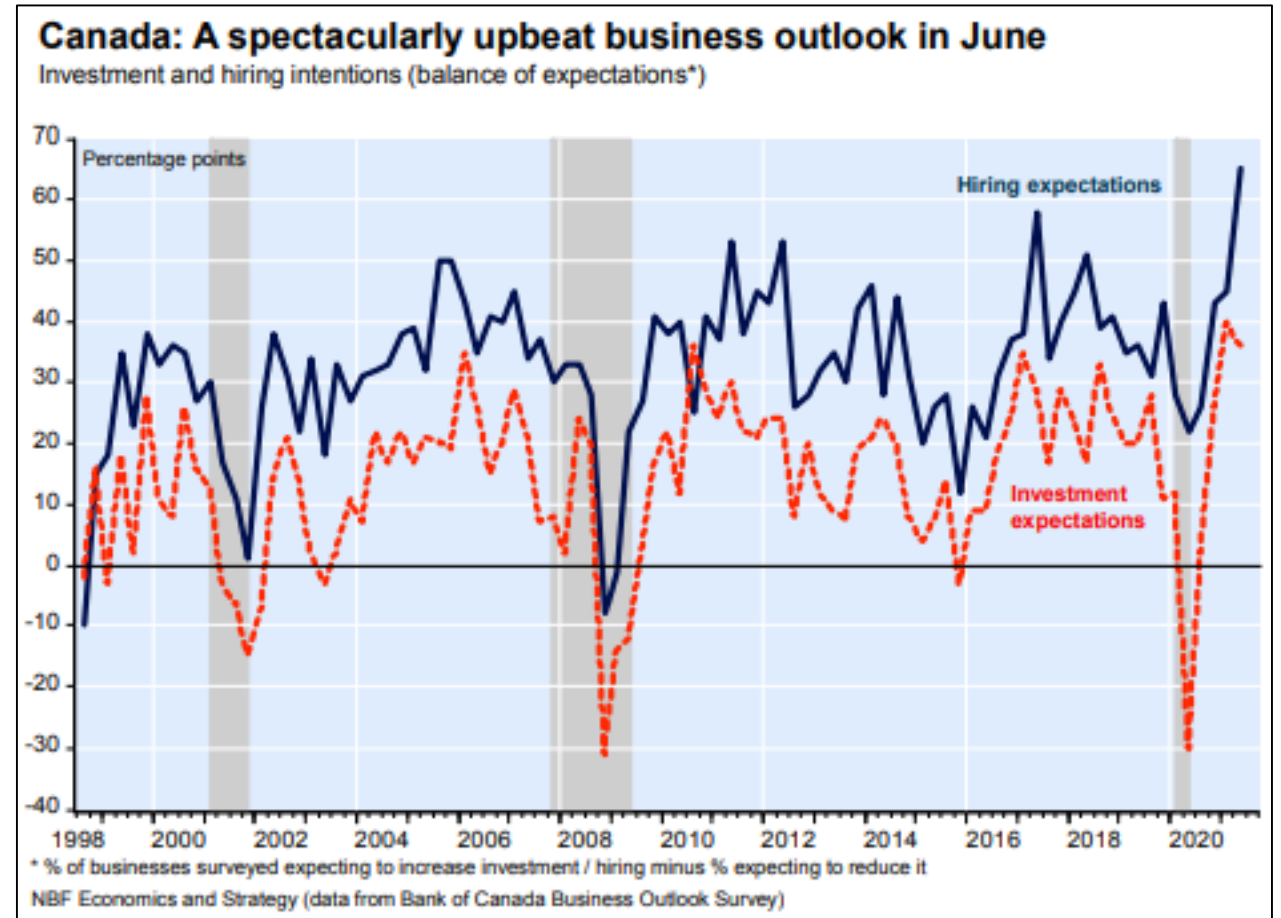


Source: [Forecasting growth amid Covid's fourth wave | Advisor's Edge](#); [Forward Guidance: Our Weekly Preview - RBC Economics](#); [Economics \(cibccm.com\)](#)



