

StratChat Forum Guidelines



StratChat is an online community forum where citizens can share opinions and engage in discussion about what they think the Region of Waterloo should focus on over the next four-year term of Regional Council. Your participation, your thoughts and ideas and even your criticism are valuable and will help us formulate priorities that you help us define.

In that spirit, we ask that you contribute respectful and polite comments and content, and agree to follow a few ground rules. We reserve the right to remove any content or ban a participant. Please report content that you believe violates these ground rules to the [StratChat Moderator](#). In the event that content or comments are removed, they will still remain as part of the public record for a time period designated in the Region of Waterloo's Records Retention By-Law (No. 93-076); however, they will no longer be visible on the **StratChat** site.

Identify yourself. You are encouraged to use your actual name when posting comments or participating in any discussions. Your online name is displayed as your first name and last initial. You may not represent yourself as another person, or imply any connection with any person or organization with which you are not in fact associated.

Be courteous, respectful and appropriate. You agree that your comments, ideas and feedback will be constructive and will not sharply criticize or attack another participant or their ideas, avoiding the use of all capital, all bold or all italic letters, or objectionable avatars or excessive links to external websites. Further, you agree to refrain from posting or uploading anything obscene, hateful, blasphemous or derogatory, or anything that is defamatory or libelous or invades another person's privacy or proprietary rights. If you need to ask yourself whether it's appropriate, it's probably not.

No spamming or intentional disruptions. You agree not to deliberately disrupt discussions with repetitive messages, meaningless messages or "spam." Further, you will not upload, post or submit anything that contains any viruses, cancel bots, Trojan horses, harmful code, or other computer software or programs designed to interrupt another person's participation in, or enjoyment of the **StratChat** online forum.

No copyright infringement. You agree not to post copyrighted material or content without permission from the content owner. Copyright infringement and the protection of intellectual property rights will be taken very seriously.

No solicitation or advertising. You agree to refrain from sending any bulk unsolicited advertising, promotional information, commercial email or other solicitation (including without limitation junk mail, chain letters or pyramid schemes of any sort) to any person through the **StratChat** online forum.

Comply with the law. You will comply with all applicable laws in participating in this online forum and will not **StratChat** this online forum for illegal purposes.