

Subject: Fee Waiver Requests – Notre Dame College School

Report to: Niagara Transit Commission Board

Report date: **Tuesday, February 18, 2025**

Recommendations

1. That the Niagara Transit Commission (NTC) Board **APPROVE** the Charter Fee Grant Waiver request submitted by Notre Dame College School in the amount of \$432.00; and
2. That the General Manager **BE DIRECTED** to waive the charter fee.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to waive the charter fee for Notre Dame College School in accordance with the policy.
- On October 24, 2023, the NTC Board approved NTC 13-2023 Niagara Transit Commission Charter Policy.
- The school has a Peace & Politics class that will take advantage of "Welland's Rebirth" and have students witness firsthand the development changes that are occurring in Welland.
- The school is looking for a transportation option that is affordable so that all students can participate.

Financial Considerations

Included in the 2024 approved budget is \$100,000 to cover charter fee grant waivers. The cost of this charter is \$432 which if approved, would be covered by the operating budget.

Analysis

This service was provided on November 27, 2024, and due to the timing of the request being prior to the Board's meeting of February 18, 2025, this charter was authorized operationally by the General Manager.

The tour focused on changes in development in the City of Welland, brownfield redevelopment and residential intensification. Approximately 50 students from Notre Dame College School participated in this two-hour tour. The school felt that it is important for the students to understand the transformation of our communities. Staff from the municipality were invited on the tour.

The tour showed students how local government, education and community agencies work together. Students were exposed to potential issues that could impact them, including affordable housing, homelessness, intensification, industrial growth, transformation, knowledge-based economies, and skilled labour shortages. Discussions took place to highlight services available in their community including transit and that today's decisions will impact them in the future.

Alternatives Reviewed

The board may choose not to approve the request, in which case this event has already taken place, the NTC will bill Notre Dame College School for the full cost recovery of the trip. If charged back to the school, the fee will need to be covered by the participants, so a denial of this request may impact students/families of limited financial means.

Relationship to Niagara Transit Commission Strategic Priorities

Customer Focus: The tour being offered is an opportunity to realize a core value of "Community Engagement and Partnerships" identified as one of the NTC's strategic priorities in our commitment to Customer Focus. This tour will allow students to enjoy and learn about parts of their community while moving from place to place on a community-based service. Students will learn about "Welland's Rebirth" and what better place to see it than being on a transit system that has recently undergone its own rebirth.

Affordability: Approval to waive the charter fee will promote the core value of Affordability by realizing "Breaking Down Financial Barriers for Inclusive/Universal Access". This trip will highlight the NTC as an inclusive public transit provider and strategic community partner who believes in promoting education through transportation.

Other Pertinent Reports

- [NTC 13-2023 Niagara Transit Commission Charter Policy](https://pub-ntc.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=88) (https://pub-ntc.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=88)



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Appendices

Appendix 1 Fee Waiver Request Form - Notre Dame College School