VAUGHAN

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Meeting/Date	Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021 – Committee of the Whole (1)
Title:	**Marking the Second Anniversary of Niagara University in Ontario in Vaughan**
Submitted by:	**Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua**

Whereas, on Jan. 21, 2019, Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Niagara University President Rev. James J. Maher, C.M. first announced the arrival of Niagara University in Ontario to Vaughan. Founded in 1856, Niagara University, with its main campus located in Lewiston, N.Y., chose Vaughan for the school's new bi-national site; and

Whereas, Niagara University is an important investment and presence in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) – the city's emerging downtown core. The school's 12,000-square-foot site includes classrooms, faculty and administration offices and student lounge areas. The site is also walking distance from the VMC subway station and further connected by vivaNext bus rapid transit service; and

Whereas, on Feb. 13, 2019, Mayor Bevilacqua presented Father Maher with the Key to the City, to recognize and pay tribute to the important relationship between Vaughan and Niagara University; and

Whereas, in Nov. 2019, Niagara University took part in the joint City of Vaughan — Vaughan Chamber of Commerce business mission to Israel. The delegation met researchers at Tel Aviv University, Israel's largest post-secondary institution, to discuss the future of Smart City technology and its role in developing autonomous vehicles to improve urban transportation; and

Whereas, in Feb. 2020, Niagara University took part in the City's annual Vaughan Business Expo organized and led by the City's Economic and Cultural Development department; and

Whereas, in May 2020, Niagara University collaborated with the City's Economic and Cultural Development department to launch a new online speaker series to educate, engage and enrich the public from the comfort of their homes during the global COVID-19 pandemic. The speaker series featured members of the university's faculty and alumni, as well as community leaders who explored a series of different topics, including career counselling, working from home and financial security; and

Whereas, students studying in Vaughan can enrol in either the school's bachelor of professional studies in education or the master of science in education programs. Niagara University has further announced the addition of three new programs — Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Finance, and Master of Science in Information Security and Digital Forensics; and
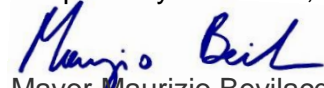
Whereas, in Oct. 2020, Niagara University – Vaughan's first university – hosted a virtual convocation for its first graduating class from the Vaughan location; and

Whereas, institutions like Niagara University help make Vaughan a Talent City with an educated, hard-working, entrepreneurial and dedicated workforce that is the basis of economic resilience. Opportunities for learning and development being available to Vaughan's citizens is an integral part of supporting a resilient economy.

It is therefore recommended that:

1. The City of Vaughan formally recognize the second anniversary of the expansion of Niagara University in Ontario to the City of Vaughan;

2. City staff continue to collaborate with Niagara University to advance shared priorities that help to enrich the Vaughan community through education, economic and talent development, public information and city-building initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua