

Subject: Fee Waiver Requests – Niagara Parasport Games
Report to: Niagara Transit Commission Board
Report date: **Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

Recommendations

1. That the Niagara Transit Commission (NTC) Board **APPROVE** the Charter Fee Waiver request submitted by Niagara Parasport Games in the amount of \$11,773.80; 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 Niagara Parasport Games in accordance with the policy.
- On February 18, 2025, the NTC Board approved NTC 3-2025 Amendment to Policy 002-NTC Niagara Transit Commission Charter Policy - Charters and Free Transit Community Requests.
- Based on the new criteria identified in the February board report, requests are limited to 10% of the budget per organization per event. This request exceeds 10% of the fee waiver budget for 2025. Board approval is required to authorize the full amount requested by the organization.
- Niagara is hosting the Ontario Parasport Games May 30 to June 01, 2025, with most athletes being accommodated at Brock University.
- The organizers are looking for a transportation option that is affordable for all participants.

Financial Considerations

Included in the 2025 approved budget is \$100,000 to cover charter fee grant waivers. The cost of this charter is \$11,773.80 which if approved, would be covered by the operating budget.

Analysis

The Niagara 2025 Ontario Parasport Games will showcase adaptive sport athletes from all over Ontario, including current and future Olympic stars. It will give our local people with disabilities an opportunity to compete and experience high performance competition in front of their home crowd, as well as connect with other athletes and spectators from around Ontario. The Games will provide school engagement programs that offer abled and disabled people a chance to try a parasport.

The organizing committee has created a Niagara Parasport Legacy Fund that will be managed by a group of those from Niagara's disability community with the goal to bring a means of sustainable and long-term funding. All surplus from this event will go to this fund and will set up a donation portal to allow future growth.

Social impact - this event will bring over 700 athletes, coaches, officials and families to Niagara. Niagara's local disability community has been invited to participate through volunteering or competing building bonds through sport. The age group of those competing is 13 and up and they will all be invited to post on there socials using #paraamzing, #Niagara, #ParasportNiagara

Cultural impact - Opening ceremony will bring performers from our disability communities to sing, speak and celebrate Niagara. We have also partnered with our Indigenous communities to bring a blessing to the athletes during the ceremony. Organizers have invited schools in the region to create artwork that will be used as the backdrop to the event. The event will host activation areas that provide information on opportunities for people with disabilities.

Economic impact - with over 700 people coming into the region for the games, it is anticipated \$350,000 - \$500,000 direct spending as a result of this event.

Environmental impact - Organizers are taking measures to keep a small footprint. One program is to donate all unused food and water to shelters in the region to ensure nothing is wasted.

Alternatives Reviewed

The board may choose not to approve the full request; in which case the event organizers would determine if they can fund the difference of \$ 1,773.80 (difference between actual quotation and 10% threshold) or reduce the level of service to put service level quotation below 10% of the budget.

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 charter will allow participants barrier free access between the accommodations and the sport venues on the Brock University campus.
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 event will highlight the NTC as an inclusive public transit provider and strategic community partner who believes in promoting inclusion through transportation.

Other Pertinent Reports

- [NTC 3-2025 Policy Amendment – Charters and Free Transit Community Requests](https://pub-ntc.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=501) (https://pub-ntc.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=501)
- [NTC 13-2023 Niagara Transit Commission Charter Policy \(Previous implementation of Charter and Fee Waiver Program\)](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 – Niagara Parasport
Appendix 2	Niagara Transit Quotation