

Council Information Package

Index of Attachments

Circulation Date: February 2, 2018

Note: If a Member of Council wishes to include any of the enclosed documents on a future Council or Committee of the Whole agenda, please email Legislative Services at clerks@newmarket.ca.

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Traffic Injury Research Foundation
December 19, 2017
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3. **Marijuana Tax Revenue**
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January 26, 2018

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Region of York
January 26, 2018

10. 2018 Ontario Farmland Forum

Ontario Farmland Trust
January 31, 2018

TOO FAR. TOO FAST.

December 19, 2017

Mayor Tony Van Bynen
 Town of Newmarket
 395 Mulock Drive P. O. Box 328,
 Newmarket, Ontario
 L3Y 4X7

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES		MAYOR'S OFFICE			
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Dear Mayor Van Bynen,

We are writing to you as health and safety experts to consider passing a motion to prevent the opening of legalized cannabis stores in your community in the interest of protecting public safety and young people.

The federal government's cannabis legalization aggressive commercialization agenda has fallen short on ensuring that our youth, road users and communities are protected from the hazards of legal marijuana consumption. In turn, provincial regulatory frameworks to sell and distribute cannabis have been hastily set up according to the federal government's rushed process, which has resulted in further health and safety deficiencies and a patchwork of inconsistent rules across the country. The bottom line is that cannabis legalization and commercialization is going too far, too fast and public health and safety will pay the price.

We stand with public health experts, healthcare professionals, community leaders, parents and law enforcement who have raised important concerns about the federal legalization scheme, but have been ignored thus far. Ultimately, communities such as yours will have to contend with the negative impact brought on by rushed legalization and commercialization: more drug-impaired driving; easier access to cannabis for youth; increased strain on mental health services and counseling; higher costs for enforcement of new laws and regulations with vague promises of new resources (but no guarantee that the black market will fade); and evolving challenges to manage the consumption of a new product that is toxic, addictive and dangerous.

Please consider debating a motion such as the one passed unanimously by the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill, which declares the Town is not willing to host a legal cannabis outlet: <https://pub-richmondhill.escrimemeetings.com/Meeting?Id=b5b08598-6cae-43eb-bcb4-d84c5434a064&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English#21>

Other jurisdictions, including Manitoba, have recognized a municipality's right to decide by ensuring they have a local option right to preclude the establishment of retail cannabis outlets in their municipalities. Why aren't Ontario municipalities being afforded the same respect and consideration for their residents?

Please also consider pressing your federal and provincial representatives for answers on how they intend to address the health and safety gaps of the current framework. You may wish to use the Too Far Too Fast position paper – www.toofar-too-fastcanada.com - as a reference tool on how cannabis legalization legislation needs to be improved before we are confident that the risks to public health and safety are minimal. It includes important data and evidence from healthcare advocates, municipal leaders and other experts on the impact of legalization on health and safety.

I have enclosed for your information, a recent report by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation that speaks to the rise of cannabis impairment and the devastating impact on road safety. A reminder that our law enforcement officials do not yet have the tools they need, we are not ready.

This is the first time since the repeal of alcohol Prohibition that a harmful product has been legalized for wide public consumption. There is a way to do this right, but we only have one chance to get it right. The current scheme poses great risks to public safety according to the experts.

We believe that your citizens would want you to take the best available measures to mitigate the risks of cannabis legalization and commercialization, including reducing access.

Yours truly,



Brian Patterson

Enclosure



MARIJUANA USE AMONG DRIVERS IN CANADA, 2000-2014

Traffic Injury Research Foundation, December 2017

Introduction

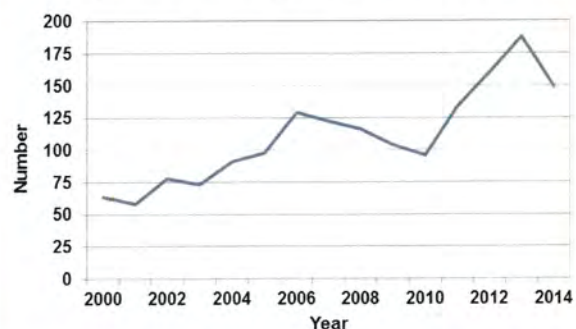
Public concern about drug-impaired driving in general and marijuana-impaired driving in particular has increased in recent years. Marijuana studies have shown that the psychoactive chemical delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (or THC) enters the user's bloodstream and brain immediately after smoking or consuming marijuana, and has impairing effects. In addition, research on drivers in fatal crashes has shown that THC-positive drivers are more than twice as likely to crash as THC-free drivers (Grondel 2016). There is also evidence from surveys of Canadian drivers suggesting that the prevalence of marijuana use is greater among 16-19 year old drivers than drivers in other age groups (Robertson et al. 2017).

