September 26, 2005
Prime Minister Paul Martin
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

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CL 14-2005, September 22, 2005
Resolution – Security of the Border
Documents Required for Travel
Our File No. R.03.0002

The Council of The Regional Municipality of Niagara, at its meeting of September 22, 2005, passed the following resolution:

"WHEREAS in December, 2004, U.S. President Bush signed the “Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA)”; and

WHEREAS the IRTPA directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to implement as expeditiously as possible a plan that would require people entering the United States to present “a valid passport or another document” to establish identity and citizenship; and

WHEREAS the first phase of the program would apply to air and sea crossings by December 31, 2007; and

WHEREAS the public is encouraged to provide comments to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by October 31, 2005, including the types of documents which might be used and the economic cost/benefits of such a system; and

WHEREAS in 2004, Canada welcomed 34.6 million person-trips from the United States; and

WHEREAS The Conference Board of Canada (July, 2005) estimates that from 2005 through 2008, the tourism spending by Americans in Canada will be decreased by $1.7 billion as a result of this initiative; and

WHEREAS No economic analysis has been done on the effect on non-tourism industries such as manufacturing and services; this is not just a "tourism issue"; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara supports the establishment of cost-effective policies and programs that enhance both the security of the border and facilitates the Cross-Border passage of people and goods, such as Nexus; and further
THAT The Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara does not support the additional requirement of a “passport of another document” in order to cross the U.S./Canada border effective December 31, 2006, (air, sea) and December 31, 2007, (Land) until “another document” that is easily accessible and affordable by all citizens of all ages is completely defined; and further

THAT The Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara proposes economic impact analysis and cost/benefit analysis of this program be carried out with respect to all economic sectors before a final decision and implementation schedule is determined; and further

THAT The Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara supports official public hearings/consultations be held in all affected countries before a final decision and implementation schedule is determined; and further

THAT this resolution be circulated to all Municipal, Provincial and border State Governments and to the State Governments of Florida, California, Arizona, New York, Texas, South Carolina, Georgia, Washington, Mississippi and Hawaii requesting their endorsement, and

THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to Niagara’s Federal and Provincial Members of Parliament and to their respective U.S. counterparts.

Our Regional Council asks that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario forward this resolution to Municipal governments in Ontario.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Yours truly,

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk

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cc: Municipal Governments (AMO for distribution)
Premiers, Provincial Governments – as per attached labels
State Governors (as per resolution) – as per attached labels
Local M.P.P.s and M.P.s and U.S. counterparts – as per attached labels
Regional Chair and Councillors
Patrick Gedge