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Town of Aurora

Memorandum

Office of the Mayor

Subject: York Regional Council Highlights of May 26, 2022

To: Members of Council

From: Mayor Mrakas

Date: June 7, 2022

Recommendation

1. That the York Regional Council Highlights of May 26, 2022, be received for information.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Friday, May 26, 2022

York Regional Council – Thursday, May 26, 2022

Live streaming of the public session of Council and Committee of the Whole meetings is available on the day of the meeting from 9 a.m. until the close of the meeting. Past sessions are also available at [York.ca/councilandcommittee](https://york.ca/councilandcommittee)

COVID-19 Update

York Regional Council received [an update](#) on the continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

York Region continues to be actively engaged in the pandemic response and has been monitoring the spread of COVID-19 through three key indicators: wastewater surveillance, hospitalizations and institutional outbreaks. While wastewater signals are stabilizing, hospitals are still seeing admissions from the virus.

Vaccination remains the most effective tool to protect ourselves, our families and our communities from serious outcomes related to COVID-19. Over 88% of York Region residents received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and over 85% of residents having received two doses. Three doses have been administered to 57% of eligible residents aged 12 years and older. Residents who are eligible and have not yet received a third or fourth booster dose are encouraged to [book an appointment](#) or visit one of York Region's [many walk-in, mobile or community hub vaccination clinics](#) at the earliest opportunity.

York Region continues to support high-risk settings with ongoing case, contact and outbreak management. These settings include long-term care, retirement and group homes, hospitals, hospices, shelters, farms and other congregate settings. Staff also continue to work with schools and child care centres to provide support on messaging, guidance and absenteeism.

York Region estimates the financial impacts of COVID-19 in 2022 will total \$49.2 million. Funding from senior levels of government is expected to fully offset the increased cost for the COVID-19 response in 2022, allowing for no tax levy pressure due to the pandemic response.

More information about York Region's ongoing response to COVID-19 is available at york.ca/COVID19

Regional Council endorses 2023 budget timeline

Regional Council endorsed the timeline for development of the [2023 to 2026 Budget](#), aligning with the next term of York Regional Council and the proposed 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan.

Since 2015, York Region has developed a multi-year budget comprised of an annual budget and a three-year outlook aligned with the term of Council. This process allows for better coordination of budgeting and supports long-term financial sustainability through the implementation of the [Region's fiscal strategy](#).

The 2023 budget will be developed in an environment of continued uncertainty regarding future COVID-19 impacts. Although there are positive signs about the pandemic recovery, service and

financial impacts are expected to continue beyond 2022. Additional pressures on the 2023 budget will include inflation, rising fuel prices and population growth as demand for Regional services increases.

To help manage financial pressures and minimize impacts on programs and services, a review of base budget items will be made to determine cost savings, reductions and other efficiencies.

The 2023 to 2026 budget will be tabled with Regional Council in January 2023 and considered for approval in February 2023.

Updated 2022 Development Charges Bylaw takes effect June 17, 2022

Regional Council has approved the [2022 Development Charges Bylaw](#), coming into effect on June 17, 2022. This bylaw is updated every five years in accordance with the [Development Charges Act, 1997](#).

Development charges are fees levied on new development to help pay for growth-related infrastructure. This infrastructure must be in place before development begins, ensuring it is ready and available to service growth when it occurs. In February 2022, Regional Council endorsed, in principle, the use of a uniform Region-wide rate to recover all growth-related costs in the new bylaw.

For the first time, the Development Charge Bylaw will include the Yonge North Subway Extension as it will provide benefit to York Region's nine cities and towns.

Housing Services will also benefit from the new Development Charges Bylaw. The updated bylaw will include \$909 million of gross project costs to facilitate the construction of more than 2,700 affordable rental apartments and transitional housing in the next 20 years. Of the \$909 million, approximately \$181 million is proposed to be funded through development charges.

The updated bylaw is anticipated to recover \$10 billion in development charge-eligible costs.

74% of Strategic Plan measures headed in the right direction

Regional Council received the [Year 3 \(2021\) Progress Report on the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan](#), showing 74% of the key performance measures trending in the desired direction. Regional Council also [approved](#) the development approach for the 2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan, which will align with the next term of Council.