In light of this concern, this fact sheet, sponsored by State Farm, examines the role of marijuana in collisions involving fatally injured drivers in Canada between 2000 and 2014. Data from TIRF's National Fatality Database were used to prepare this fact sheet which explores trends in the use of marijuana among fatally injured drivers, and the characteristics of these drivers.¹ Other topics that are examined include the presence of different categories of drugs among fatally injured drivers in different age groups, and the combined presence of marijuana and alcohol among this population of drivers.

Trends in marijuana use among fatally injured drivers

The number of fatally injured drivers who tested positive for marijuana from 2000 to 2014 is displayed in Figure 1. In 2000, 64 fatally injured drivers tested positive for marijuana. This number increased to 129 in 2006, decreased to 96 in 2010, and reached a higher peak at 188 in 2013 before decreasing to 149 in 2014. Since a much smaller percentage of drivers (37.0% to 62.1%) that were killed in road crashes were tested for drugs between 2000 and 2010, as compared to a much larger percentage (73.9% to 82.9%)

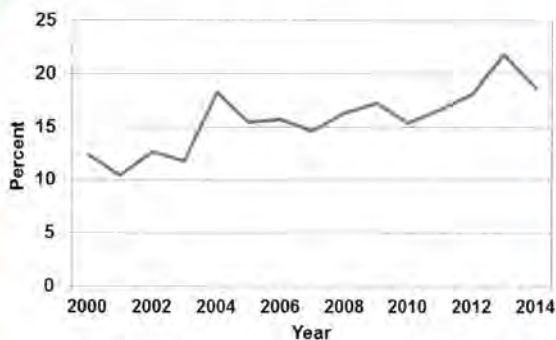
Figure 1: Number of fatally injured drivers who tested positive for marijuana: Canada, 2000-2014



that were tested between 2011 and 2014, these results should be interpreted with caution. A much larger absolute number of drivers were tested for marijuana during this latter period, thus, it would be expected that from 2011 to 2014, the absolute number of fatally injured drivers who tested positive for marijuana would be larger than during the earlier period.

An analysis of trends related to the percentage of marijuana-positive drivers among all fatally injured drivers who were tested for the presence of drugs was also conducted. Figure 2 shows the percentage of fatally injured drivers in this group that tested positive for marijuana. Among those drivers tested for drugs, 12.4% of fatally injured drivers were positive for marijuana in 2000. This percentage decreased to 10.4% in 2001, and gradually rose to its highest level in 2013 (21.9%) before declining in 2014 to 18.6%.

Figure 2: Percentage of fatally injured drivers who tested positive for marijuana: Canada, 2000-2014



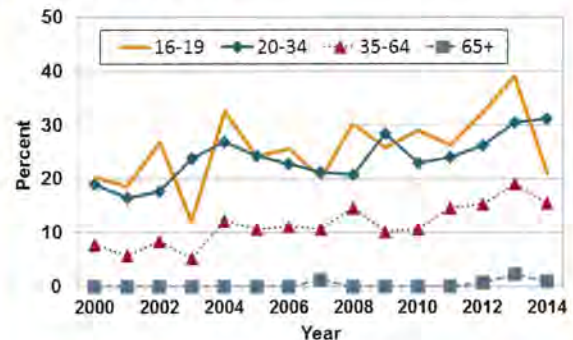
Characteristics of fatally injured drivers testing positive for marijuana

In this section, demographic factors were analyzed to determine their role in marijuana-related driver fatalities from 2000 to 2014. Fatally injured drivers that tested positive for marijuana were examined according to the age and sex of drivers. These results were further compared to data regarding the presence of alcohol use among fatally injured drivers.

The percentage of fatally injured drivers in each age group who tested positive for marijuana from 2000-2014 is shown in Figure 3. Drivers were grouped according to the following age categories: 16-19 years, 20-34 years, 35-64 years, and 65 years and older. The percentage of fatally injured 16-19 year old drivers that tested positive for marijuana

generally decreased from 2000 (20.4%) to its lowest level in 2003 (12.1%), but then gradually rose to its highest level in 2013 (39.1%) before decreasing to 21.1% in 2014.