# Fourth Wave Impact on Economic Recovery

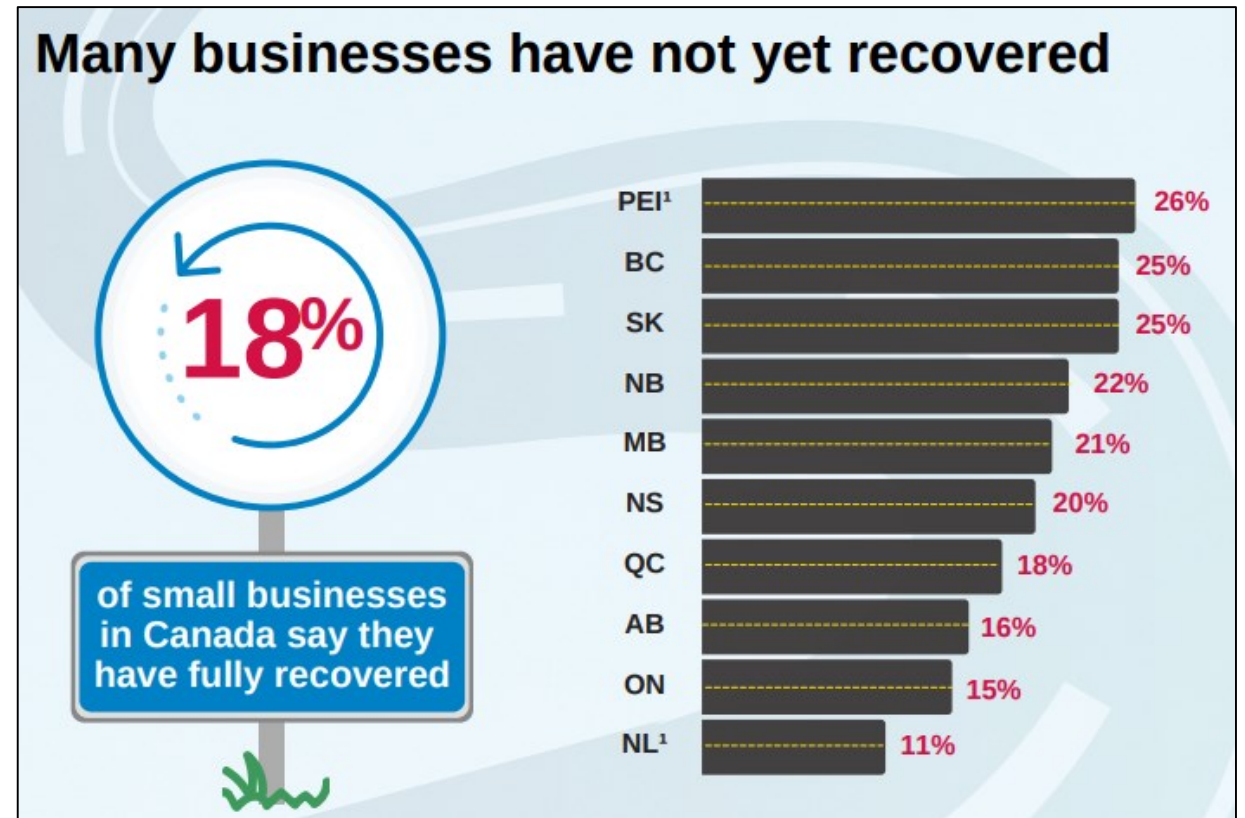
- The National Bank of Canada also expects 4<sup>th</sup> wave impacts to be less severe than previous waves
- Wave of hiring seen over the summer likely to continue
  - End of CRB may accelerate employment recovery
  - 9.5% excess savings accumulated by households expected to ensure high consumption, ensuring strong medium-term outlook



Source: [Monthly Economic Monitor - July/August 2021 \(nbc.ca\)](#)

# Small Business and the 4<sup>th</sup> Wave

- More than 80% of small businesses have not fully recovered from the pandemic
- On average, small business owners feel they need 23 months for their businesses to fully recover
- Hospitality industry especially feel they would not survive another round of closures
- Prefer the use of vaccine passports as an alternative to another shutdown



Source: [The long road ahead: Small business recovery extends to summer 2023, longer for hard hit sectors](https://cfib-fcei.ca) | CFIB (cfib-fcei.ca)

# Staff Vaccination Policy Update

Tim Commisso, City Manager

# Why implement a Staff Vaccination Policy?

- Under Ontario Law, the City as an employer, has an obligation to take every precaution reasonable for the protection of its workers
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City established and maintained the clear objective:  
*“Continue to protect the health and safety of our community and staff and do our part to limit the spread of COVID-19”*
- Effective September 10, 2021, workplace vaccination policies will now be required, by Halton’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, for workplaces with 100 or more workers present (including those working in the community)
  - Policies to be place no later than September 22, 2021