Despite the operational pressures of the COVID-19 global pandemic response, significant progress has been made on several performance measures. Specifically, York Region has:

- Achieved top scores in the Ontario Chief Drinking Water Inspector's Report, with 100% of samples meeting Ontario Drinking water standards
- Purchased six new electric buses, moving closer to Council's goal of zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2051
- Increased greenspace through the planting of 92,154 trees and shrubs
- Reduced debt levels through the Regional Fiscal Strategy, with the reserve-to-debt ratio increasing from 86% to 147%

York Region's [2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan](#) is tracked, measured and reported annually to ensure progress is made on Council's priorities. A copy of the progress report is available at york.ca/stratplan

York Region releases plan to strengthen community well-being and keep residents safe

Regional Council [approved York Region's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan](#). The provincially mandated plan is a long-term tool to enhance safety by focusing on well-being and building on a strong foundation of collaborative relationships with community partners across York Region. It serves as an

important call to action to address community issues that are important to all residents and recognizes its success is a responsibility shared by all.

The 2022 to 2026 plan was created with input and support from residents and partners, including community service providers, local municipalities, York Regional Police and the Human Services Planning Board of York Region.

To leverage and enhance community asset and strengthen local capacity to drive change, York Region formed Community Action Tables. Over the next four years, the Region will continue to support these community-driven groups to work on top opportunities for action, including improving mental well-being and housing and economic stability.

Leveraging what was learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, the plan includes actions and initiatives to support equitable recovery from the pandemic. The plan also leverages the momentum established for collective impact, bringing together partners and resources to implement actions and make a positive difference across York Region's communities. In collaboration our partners, York Region will implement and report back on the plan's progress.

To get involved and for more information visit york.ca/CommunityAction

York Region shares proposed changes to the draft Regional Official Plan following public consultation

Regional Council has [endorsed changes](#) recommended for the draft [Regional Official Plan](#) (ROP) based on comments received to date. Since its release in November 2021, York Region has engaged with the public, local municipalities, stakeholders, Indigenous communities and underrepresented groups to gather comments and feedback on the draft ROP.

It's important to hear and receive feedback from those who live, work and play in York Region through the MCR process. An [engagement summary](#) from November 2021 to March 2022 shows an update of what was heard during the consultation period.

Feedback received through public and stakeholder engagement including the May 12, 2022, Statutory Public Open House and May 19, 2022, Public Meeting will inform the updated ROP proposed to Council for adoption in June 2022, prior to the Provincial deadline of July 2022.

A [tracked changes version](#) of the draft Regional Official Plan is available for a side-by-side view of proposed changes so far.

Visit york.ca/haveyoursay for updates on public engagement findings and follow the York Regional Official Plan journey [here](#).

City building initiatives driving York Region's future growth

York Region is [continuing to transform](#) its four provincially mandated Urban Growth Centres by combining urban pedestrian friendly and walkable communities with construction of new rapid transit corridors and stations to connect York Region and the Greater Toronto Area.

Despite the impacts of COVID-19, development activity remained stable, signaling a potentially stronger outlook in the years ahead. Other 2021 highlights include:

- 8,140 units (in 27 buildings) under construction, showing strong construction activity
- 87% of all new apartment builds are in the Region's Urban Growth Centres, making it the highest one-year percentage recorded
- 578 purpose built rental apartment units were under construction in 2021, with another 2,600 more units proposed

Investment in transit continues to have a positive impact in York Region. York Region is fully committed to seeing the completion of the Yonge North Subway Extension as a number one transit priority, and creating vibrant, sustainable and livable complete communities supporting the area as a destination. This commitment is already yielding development interest, including:

- Over 50,000 new residential units proposed in 2021 along the Yonge North Subway Extension Corridor and
- Approximately 42,000 units and 343,000 square metres of commercial/retail/office space are proposed in the Bridge and High-Tech station areas through the [Ontario Transit-Oriented Communities Program](#)

York Region's four Urban Growth Centres are: Newmarket Centre (Yonge Street and Davis Drive), Markham Centre (Highway 7 and Warden Avenue), Richmond Hill/Langstaff Gateway Centre (Highway 7 and Yonge Street) and Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (Highway 7 and Jane Street).

[Stay updated](#) on projected growth in these urban areas, as York Region is planning for supporting infrastructure, servicing and community services to achieve planned vision and growth targets laid out by the province.

Striving for more affordable housing in York Region through ongoing measuring and monitoring

Regional Council received an update on [affordable housing measuring and monitoring for 2021 which assesses new housing supply for affordability each year](#), specifically in new ownership and the supply of new purpose-built rental housing.

A full mix and range of housing options, including both affordable ownership and rental, is essential for communities where people of all ages, stages and incomes can live, work and play.

