



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



The Regional Municipality of York

[www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)



Thursday, November 21, 2013

## York Regional Council – November 21, 2013

### Tour for Humanity launches in York Region

The Regional Municipality of York joined with the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies today to proudly launch the [Tour for Humanity](#) in York Region.

Featuring a technically-innovative mobile Tolerance Education Centre, the Tour for Humanity explores topics including holocaust, genocide, bullying, heroes and leadership. The unique mobile classroom is travelling across Ontario to initiate discussion on critical human rights issues.

In development for five years, the Tour for Humanity is a compelling and inspiring opportunity to empower Canadians to raise their voices and take action against hate and intolerance.

### CivicAction Chairperson John Tory makes case for sustained transit infrastructure funding

Greater Toronto CivicAction Alliance Chairperson John Tory made a deputation to York Regional Council promoting the organization's *Your32* campaign. The *Your32* campaign provides 32 ways people's lives could be improved if they spent 32 fewer minutes each day commuting.

CivicAction is an advocacy organization promoting economic, social and environmental benefits of building transit infrastructure across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

CivicAction set up a display in the Great Hall of the York Region Administrative Centre to promote its campaign and invited York Region employees to sign a pledge in support of reducing traffic gridlock.

### Daniel Kostopoulos named Commissioner of

#### York Region Transportation and Community Planning Department

York Regional Council today confirmed Daniel Kostopoulos as The Regional Municipality of York's newest Commissioner. Responsible for leading the Region's Transportation and Community Planning department, Mr. Kostopoulos has a wealth of experience in transportation, capital construction and effective community planning.

An employee of York Region for nearly 13 years, Mr. Kostopoulos most recently served as Director, Capital Planning and Delivery for the Region's Environmental Services Department. His extensive planning, engineering and leadership abilities make him the ideal candidate for this important role.

Mr. Kostopoulos will start his new role as Commissioner early in the new year.

## Regional Council supports Fixing Canada's Housing Crunch campaign

Regional Council endorsed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) national campaign [Fixing Canada's Housing Crunch](#). This campaign calls on all orders of government in Canada to focus on the high cost of housing, the most urgent financial issue facing Canadians.

One in four Canadians is paying more than they can afford for housing and mortgage debt held by Canadians now stands at more than \$1.1 trillion. These costs are undermining Canadians' personal financial security while household debt, as the Bank of Canada notes, is putting our national economy at risk.

FCM is calling on the federal government to commit to a long-term plan for housing, working with municipalities and all orders of government to address these crucial issues. To support this campaign on Twitter, use the hashtag #housingcrunch

## Dr. J. Richard Gould appointed as an Associate Medical Officer of Health

The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for Ontario, approved the appointment of Dr. J. Richard Gould as an Associate Medical Officer of Health for The Regional Municipality of York.

Dr. Gould met the eligibility requirements specified in the Health Protection and Promotion Act to be appointed as an Associate Medical Officer of Health.

## York Region 2013 budget wins GFOA Distinguished Budget Award

For the ninth consecutive year, The Regional Municipality of York has received the Distinguished Budget Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The award recognizes the commitment of Regional Council and staff to meeting the highest standards of governmental budgeting in the Region's 2013 budget.

The GFOA is a professional association serving 17,800 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA Distinguished Budget Award program is the only widely recognized award program in governmental budgeting.

## 2014 Business Plan and Budget tabled

Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer Bill Hughes today tabled a [draft 2014 Business Plan and Budget](#), which includes \$1.2 billion for capital projects and \$1.8 billion for operating expenses. The draft budget proposes a tax levy increase of 1.54 per cent for 2014.

Committee of the Whole will review the proposed budget at two meetings in December. The Treasurer will present the budget for Regional Council approval at either the December or January meeting of Council.

## York Region enters into agreement with ventureLab, a Region-wide innovation network

York Regional Council today received an update on ventureLab, the Region's provincially recognized Regional Innovation Centre, and formalized a service agreement of \$100,000 for 2014, subject to budget approval.