# Staff Vaccination Policy Considerations/Risks/Mitigation

Consideration	Risk	Mitigation
<b>Workplace Health and Safety</b>	COVID-19 (delta variant) continues to pose a very real threat in the workplace and in the community.	To help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, a vaccination policy complements existing workplace health and safety measures/controls. Vaccines provide a high level of protection against COVID-19 and variants of concern.
<b>Employee Privacy</b>	<p>Collecting health information poses privacy risks and challenges, with extensive regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Must only collect what is required.</p>	<p>Contract a third-party occupational health firm to verify vaccination status and conduct Rapid Antigen Testing. The third party assumes role of “health information custodian” under privacy law (registered nurses).</p> <p>Include applicable, appropriate language in consent/authorization to release forms.</p>
<b>Legal/Human Rights</b>	<p>Employees may have Human Rights grounds for not being vaccinated.</p> <p>A mandatory vaccination requirement may result in legal challenges.</p>	<p>Use/follow existing HR Accommodation Policy and accommodate as required by Human Rights Code.</p> <p>Provide an alternative option for employees to be regularly tested for COVID-19 (Rapid Antigen Testing)</p>



# City of Burlington Approach and Estimated Costs

- Third-party occupational health firm will be engaged to conduct all vaccination status verifications.
  - Staff will have until October 1<sup>st</sup> to provide proof of vaccination, in accordance with City procedure.
- Occupational health firm will conduct regular rapid antigen testing (RT) for unvaccinated staff (attend testing outside of working hours).
  - RT clinic will be available for staff from October 1<sup>st</sup> until November 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - After November 26<sup>th</sup>, unvaccinated staff will continue to be required to regularly test negative in order to work on-site.
- Costs based on 2.5 months operation:
  - minimum of ~ \$15,000/month with upset costs up to ~ \$27,000/month
    - based on testing volume and frequency
  - Minimal on-going costs to maintain records and vaccination status verifications
  - Source of funding COVID Safe Restart Funding

# Motion

Direct the Executive Director of Human Resources to include within the scope of the City of Burlington's Vaccination Policy:

- Members of City Council
- Community Volunteers covered under the City's Volunteer Management Program.

# Transit Update

Sue Connor, Director

# Transit Volumes Update

- Ridership recovery
  - As the population becomes vaccinated and the economy re-opens, ridership is recovering
  - Ridership dropped to ~44% of pre-COVID levels back in January 2021, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown
  - August 2021 saw ridership recovered to ~68% of pre-COVID levels
  - Further recovery is expected in the Fall as offices and schools re-open
  - With the pandemic changing, recovery may be impacted by variants and vaccination policies
- New schedule - effective August 29, 2021
  - 15-minutes or better service on New St, Plains Rd, Fairview St, Appleby Ln, and Walkers Ln (Route 1, 10, 11, 25)
  - Restoring pre-COVID levels of service on remaining routes (Route 4, 6)
  - Aligning timetables with GO Transit and school bell times
  - On-demand late night service will launch in November or December 2021

# Recreation, Community & Culture Update

Chris Glenn, Director

*"I wanted to pass along my appreciation to all of you. The rules and precautions you have taken have made me feel very safe. Thanks for keeping me fit and healthy during this stressful time and for doing it with a smile!" – Aquatics Customer*

My daughter had such a good time. This was the happiest she has been since March. So much love to you for putting this together! – Student Theatre Customer

"Oh my gosh this was amazing! I took my granddaughter to Central today and she and I had so much fun – she is 4 turning 5 and loved it – cartwheeling between the story pages." – Story Walk

What our customers are saying:





## Summer Statistics

4506 registrations

74,337 drop-ins

23,143 Rounds of Golf

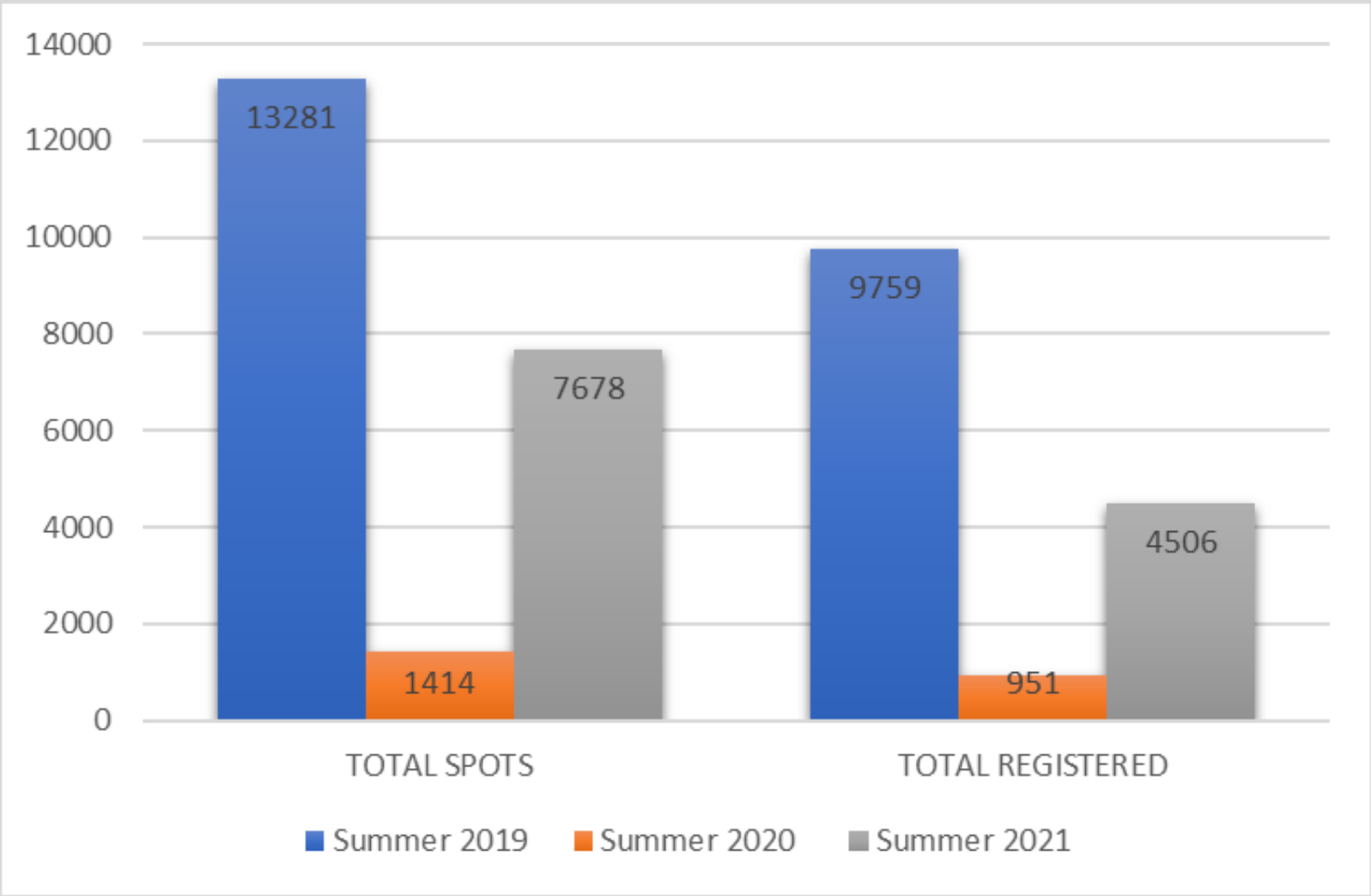
137 User Groups

46,317 Rental Hours

\$76,000 Invested in Community Projects and Support



# 2019 -2021 Program Stats Comparison





# Looking Ahead to Fall 2021

- Programs starting post Thanksgiving due to staff shortages, competing priorities, facility availability and uncertainty of uptake
- Planning for a BTTB Ireland Trip in 2022
- Senior's Centre membership is discontinued (Report RCC-09-21)
- Community use of schools is permitted under School re-opening guidelines, increasing access to space for user groups and the community
- Return of Community Events - 13 approved events for fall
- Opening of City View Pavilion in late fall, Public Art is installed
- Discontinue the Community Support Fund and merge it with the other Funding streams by the end of 2021
- Continue Park Experience for the remainder of Fall, will be discontinued in 2022
- Live Streaming in areas will be in place for Fall
- Staff shortages in RCC may prompt service reductions as hiring challenges impact virtually every area including Youth, Older Adults, Aquatics, Facility Operations, and Customer Service
- Preparing for Public and Staff Vaccination Policies and the impact that these will bring to programs, uptake and business continuity

# By-Law Enforcement Update

Kerry Davren, Manager By-law Enforcement

## BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUESTS

- COVID enforcement requests down compared same period last year (Jan – Aug 31).



- Total enforcement requests up by\* 25% compared 5-year average as normal workload increases.



*\* does not include pool permits which are currently at highest level since 2015.  
2021 permits estimated to be 44% higher than normal by year end.*

# UPCOMING NOISE LEGISLATION CHANGES

- Provincial restriction on noise enforcement related to construction activity set to end on October 7 (implemented April 2020).
  - Currently allows construction noise 7 days per week from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. including holidays.
  - Once lifted, city by-law applies restricting construction noise to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday - Saturday, no Sundays or Holidays (unless exempted by permit).
- As of September 19, 2021, provincial regulations will permanently restrict municipalities from regulating noise related to the delivery of goods for retail business establishments, restaurants, hotels/motels or goods distribution facilities.
  - City by-law currently restricts noise from these activities between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

# Impact of Province of Ontario Enhanced Vaccination Certificate on City's Indoor Recreation Facilities

Tim Commisso, City Manager

Chris Glenn, Director Recreation, Community &  
Culture

# Current Provincial Situation

- Province is in Step 3 – last step of the current roadmap to re-opening
- Provincial government requiring proof of full vaccination to access certain businesses – enhanced vaccination certificate program
  - Begins September 22, 2021 and includes:
    - Restaurants and bars (excluding outdoor patios, as well as delivery and takeout);
    - Nightclubs (including outdoor areas of the establishment);
    - Meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/convention centres;
    - Facilities used for sports and fitness activities and personal fitness training, such as gyms, fitness and recreational facilities with the exception of youth recreational sport;
    - Sporting events;
    - Casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments;
    - Concerts, music festivals, theatres and cinemas;
    - Strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs;
    - Racing venues (e.g., horse racing).
- Enforcement is expected to be conducted by-law officers and Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development inspectors, beginning with education and warnings.

# Affected City of Burlington Facilities

- City Facilities with voluntary participation in our programs:
  - City Arenas, Community Centres, and Pools
    - Screening of spectators and users with the exception of youth recreation sport
  - Gyms including school gyms
- Challenges:
  - Recruiting staff for screening positions
  - Verification of photo ID with Enhanced Vaccination Certificate and e-screening
  - Potential workplace violence with uncompliant participants

# City of Burlington Existing Protocols

City of Burlington has implemented the following in its facilities:

- Pre-entry eScreening and passive screening posters
- Physical distancing measures
- Occupancy restrictions
- Face covering requirements
- Enhancements to ventilation
- Hand hygiene stations
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting
- Customer service droplet barriers
- Safety posters/floor stickers - Awareness and Instructional



# Impacts to the City of Burlington - Work in Progress

- Enforcement:
  - Operation will be re-evaluated once impact of regulations is known. May need to focus enforcement if volumes are unmanageable.
- Customer Experience
  - To support the provincial order people entering recreation facilities will need to show proof they have been double vaccinated and corresponding ID prior to entry
  - Messaging to the community about what to expect is time sensitive as programs start next week prior to the order coming into effect (e.g. Older Adults start on Monday and enforcement will occur mid-program)
  - While the City anticipates most people coming into recreation facilities will comply with the order, staff are proposing to staff our facilities with security staff to conduct the verification process for two reasons:
    1. Difficulty with recruitment and securing staff for positions right now
    2. Hire qualified people to manage very difficult situations and protect the safety of our staff.

# Impacts to the City of Burlington - Work in Progress

- Estimated Costs
  - External Security firm ≈ \$29,000/week
    - This cost may be reduced based on triage of facilities and hours
    - Demand for external security firms has risen significantly as a result of this enhanced vaccination certification requirement
    - Details of plans and costs will be confirmed once the provincial order has been released and it is reviewed by staff.

# Recommendation

Authorize the Director, Recreation, Community & Culture to begin implementation of activities to comply with the Province of Ontario's Enhanced Vaccination Certification directive to an upset limit of \$410,000 to be funded from the COVID safe re-start funds; and,

Direct the Director, Recreation, Community & Culture to report final details of the Province of Ontario's Enhanced Vaccination Certification directive impact on City of Burlington to Council at its September 21, 2021 meeting.

# Questions