

2. Support Long-Term Demographic Sustainability

(Seniors' supports, youth engagement, housing lifecycle, workforce retention)

Framing the Issue

- Niagara-on-the-Lake's long-term vitality depends on demographic balance.
 - A community cannot thrive if it becomes age-fragmented.
 - Sustainable growth requires housing and services across the full life cycle.
 - The goal is continuity – not privileging one demographic over another.
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How the Committee Approaches This

1. MAP DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS & SERVICE GAPS

- Review population data and age distribution trends.
- Identify projected growth in seniors and shifts in working-age residents.
- Assess gaps in services, programming, and infrastructure.

2. IDENTIFY LIFECYCLE HOUSING SHORTAGES

- Evaluate housing types currently available vs. needed.
- Consider downsizing pathways for older residents.
- Examine availability for young families and workforce housing.
- Identify bottlenecks that prevent natural lifecycle transitions.

3. GATHER CROSS-GENERATIONAL INSIGHT

- Engage seniors, caregivers, young families, and working residents.
- Document lived experience challenges.
- Distinguish systemic issues from isolated concerns.

4. CROSS-REFERENCE EXISTING TOWN STRATEGIES

- Official Plan direction
- Housing Action Plans
- Community services planning
- Regional housing frameworks

Focus remains on refinement and implementation – not duplication.

5. FOCUS ON CONTINUITY, NOT COMPETITION

- Promote policies that allow residents to remain in the community through different life stages.
 - Encourage intergenerational integration.
 - Support transitions rather than displacement.
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Key Themes to Emphasize

- Aging in place should be supported structurally.
- Youth retention requires viable housing pathways.

- Workforce sustainability affects local services and tourism.
 - Housing diversity supports economic resilience.
 - Demographic stability strengthens municipal planning.
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Tone the Committee Maintains

- Forward-looking
 - Evidence-based
 - Inclusive across generations
 - Aligned with provincial and regional policy
 - Constructive rather than reactive
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Desired Outcome for the Board

The Board is positioned to:

- Provide clear demographic summaries to staff and the CAO.
- Advocate for incremental adjustments within existing plans.
- Encourage lifecycle housing diversity.
- Strengthen long-term community continuity.