

For Immediate Release

Friday, April 3, 2020



**CITY OF WELLAND, LIBRARY, AND MUSEUM ISSUE LAYOFF NOTICES TO
FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STAFF**

Yesterday, the City of Welland issued temporary layoff notices to 15 full-time CUPE staff. This is in addition to other temporary layoff notices issued already, including:

- 12 full-time Transit drivers
- 17 full-time Public Work casuals
- 23 part-time staff (includes transit operators, transit terminal clerks, recreation staff)

Also, last week, the Welland Public Library issued temporary layoff notices to 22 part-time staff. Yesterday, 8 full-time Library CUPE staff received temporary layoff notices. In addition, the Welland Museum has issued layoff notices to 2 part-time staff and 2 full-time contract staff.

“Staffing levels are being reduced as a result of events and programs being cancelled and public facilities being closed until the end of June,” said Welland CAO Gary Long. “We’ve also reduced transit staff and service levels as a result of significantly reduced ridership. With this reduction in work, we are adjusting our staff complement. Decisions impacting the livelihood and well-being of our team have not been taken lightly by our Corporate Leadership Team and myself. We respect our mandate to provide public services and we respect the fact that these services are paid for by the taxpayers, many of whom have been impacted financially by the economic shocks of COVID-19. To this end, the City’s Corporate Leadership Team continues to focus on strong financial management and using taxpayer dollars wisely.”

The Welland Public Library is an integral community organization that provides opportunities for users to access important services, collections, and programs both in-person and online. In alignment with the City of Welland, the Welland Public Library has made the difficult decision to initiate issuing temporary layoff notices to most part-time and full-time library employees.

“The staff at the Welland Public Library are incredible employees who make valuable contributions to the lives of library users every single day,” said Welland Public Library CEO Julianne Brunet. “Once it is safe to do so, we anticipate recalling all of our employees so that they may resume the transformational work that they do to support a healthy and strong community.”

Yesterday, the City also announced that it is extending the closure of all public facilities, and the cancellation of events and programming until June 30, 2020. The City’s business continuity assumptions are that normal business operations will not return until July 6th. In the meantime, all City departments and divisions are operational, and staff are continuing to provide essential services with rotating shifts and working from home arrangements to adhere to public health directives.

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