



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Comprised CAO hiring process highlights serious problems with Niagara's Regional Council

NIAGARA REGION, ON:

It is enraging but not surprising, that's the consensus of the executive team with the citizens' coalition for good governance, A Better Niagara, in reaction to The Standard's investigative report about how backroom dealing, and the flagrant violation of confidentiality rules, aided in the selection of Carmen D'Angelo as CAO at Niagara Region. D'Angelo's tenure, as the former CAO at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), was also controversial.

"At the time, it strained credibility that someone with D'Angelo's lack of senior municipal experience could have bested what was reported to have been 85+ applicants," says Liz Benneian, an ABN spokesperson.

A full public airing of how this occurred is absolutely necessary says Sean Polden, executive director at A Better Niagara. "Considering the integrity of our Regional government has been compromised, a thorough investigation by an independent authority needs to take place immediately."

"Citizens are fed up with backroom deals. We want transparency, accountability and integrity from our elected officials," says Polden.

Ed Smith, author of a report that asked critical questions about the operation of the NPCA and who was later sued by the NPCA and D'Angelo — a suit that Judge Ramsay found completely in Smith's favour — says this is just the latest in a series of controversies that have plagued this term of Regional Council and the boards its members sit on. From a \$870,000 payout to a police chief to questionable expense claims, from integrity commissioner complaints to investigations by the auditor general, the Regional Council and associated boards are in disarray.

"Enough. It's time for regime change at the Region," says Smith.

In order to find and support good candidates for the upcoming municipal election, A Better Niagara has been hosting a series of candidate training sessions across the region that have been attended by more than 200 people. Change, says Smith, is definitely in the air.

The next municipal election is only six months away, Smith notes. “If you’d make a good candidate, run for election. If you can help a good candidate, volunteer for a campaign. If you want to make sure we get the kind of governance we deserve, support A Better Niagara.”

For more information, and to register for the candidate training sessions, to volunteer or to donate contact ABN at info@abetterniagara.com; go to A Better Niagara Facebook page or visit their website at www.abetterniagara.com

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