

**City of Port Colborne  
Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee**

**Date:** Thursday, September 11, 2025  
**Time:** 1:00 pm  
**Location:** Committee Room 3-City Hall  
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario, L3K 3C8

**Pages**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Adoption of the Agenda**
3. **Disclosures of Interest**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
  - 5.1 Lodging House bylaw update
  - 5.2 Healthcare committee update
  - 5.3 Transportation public engagement update
6. **New Business**
7. **Community Updates, Roundtable Discussion**
8. **Action Items**
9. **Next Meeting**

Next regularly scheduled meeting Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025 at 1pm.
10. **Adjournment**

## **City of Port Colborne**

### **Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, June 5, 2025  
**Time:** 1:00 pm  
**Location:** Committee Room 3-City Hall  
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario, L3K 3C8

**Members Present:** Christine Clark-Lafleur, CEO Port Cares  
Kim Simons, Anchors Away  
Lori Kleinsmith, Bridges CHC, committee chair  
Vicki Doidge, Niagara Community Legal Clinic  
Joanna Mataya CEO Community Living PCW  
Adrienne Harper, NR Public Health, committee vice chair  
Brendan Nicholson, NRegion Housing and Homelessness

**Member(s) Absent:** Phil Licskai NRP District 6 Commander

**Staff Present:** G. Todd, City staff Liaison  
William Steele, Mayor  
Tim Hoyle, City Councillor  
Taralea McLean, CEO Bridges CHC  
Rachel Tkachuk, CEO Port Colborne Public Library  
Sherry Hanson, Manager of Bylaw Services  
Bryan Boles, CEO City of Port Colborne

#### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:10pm

#### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved By A. Harper, vice chair

Seconded By V. Doidge

That the Agenda of the June 5 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee, be approved.

Carried

**3. Disclosures of Interest**

None.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Moved By A. Harper, vice chair

Seconded By J. Mataya

That the minutes of the April 3, 2025 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee, be approved.

Carried

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**5.1 Health care update**

Chair Kleinsmith welcomed Geneviève-Renée Bisson, senior community engagement officer, who explained her role supporting the city's new Healthcare Advisory Committee. The committee's first meeting is Thursday, June 12.

B. Boles said the committee faces a fairly aggressive agenda, perhaps more frequently than monthly, with the next round of provincial healthcare funding expected in the fall. He said based on a report or any recommendations from the Healthcare Committee, council will look forward to input from SDOHAC. Chair Kleinsmith said SDOHAC will be pleased to contribute, based on the draft report of the Healthcare Committee.

**5.2 Lodging House Bylaw update**

S. Hanson reported the local supportive housing facility is working toward compliance but has not yet applied for a licence. Bylaws cannot force closure; bylaw can only issues fines for non-compliance. K. Simons said bedbugs continue to be an issue, as she has witnessed on clients who live there. She said access to a telephone is denied to residents after 4pm.

**6. New Business**

**6.1 Work plan**

The chair submitted a draft work plan with committee objectives for 2025-2026.

Moved By A. Harper, vice chair  
Seconded By J. Mataya

The five goals of the draft workplan of the SDOHAC for 2025-2026 be accepted as final

Carried

## **6.2 Protecting tenants from renovictions**

V. Doidge, who deals daily with issues of landlord-tenant disputes, reported the number renovictions -- arbitrary evictions on the premise of renovations leaving tenants displaced -- in Port Colborne and Niagara are relatively low compared to larger cities in Ontario. Cases are dealt with case by case. At this time, a bylaw is not advised. B. Boles noted there is a residential component in the Community Improvement Program which rarely receives application from residents or landlords.

## **6.3 Niagara Transit**

Issues with public transit in and around, to and from Port Colborne continue. Consumers relying on public transit struggle to travel to work, to school, for health care and shopping. For example, there are no stops on the east side of the canal. A Wainfleet resident paid a taxi \$100 round trip to see a doctor in Port Colborne. B. Boles said Port Colborne taxpayers contribute \$1.2 million per year to be part of Niagara Regional Transit. He suggested the committee compile information from riders to present to council to deliver to the transit commission.

Moved By K. Simons  
Seconded By V. Doidge

Further to our discussions on improving transit for residents, the committee recommends working with city staff to determine questions for local transit users to share their challenges with transit service for their transportation needs, particularly as needed to access health care. Ideally, questions for a specific public engagement survey be determined as soon as possible, with results to be shared with the city's health care services committee this fall.

Carried

**7. Community Updates, Roundtable Discussion**

C. Clark-LaFleur announced the Try a Trade event Tuesday, June 10, thanking the city for use of Market Square for tents, trailers, exhibits of trades for potential students and apprentices.

R. Tkachuk recapped recent agencies and groups using library space to reach people who may need them. She said she will continue to partner with social services and agencies with outreach.

W. Steele gave a recap of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in Ottawa May 20 to June 2.

On behalf of the committee, L. Kleinsmith extended congratulations to S. Hanson as she retires this week after 34 years in bylaw enforcement with the city.

**8. Action Items**

Committee members asked to compile examples of public transit struggles faced by their clients.

**9. Next meeting: Thursday, Sept. 4**

**10. Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:10pm

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Chair

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Staff Liaison