Since 2011, York Region has funded ventureLab to deliver business innovation and programming across all nine municipalities. ventureLab supports the development and delivery of support programs and services, targeting technology-based business owners who are starting and building global companies.

## York Regional Council adopts policy to promote long-term sustainability of the Region's physical assets

York Regional Council today endorsed a new Corporate Asset Management Policy, a set of principles and approaches to guide investment in and renewal of the assets of The Regional Municipality of York.

York Region owns more than \$7 billion worth of tangible capital assets, including drinking water, wastewater and waste management facilities, rapid and conventional bus fleets and facilities, the Regional road system, Housing York Inc. facilities and long-term care facilities.

The new policy establishes a framework for a co-ordinated approach to the Region's asset management practices. Each Regional department will develop an asset management plan for Regional Council approval in 2014. The Region aims to bring a Corporate State of Infrastructure Report to Regional Council in early 2015.

### YorkInfo Partnership to advance collaboration and data sharing among all partners

York Regional Council received a report of YorkInfo Partnership's upcoming priorities, including acquiring region-wide orthophotography, establishing region-wide standards for development of digital applications, providing a self-service environment for data and the development of a multi-year partnership plan.

Since 1996, York Region, the nine local municipalities, the school boards and the conservation authorities have worked together as the YorkInfo Partnership to maximize their collective investment in geographic information services.

Through this collaborative approach, all partners have greater access to a common source of information and maximize their investments in the geographic infrastructure supporting the management of our communities.

### Emerald Ash Borer continues to spread across The Regional Municipality of York

The Emerald Ash Borer continues to spread across The Regional Municipality of York, killing ash trees in the process.

Surveys indicate the insect is now well established in the Towns of East Gwillimbury and Georgina. Most ash trees in the southern part of the Region are either dead or in decline due to the insect, which was first discovered in York Region in 2008.

Through York Regional Council's approval of the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan in 2011, \$10 million was allocated for monitoring and managing the insect's impact. Mitigation measures through the 10-year plan include removal and replacement of affected ash trees on Regional Roads, treating select large and still healthy trees with insecticide, communication and public outreach activities and tree planting incentives.

The Region has also partnered with Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests to deliver their Emerald Ash Borer Ambassador Program to York Region residents. The program teaches residents about the insect, helps them teach others in their community and gives them tools to organize ash tree treatments or removals in their neighbourhood.

For more information on Emerald Ash Borer in York Region visit [www.york.ca/eab](http://www.york.ca/eab)

## Water and wastewater capital infrastructure status update

York Regional Council today received an update on the status of the Region's water and wastewater capital infrastructure.

Approved growth is only possible when there is available capacity in the water or wastewater system. By prioritizing and integrating delivery of infrastructure projects with timing of planning approvals, project delivery schedules can be met.

Senior operations and planning staff from all Regional municipalities work together to provide a clear understanding of available existing capacity and timing for anticipated servicing needs. The total cost of projects in the update is in excess of \$3.5 billion, of which 46 per cent has been spent and an additional 50 per cent will be spent in the next five years.

## York Region working to create rental housing options for all stages of life

Regional Council endorsed a plan to engage all levels of government, the building industry and corporate leaders to work together to address the shortage of rental housing in York Region.

*Make Rental Happen: Creating the Conditions to Build Private Market Rental Housing* is a private-market rental housing collaborative advocacy plan developed by the Human Services Planning Board of York Region to engage partners in building rental housing options for those who cannot afford or do not wish to own a home.

There is a demand for rental housing in York Region, however the private sector is not building enough rental units to meet this demand. For the most part, York Region has been alone in building rental housing in the last decade. The private sector needs to be brought back to the table and the Board is making great strides to accomplish this through its collaborative advocacy plan.

The Board will begin to implement the plan in 2014 by meeting with local municipalities, the building industry and corporate leaders to encourage private-market rental housing development in York Region.