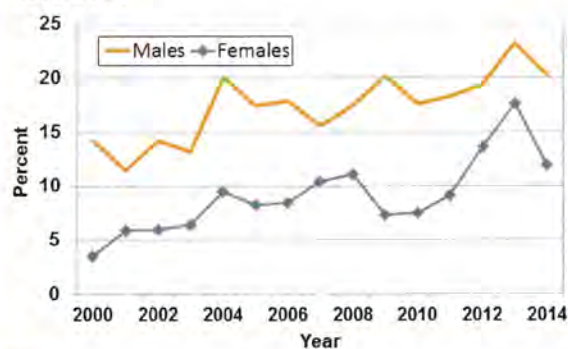
Figure 3: Percentage of fatally injured drivers testing positive for marijuana by age group: Canada, 2000-2014



The proportion of fatally injured drivers aged 20-34 years that tested positive for marijuana generally increased from 2000 (19.0%) to its highest level in 2014 (31.3%). Similarly, there has been a general increase in the percentage of fatally injured 35-64 year old drivers who tested positive for marijuana between 2000 (7.8%) and 2014 (15.5%). In sharp contrast, throughout this 15-year period, a very small percentage of fatally injured drivers aged 65 and older tested positive for marijuana (ranging from 0.0% to 2.3%).

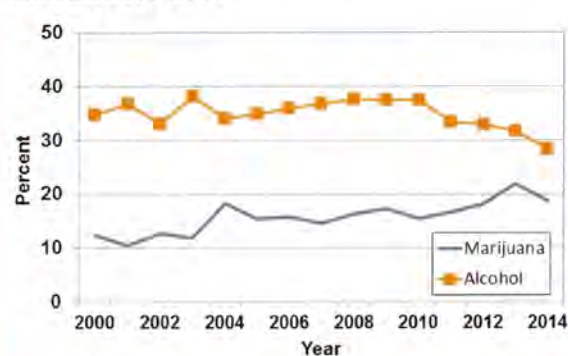
The percentage of male and female fatally injured drivers who tested positive for marijuana from 2000 to 2014 is compared in Figure 4. Throughout this 15-year period, males were more likely than females to test positive for marijuana. Among fatally injured male drivers, the percentage of drivers who tested positive for marijuana generally increased from 2000 (14.2%) to its highest level in 2013 (23.2%), before decreasing in 2014 (20.2%). Similarly, the percentage of fatally injured female drivers who tested positive for marijuana increased between 2000 (3.5%) and 2013 (17.6%), before decreasing in 2014 to 11.9%. Although there was a decrease from 2013 to 2014 in the percentage of male and female fatally injured drivers who tested positive for marijuana, the decrease among female drivers appears to be more pronounced.

Figure 4: Percentage of fatally injured drivers testing positive for marijuana by sex: Canada, 2000-2014



Trends in marijuana use and alcohol use among fatally injured drivers are compared in Figure 5; it shows the percentage of fatally injured drivers that tested positive for each of these substances between 2000 and 2014. A larger percentage of fatally injured drivers tested positive for alcohol as compared to marijuana during this 15-year period. In 2000, more than one-third (34.8%) of fatally injured drivers tested positive for alcohol compared to just 12.4% who tested positive for marijuana. However, from 2010 to 2013, the percentage of fatally injured drivers who tested positive for alcohol consistently decreased (from 37.6% to 31.6%), while the percentage of those drivers who tested positive for marijuana increased (from 15.4% to 21.9%). By 2014, the percentages of fatally injured drivers who tested positive for alcohol (28.4%) and marijuana (18.6%) had both declined.

Figure 5: Percentage of fatally injured drivers testing positive for marijuana and for alcohol: Canada, 2000-2014



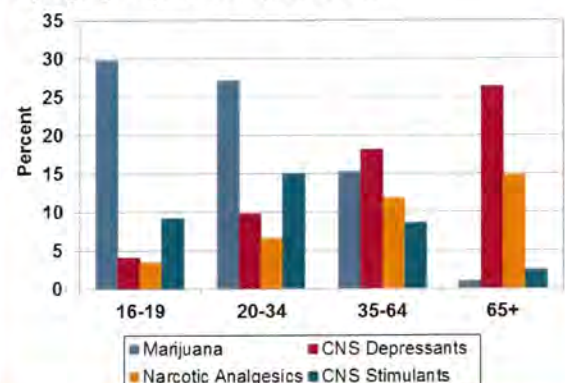
Marijuana and other types of drugs used by fatally injured drivers by age group

Drugs are categorized according to the Drug Evaluation Classification (DEC) program which has been adopted by police services throughout North America. This classification system is based upon common signs and symptoms associated with the presence of different types of drugs (Jonah 2012). The seven drug categories are:

- > cannabis (marijuana);
- > central nervous system depressants (e.g., benzodiazepines and antihistamines);
- > central nervous system stimulants (e.g., cocaine, amphetamines, and ecstasy);
- > hallucinogens (e.g., LSD, magic mushrooms);
- > dissociative anesthetics (e.g., ketamine and phencyclidine);
- > narcotic analgesics (e.g., morphine, fentanyl, heroin, codeine, oxycodone); and,
- > inhalants (e.g., toluene, gasoline, cleaning solvents).