The 2021 analysis identifies a lack of new affordable housing options in York Region, which continues to be a challenge throughout the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area. Less than 1% of new ownership units were deemed affordable in 2021, and only 275 new rental units were identified, representing 4% of all units.

In February 2021, Regional Council identified an Affordable Housing Crisis and reinforced that building [complete communities](#) and addressing the continued affordability challenges is only possible through partnerships, new innovations and policy.

Partnerships are important since no one entity can solve the affordability crisis and different partners have a role in supporting the housing needs of residents and workers, including senior levels of government. With input and support from development proponents, other levels of government, housing providers and other stakeholders, York Region continues to work toward innovative solutions to housing affordability.

An Affordable Private Market Housing Implementation Plan and a Community Housing Master Plan are currently being developed to support more affordable housing options across York Region.

Updated Water and Wastewater Master Plan ensures water and wastewater services meet community needs now and into the future

Regional Council endorsed the [2022 Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update](#) and [list of infrastructure projects and programs](#), inclusive of approval of the [Upper York Sewage Solutions \(UYSS\) project](#). The UYSS project meets wastewater capacity growth needs in the Towns of East Gwillimbury and Newmarket and awaits the Ontario government's long outstanding decision.

The 2022 Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update identifies infrastructure and programs required to support projected growth to over 2 million residents and nearly 1 million jobs by 2051. The update builds on the 2016 plan and supports greater resiliency in our water and wastewater systems by using [One Water](#) principles to guide decision-making.

Extensive consultation and engagement with various participants, including Indigenous communities, local cities and towns, residents and other partners was completed throughout the plan development, including a [Special Committee of the Whole meeting on May 19, 2022](#).

The estimated cost to implement identified water and wastewater infrastructure projects is \$4.5 billion, primarily funded through Development Charges. The Master Plan aligns with the 10-year capital plan, including \$1 billion for water and \$3.5 billion for wastewater growth projects. Wastewater funding includes upgrades and expansion for the York Durham Sewage System and Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant and UYSS project (pending outstanding provincial approvals) in the Lake Simcoe watershed. The UYSS project is a key component of the wastewater servicing solution for growth in East Gwillimbury and Newmarket and will allow for the decommissioning of the Holland Landing Lagoons.

Water and wastewater initiatives are integrated with the Region's Official Plan, the Transportation Master Plan and other strategies to ensure cost-effectiveness.

York Region remains at the forefront in delivering water and wastewater services and contributes to building stronger communities and a healthier, more resilient environment for all. Learn more at york.ca/wwmp

York Region Transit continues to provide safe travel options

Regional Council received an update on [York Region Transit's \(YRT\) Enforcement and Security](#), which outlines Special Constable activities as reported to the York Regional Police Services Board.

During 2021, YRT Enforcement and Security continued to promote public safety across the system to support a safe and comfortable experience on the transit system, including:

- Investigating and responding to more than 4,500 incidents
 - Assisting travellers, including over 400 incidents when staff assisted people experiencing homelessness and vulnerable persons, and connecting these individuals with other Regional programs and services, as appropriate
 - Conducting fare inspections
 - Retrieving and reviewing closed-circuit television footage for safety, security and police purposes
- Enforcing public health measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including compliance with the mandatory mask (or face covering) bylaw

Many YRT incidents reported at transit facilities and on buses in 2021 continued to be directly related to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including an increase in property and security-related occurrences.

YRT Special Constables have Peace Officer authority, as set out in the Criminal Code of Canada. These include enforcement of offences related to Obstructing or Resisting a Peace Officer, Obstructing Justice, False Pretences, Forgery, Uttering a Threat, Forged Document, Fraud Under \$5,000 and Fraud relating to fares. During 2021, staff continued to emphasize education, traveller assistance, safety and security.

For more information on York Region Transit please visit yrt.ca

Cycling improvements coming to Bayview Avenue/Prospect Street

Regional Council approved road improvements to [Bayview Avenue/Prospect Street](#) in the Town of Newmarket to enhance access and safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Enhancements include:

- Designating bicycle lanes [between 1st Street/Pearson Street and Mulock Court between Srigley Street and Timothy Street](#)
- Prohibiting stopping or parking [between Srigley Street and Mulock Drive](#)
- Reducing the speed limit from 50 km/hr to 40 km/hr [between Davis Drive and 265 metres south of Mulock Drive](#)
- Providing a connection to the East-West Bikeway and future Mulock Drive multi-use path

Bicycle lanes and stopping prohibition signage will be implemented in coordination with cycling pavement markings later this year.

For more information on cycling in York Region, visit york.ca/cycling

2021 Annual Investment Report shows strong Regional position

Regional Council received the [2021 Annual Investment Report](#), providing an update on the General and Sinking Fund investment portfolios held by York Region.

In 2021, the General Fund realized investment returns of \$99.8 million, or a 2.6% return rate. Total returns exceeded the FTSE/S&P Index and the ONE Investment Program benchmarks by 1.98% and 1.48% respectively. These returns augment reserve and reserve fund balances over the longer term, potentially reducing future levels of required contributions to these funds.

In 2021, the Sinking Fund generated realized returns of \$25.9 million on average investments of \$860.4 million, representing a return of 3.01%.

As of December 31, 2021, the General Fund and the Sinking Fund investment portfolios had a combined maturity value of approximately \$5.562 billion.

York Region's investment program is governed by a sound and effective Council-approved Investment Policy that consistently provides positive returns while maintaining conservative credit and term risk exposures.

Celebrating 20 years of environmental stewardship

York Region's [Greening Strategy Refinement and 2021 Achievements](#) puts the commitment to a healthier, more resilient natural environment into action.

In 2021, York Region's Greening Strategy [achievements](#) included:

- Planting 92,154 trees and shrubs
- Securing 142 hectares (350 acres) of land for conservation
- Supporting and attending 57 community events
- Leveraging \$2.8 million in external funding for large scale reforestation, backyard tree planting, outdoor education and land securement

First adopted in 2001, the Greening Strategy is helping York Region [build sustainable communities and protect our environment](#).

Over the past two decades the Greening Strategy has supported planting over 1.7 million trees and securing more than 1,500 hectares (approximately 3,750 acres) of land for conservation.

Additionally, over the past 20 years, a \$19 million Regional investment has secured \$108 million in conservation lands through land securement partnerships, donations from landowners and grant funding.

The Greening Strategy was identified for a 10-year review and refinement. The refinement commits to continuing and expanding core programs, developing new partnerships and piloting new programs to offer residents more opportunities to get involved.

York Region is an innovative and collaborative leader for natural environment programs. Greening Strategy initiatives have been recognized by the Arbour Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2021), Forests Ontario (2021), the Ontario Lieutenant Governor (2019) and the Green World Awards (2019).

For more information on York Region's Greening Strategy and how residents and other stakeholders can support environmental and sustainable initiatives, please visit york.ca/greening

New circular economy roadmap closes the waste loop

York Region is driving action to meet its [aspirational vision](#) of a 'world in which nothing goes to waste' with the development of a [Circular Economy Roadmap](#). The [Roadmap](#) guides implementation and fosters collaboration to prevent waste and maximize diversion from landfill. Action areas focus on:

- Sustainable food systems
- Reuse and sharing
- Community capacity building
- Circular procurement
- Asset management

York Region will engage the community to build knowledge, showcase successes and identify new champions and additional opportunities to advance waste reduction efforts.

Implementing the Circular Economy Roadmap will help further advance York Region's vision of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2051, plus other key priorities, including climate change mitigation, energy and water demand management and economic vitality.

York Region remains a leader in waste diversion. Over the past several years, the Region has successfully diverted more than 90% of York Region waste from landfills. The roadmap builds on successful community programs such as [Repair Cafés](#), [The Lendery](#) and [Curbside Giveaway Days](#) that provide opportunities for residents to participate in the circular economy.

To learn how a circular economy aims to eliminate waste and pollution and conserves resources, along with tools for residents and businesses, visit york.ca/circulareconomy

York Region shares findings of the 2021 Homeless Count

Regional Council received [an update](#) on the [I Count 2021: York Region's Homeless Count Report](#). The last update was presented to Council in [April 2021](#), outlining the plan to conduct the count.

In June 2021, York Region partnered with the United Way of Greater Toronto to carry out a Point-in-Time (PIT) count. A PIT Count provides a snapshot of the number of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a specific day.

Anonymous surveys were conducted across York Region with individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Locations included emergency housing (shelters), transitional housing, encampments, hospitals and mental health and addiction program location. The 2021 PIT Count identified 329 people experiencing homelessness and provided insights on factors contributing to homelessness.

With this additional insight, York Region remains focused on investing in strategies to prevent homelessness and, when necessary, to help people find and keep housing. The data collected through this count will also support the design and ongoing delivery of a range of programs, including the York Region's [10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan](#).

The 2021 PIT Count is fully funded by the province through the Social Services Relief Fund. This was the third count conducted in York Region, with previous counts conducted in [2016](#) and [2018](#). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the count was conducted differently than in previous years to follow public health guidelines.

For more information, please visit york.ca/icount

Responding to changes in long-term care

Regional Council [received an update](#) on the proposed new National Standard for the Operation and Infection Prevention and Control of Long-term Care Homes. The proposed standards are an important step towards strengthening long-term care service delivery and protecting residents and provides guidance on safe operating practices, design and infection prevention and control.

Regional Council, in its role as Committee of Management for York Region's long-term care homes at Newmarket Health Centre and Maple Health Centre, has been influential in advocating for legislative and regulatory changes in the long-term care sector at both provincial and federal levels.

Staff gathered feedback through internal consultations with staff, York Region Public Health and sector organizations and submitted the feedback to the Canadian Standards Association Group, municipal partners and senior levels of government.

The draft national standards are not federally or provincially legislated at this time and there is no immediate impact on the operations of the two long-term care homes. Implementing the national standards would require additional provincial support and funding.

The long-term care sector is undergoing a significant period of transformation in response to longstanding challenges and issues magnified by the COVID-19 Pandemic. A report to Council in [April 2022](#) provided a summary of this work to date. Staff continue to monitor federal and provincial standards for legislation and regulation updates and will report back to Regional Council once regulations are finalized.

Residential Sustainable Development Incentive Program Update

Regional Council [approved the changes](#) to the Sustainable Development Incentive Programs which offers Sustainable Development through Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

With the recent advancements through federal and provincial building codes, a higher level for new developments has been set. These changes will result in York Region's [Servicing Incentive Program](#) for low-rise development being terminated. Alternative offers are still available through the [Sustainable Development through LEED](#) Program for high-rise development.

Local municipalities with programs tied to York Region's previous Servicing Incentive Program will also update their policies to reflect the change.

Find out more about development financial and servicing incentives [here](#).

York Region renews Toronto Global Membership

Regional Council received an update on [Toronto Global](#), a non-profit corporation between Federal, Provincial and Regional/local government with the mandate of attracting global investment.

Regional Council works with municipal partners to [continue partnership](#) with Toronto Global. With York Region as a top destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Toronto Global has changed its funding model to tailor to the 905 areas in the GTA, focusing on York Region. Though FDI attraction is very high, York Region and GTA results overall have remained low.

The renewed partnership with Toronto Global will also feature a “made in York Region” framework which will include additional support focused on local municipal FDI attraction and help address concerns about funding levels and regional collaboration.

York Region is home to an impressive list of foreign organizations, including IBM, Huawei, Aviva Insurance, Honda, Siemens and Johnson & Johnson among others. While the FDI activity has slowed since the COVID-19 pandemic, foreign investments continue to come through.

York Region will work with local municipalities in the coming months with the new FDI framework fully rolled out in early 2023 and reported on annually through the [Economic Development Action Plan](#) update.

Storm recovery continues across York Region

Regional Council extended appreciation and thanks to Regional and municipal staff, emergency service workers and hydro partners for their diligent efforts to keep the community safe, clean up debris and resume services following the severe storm that hit Southern Ontario on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

York Region has worked closely with municipal partners to share [resources and up-to-date information](#) of road closures, food safety, water safety, yard waste clean-up and forest track closures following the storm and asks residents to remain patient as recovery continues.

Regional Council also extended their support to the Town of Uxbridge, who experienced the worst of the storm, including a Category 2 tornado.

Residents can learn more about emergency preparedness at york.ca/beprepared and can remain up-to-date on storm related service disruptions through the Region's social media channels or by downloading the [York Region mobile app](#).

Remembering Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas

Regional Council paid respects to former York Region Transportation Commissioner Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, who died on Monday, May 2, 2022.

Ms. Llewellyn-Thomas was a proud member of the York Region team, serving as Transportation Commissioner from 2008 to 2013. Following her time with York Region, she left to lend her expertise to the Toronto Community Housing Corporation and most currently served as Chief Strategy and Customer Officer for the Toronto Transit Corporation.

At the Thursday, May 5, 2022, meeting of Committee of the Whole, Regional Council extended condolences to Ms. Llewellyn-Thomas' family, friends and colleagues.

Mourning lives lost in Uvalde, Texas

Regional Council held a moment of silence in honour of the 21 innocent lives lost in the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas on Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

York Region and Regional Council extended sympathies to all impacted by this horrific crime and joins communities around the world in the global call to action to address the issue of gun violence.