## Council approves private market rental development charges deferral pilot

York Regional Council approved a private market rental development charges deferral pilot, allowing Malter Holdings Ltd in the Town of Newmarket to defer development charges for up to 36 months or until the sale of the property. In return, this property will operate as a 180-unit private rental apartment complex, for a minimum of 20 years.

This marks the first step in receiving Regional Council approval for implementing a pilot program to increase private rental market housing in York Region.

## Council approves amendment to Regional Official Plan for Buddhist centre

York Regional Council approved amendment 70 to the Regional Official Plan for a Buddhist place of worship, located at 13000 Leslie Street in the Town of Aurora.

The amendment permits a Buddhist centre to operate from an existing building at the Leslie Street address.

The amendment is consistent with the rural area policies of the York Region Official Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. A similar amendment was adopted by the Town of Aurora in its Official Plan.

A copy of the report can be viewed [here](#)

Immigration Settlement Strategy successfully supports newcomer integration in the community  
York Regional Council received a mid-term update on the implementation of the York Region Immigration Settlement Strategy. The strategy was developed in collaboration with the Community Partnership Council, a multi-sector stakeholder planning group supporting the integration of newcomers in York Region.

At mid-term of implementation, 34 per cent of the total actions are complete and 62 per cent are in progress.

Positive results helping support successful newcomer integration include:

- Housing York Inc. identifying how to deliver culturally appropriate services to tenants
- York Region Emergency Medical Services piloting a program to help foreign-trained health professionals gain the needed volunteer hours to become certified primary care paramedics
- York Region providing orientation sessions on the YRT/Viva services to staff at libraries and settlement agencies to help educate newcomers on taking transit in the Region

Forty organizations in York Region have endorsed the strategy and are committed to supporting newcomer integration.

### York Region enhances workforce development program to help Ontario Works clients retain employment

York Region is enhancing its workforce development program to help Ontario Works (OW) clients find and keep jobs. The program's enhancements respond to the needs of OW clients, employers and the economy, with a focus on the needs of foreign-trained professionals.

New tools used to support OW clients include:

- Wanted Analytics – a job search technology that matches skills with local job opportunities to better connect clients to jobs
- English language assessment – includes one-on-one employment assessments to determine job readiness and need for additional language training

The program helps vulnerable, low-income residents gain the skills they need to find employment and participate in their communities.

In 2012, York Region's workforce development program assisted more than 1,370 residents.

### York Region EMS 2014 Response Time Performance Plan maintains current service levels

York Regional Council approved maintaining the 2013 Response Time Performance Plan for York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in 2014. The 2014 plan is consistent with response time targets currently being achieved Region-wide.

As of 2013, as legislated by the *Ambulance Act*, York Region is required to maintain a Response Time Performance Plan. This plan sets minimum response time targets to ensure continued high levels of EMS service across York Region.

Regional Council also received a year-to-date performance update on the 2013 EMS Response Time Performance Plan. Staff will continue to monitor response time performance and report back to Council in early 2014.

To view the year-to-date performance update and the 2014 York Region EMS Response Time Performance Plan, click [here](#)

## Council receives update on Red Light Camera Enforcement Program

York Regional Council received an update on the implementation of the Red Light Camera Enforcement Program.

Highlights include:

- Installation of cameras at all 20 intersections and agreements for processing completed in September
- Activation of a majority of the camera sites occurred October 18
- Planned monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of the program will occur spring 2014

Registered owners of vehicles running red light traffic signals at red light camera sites can expect to receive infraction notices under the Highway Traffic Act.

York Regional Council approved the installation of red light cameras to help save lives and prevent injuries by modifying driver behaviour. Side-impact collisions are among the leading causes of motor vehicle deaths and bodily injuries.

A copy of the report can be viewed [here](#)

### Next regular meeting of York Regional Council

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, December 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

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*The Regional Municipality of York provides services to 1.1 million residents and 42,000 businesses that employ 533,000 people*