

**Committee of the Whole
Meeting Number 2019-02
2019-2022 Strategic Planning/Priority Setting Process
Addendum 2
March 26 to 28 and April 17, 2019**

Communications

The consent of Council is requested for the **addition** of the following Communications:

Referred to All Members of Council

- 02-06 Correspondence from Barbara L. Schlafer dated March 27, 2019 with respect to the strategic planning sessions.
(Distributed to all members of Council on March 27, 2019)
(File Number CSU-C08-000-2019)
(See Pages 1-2 attached to the addendum)

From: Barbara L Schlafer <[REDACTED]>
Date: March 27, 2019 at 12:30:16 PM EDT
To: "BPaterson@cityofkingston.ca" <BPaterson@cityofkingston.ca>, "GOosterhof@cityofkingston.ca" <GOosterhof@cityofkingston.ca>, "LOsanic@cityofkingston.ca" <LOsanic@cityofkingston.ca>, "MRHolland@cityofkingston.ca" <MRHolland@cityofkingston.ca>, "JMcLaren@cityofkingston.ca" <JMcLaren@cityofkingston.ca>, "JNeill@cityofkingston.ca" <JNeill@cityofkingston.ca>, "PStroud@cityofkingston.ca" <PStroud@cityofkingston.ca>, "RHutchison@cityofkingston.ca" <RHutchison@cityofkingston.ca>, "RBoehme@cityofkingston.ca" <RBoehme@cityofkingston.ca>, "SChapelle@cityofkingston.ca" <SChapelle@cityofkingston.ca>, "BDoherty@cityofkingston.ca" <BDoherty@cityofkingston.ca>, "RKiley@cityofkingston.ca" <RKiley@cityofkingston.ca>, Jim Keech <jkeech@cityofkingston.ca>, "WHill@cityofkingston.ca" <WHill@cityofkingston.ca>
Cc: "jbolognone@cityofkingston.ca" <jbolognone@cityofkingston.ca>
Subject: Primary consideration in planning - Climate Emergency

Official Correspondence

Dear Mayor Paterson and Members of Council,
 In this week of planning priorities, please do not lose sight of the very different context and thus consequential outcomes of the choices you are making. We are in a climate **emergency** with only a short time to act. If we fail, if the worlds' governments fail, scientists warn us that **catastrophe will result**.

After a while, and perhaps before we have truly absorbed their meaning, words lose their power to move us to take the necessary action. So let's look at their definitions at least. Everyone reading this knows the particulars.

Emergency

Business Dictionary: Sudden, unexpected, or impending situation that may cause injury, loss of life, damage to the property, and/or interference with the normal activities of a person or firm and which, therefore, requires immediate attention and remedial action.

Merrimack Webster: an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action.

Oxford Dictionaries: 1

A serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action.

Consistent in each definition is the need for immediate action.

Since the consequence of not responding with immediate action is described by climate scientists as "catastrophe" . . .

Catastrophe

Merriam Webster:

a momentous tragic event ranging from extreme misfortune to utter overthrow or ruin

a violent and sudden change in a feature of the earth

the final event of the dramatic action especially of a tragedy

Synonyms

[apocalypse](#), [calamity](#), [cataclysm](#), [debacle](#), [disaster](#), [tragedy](#)

As politically unpopular as taking actions that will be unpopular in ANY other sphere may be, decisions that may cost us NOW, action to head off catastrophe and plan adaptations to what is delay has made inevitable trumps all.

I urge you to take the **Climate Emergency** and its **Catastrophic Potential** into account in all your planning and decision making on behalf of this community and decide in favour of protecting the future.

Barbara Schlafer

For my part, I keep seeing my grandchildren's innocent, joyful faces and press on in an effort to protect their futures and to beat back my own fear and grief that we all will not do enough.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF:

March 26-28, 2019

COMMUNICATION

No: 02-06