Tragedy in Buffalo

Regional Council held a moment of silence in honour of the victims of the Saturday, May 14, 2022, mass shooting in the City of Buffalo.

York Region joined with communities across Canada and around the world in condemning anti-Black racism and prejudice of any kind, and shared support for the victims of this unnecessary act of violence.

Through endorsement of the Inclusion Charter for York Region, Regional Council remains steadfast in their commitment to equity, acceptance and safety for all and continues to work to build a welcoming and inclusive York Region where everyone can live free from discrimination.

York Region updates Traditional Land Acknowledgment

At the May 5, 2022, meeting of Committee of the Whole, York Region provided an updated Land Acknowledgment statement, developed in partnership with the York Region Indigenous staff committee, senior levels of government and Indigenous partners.

The updated acknowledgment recognizes and honours the historical cultural communities geographically associated with York Region and demonstrates Regional Council's commitment to creating a York Region that fosters Indigenous inclusion.

York Region celebrates Pride Month

Regional Council recognized June 2022 as Pride Month and acknowledged the countless contributions York Region's vibrant and proud LGBTQ2+ community are making towards building a more inclusive community for all.

As one of Canada's fastest growing and most diverse municipalities, York Region embraces all dimensions of diversity and acknowledges the ability to celebrate and value everyone's differences and contributions as source of great community strength.

During Pride Month and all year long, Regional Council appreciates everyone who continues to build a strong, caring and safe York Region where all are free to celebrate their own identity.

National AccessAbility Week

Regional Council recognized and celebrated [National AccessAbility Week](#) from May 29 to June 4, 2022.

AccessAbility Week is a time to recognize the people, communities and organizations that are actively increasing opportunities and removing barriers, so people of all abilities have a best chance to succeed.

It is an opportunity to focus on making our communities more welcoming and inclusive for every individual who calls York Region home.

Paramedic Services Week

Regional Council recognized [Paramedic Services Week](#) from May 22 to May 28, 2022, thanking the dedicated individuals who work around the clock to keep York Region residents healthy and safe.

During Paramedic Services Week and throughout the year, York Region recognizes the passion, expertise and dedication of paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers and the network of paramedic support staff who support residents in their greatest time of need.

Personal Support Worker Day

Regional Council recognized Thursday, May 19, 2022, as [Personal Support Worker Day](#), thanking York Region's personal support workers for their dedication and commitment to delivering essential care and support to some of the most vulnerable in the community.

Personal Support Workers Day provides an opportunity to recognize the essential role personal support workers play in the broader health care system by providing high-quality community and home-based care. It also provides an opportunity to thank people for being on the front lines of the COVID-19 response, putting themselves at risk to provide care and support to those most in need.

National Nurses Week

Regional Council recognized May 9 to May 15, 2022, as [National Nurses Week](#) and extended appreciation to the thousands of men and women in York Region who dedicate their lives to the health and well-being of others.

Nurses are an integral part of the health care system. As York Region looks towards post-pandemic recovery, nurses will continue to play a critical role in protecting and promoting health and safety across our communities.

Economic Development Week

Regional Council recognized May 9 to May 13, 2022, as [International Economic Development Week](#), acknowledging the significant work of economic development in supporting business growth and attracting new business to York Region.

Sponsored by the International Economic Development Council, Economic Development Week raises awareness of local programs that create jobs, advance career development and improve quality of life. York Region is home to a diverse business sector. Stimulating entrepreneurship and establishing the next generation of new business will be critical in the months and years ahead as York Region looks to the post-pandemic recovery of the local economy.

Red Dress Day

Regional Council recognized Thursday, May 5, 2022, as [Red Dress Day](#), honouring the spirits of missing and murdered Indigenous People.

Red Dress Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and to stand in solidarity with Indigenous communities.

World Press Freedom Day

Regional Council recognized Tuesday, May 3, 2022, as [World Press Freedom Day](#), celebrating the role journalists play in society and honouring those who have lost their lives in the pursuit of truth.

Regional Council also extended appreciation to local, regional and national media partners who have played an integral role in providing residents with timely, accurate and truthful information related to the COVID-19 pandemic response.

Next meeting of York Regional Council

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 9 a.m. To continue protecting the health and well-being of residents, this is currently planned to be a hybrid meeting, with Members of Council attending either in-person or virtually. The meeting will be streamed on york.ca/live

The Regional Municipality of York consists of nine local cities and towns and provides a variety of programs and services to 1.2 million residents and 54,000 businesses with over 650,000 employees. More information about the Region's key service areas is available at york.ca/regionalservices

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