



March 21, 2024

York Region Members of Parliament

Dear York Region Members of Parliament:

**RE: 2024 to 2027 York Region Plan to Support Seniors**

I am pleased to share ***2024 to 2027 York Region Plan to Support Seniors: Navigating Forward Together*** which accompanies this letter.

The Regional Municipality of York is seeking commitment from senior levels of government to advance collaborative efforts and make further investments in innovative programs and services that support seniors to age in the right place and stay healthier for longer.

**York Region's seniors population is projected to more than double by 2051**

For the first time in York Region history, the number of seniors now exceeds the number of children. By 2051, close to one in four (23%) York Region residents will be over the age of 65. The most significant growth is expected amongst older seniors, those aged 75 and older, who over time often require additional supports and higher levels of health and social care. The Region is one of many service providers within the complex landscape of seniors care. Addressing current and future needs and pressures of the rapidly growing seniors population has never been greater, requiring collaborative planning and evidence-based innovation with federal and provincial governments, local municipalities, community stakeholders and the private sector.

Our updated plan builds on achievements of the original 2016 [York Region Seniors Strategy](#). It supports seniors across the broader continuum of health and social care through various avenues, including improved access to health and program information.

**Alignments between our plan with federal priorities and closing gaps**

Since 2016, we have advocated to senior levels of government to address fragmentation of the system supporting seniors and caregivers and make improvements to supports for seniors in areas such as [long-term care, home and community care and housing](#). We are pleased with the recent agreement between the federal and provincial governments announced on February 9, 2024 to improve health care in Ontario. We are also encouraged with the potential for a second bilateral agreement "focused on helping Canadians age with dignity close to home with access to home care or care in a safe long-care facility". We will continue to monitor impacts and look for opportunities for further collaborations with partners, including federal, provincial and local

municipal governments and community partners. Working together, these shared directions will strengthen our implementation of the Plan to Support Seniors in addressing the needs of seniors and caregivers in York Region.

There remain gaps and silos in the current system affecting seniors' health and well-being. Our advocacy agenda identifies promising practices and areas of need requiring urgent attention and investment from provincial and federal governments to advance seniors' health and well-being. This includes:

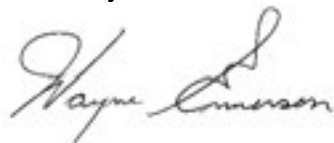
- Mandate prevention-focused annual in-home or supported virtual visits with a health professional to proactively connect seniors 75 and older to needed information, health services and community supports
- Policy planning and funding across a seniors' continuum of health and social care that leverages innovative evidence-based approaches to enable seniors to age in the right place based on their own preferences, circumstances and care needs; includes promising practices like Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities and other age friendly supports
- Sustainable funding for preventative and responsive Community Paramedicine programs that have proven to assist vulnerable seniors in their homes and reduce avoidable 911 calls
- Investments to sustain, scale and spread programs and supports that enhance seniors access to technology and reduce digital divides
- Establish a provincial service system manager or coordinating body to align improvements across multiple ministries, sectors and stakeholders supporting seniors

### **Navigating forward together**

York Regional Council remains committed to working collaboratively with all levels of government – provincial, federal, local municipal and community partners – to ensure York Region seniors and caregivers have access to resources they need to stay healthy longer, remain connected to their communities and supported with options to age in the right place.

If you have questions or would like to further discuss the plan, please contact Lisa Gonsalves, General Manager, Paramedic and Seniors Services, at 1-877-464-9675 extension 72090 or by email at [Lisa.Gonsalves@york.ca](mailto:Lisa.Gonsalves@york.ca)

Sincerely,



Wayne Emmerson  
Chairman and CEO

CC Hon. Raymond Sung Joon Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility  
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health  
Hon. Stan Cho, Minister of Long-Term Care  
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance  
Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services  
Melissa Thomson, Deputy Minister for Seniors and Accessibility and Deputy Minister of Long-Term Care  
Deborah Richardson, Deputy Minister of Health  
Greg Orencsak, Deputy Minister of Finance  
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Denise A. Cole, Deputy Minister Children, Community and Social Services  
Hon. Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Seniors  
Hon. Mark Holland, Minister of Health  
Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance  
Matt Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health  
Susan deRyk, Chief Regional Officer, Ontario Health Central and West Regions

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