The percentage of fatally injured drivers in each age group who tested positive for each drug type during a five-year (2010-2014) period is presented in Figure 6. The drug types shown are marijuana, CNS depressants, CNS stimulants and narcotic analgesics. Less than 2.0% of fatally injured drivers tested positive for dissociative anesthetics, hallucinogens, and inhalants, hence, data related to these drug categories are not shown.

Figure 6: Percentage of fatally injured drivers testing positive for different categories of drugs by age group: Canada, 2010-2014



Marijuana was the drug most commonly detected among 16-19 and 20-34 year old drivers (29.8% and 27.2%, respectively). The prevalence of marijuana among fatally injured 16-19 year old drivers is similar to levels that were reported in previous analyses of fatally injured drivers (TIRF 2014). This finding is also consistent with an online survey of Canadian drivers that showed marijuana use was more prevalent among 16-19 year old drivers (6.1%) as compared to drivers aged 25-44 years (2.8%), 46-64 years (0.9%), and over age 65 (0.1%) between 2002 and 2015 (Robertson et al. 2017). Less than 1.0% of fatally injured drivers aged 65 years and older tested positive for marijuana.

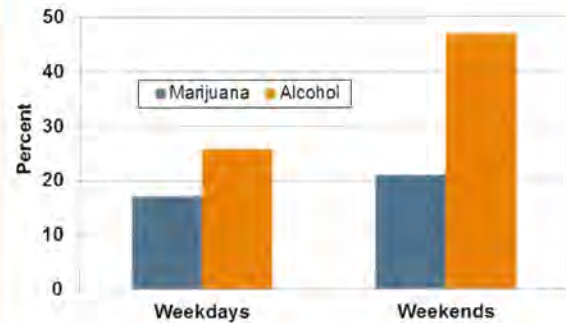
CNS depressants were the type of drug most commonly found among fatally injured drivers aged 35-64 and 65 and older (18.1% and 26.3% respectively). Drivers aged 20-34 were the most likely to test positive for CNS stimulants (15.0%), and narcotic analgesics were most commonly found among fatally injured drivers aged 65 and older (14.6%).

Characteristics of collisions involving drivers testing positive for marijuana and alcohol

Patterns of marijuana use and alcohol use among fatally injured drivers were compared during a five-year period (2010-2014). Characteristics that were examined included the type of day (weekdays versus weekends) and hours of day that collisions occurred. Weekday collisions were defined as those which occurred between 6:00 p.m. on Sunday to 5:59 p.m. on Friday whereas weekend collisions are defined as those which occurred between 6:00 p.m. on Friday to 5:59 p.m. on Sunday.

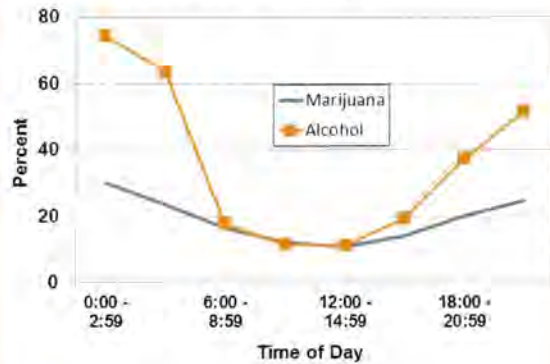
Figure 7 compares drivers killed in weekday versus weekend crashes from 2010 to 2014 and the percentages that were positive for marijuana and alcohol. Drivers that died in weekend crashes (20.9%) were slightly more likely to test positive for marijuana than those who died in weekday crashes (17.0%). There was a more pronounced difference in terms of the presence of alcohol with almost half (45.8%) of fatally injured drivers in weekend crashes who tested positive compared to approximately one-quarter (25.8%) of drivers killed in weekday crashes.

Figure 7: Percentage of fatally injured drivers in weekend and weekday crashes who tested positive for marijuana and alcohol: Canada, 2010-2014



An analysis was also performed to identify any variations based upon the time that collisions occurred in relation to the percentage of fatally injured drivers who tested positive for marijuana versus alcohol between 2010 and 2014. The results are presented in Figure 8. Collision times were divided into three-hour increments on a 24-hour scale. The largest percentage of drivers who tested positive for marijuana and who tested positive for alcohol were involved in collisions which occurred between midnight and 2:59. An almost identical proportion of drivers tested positive for marijuana and alcohol for the three time periods between 6:00 and 14:59. After this time of day, there was an increase in the percentage of both drivers who tested positive for marijuana and those who tested positive for alcohol until 23:59. Although there was a greater likelihood that drivers tested positive for both substances in collisions that occurred between midnight and 2:59, a larger percentage of drivers tested positive for alcohol (74.3%) than for marijuana (30.0%). For collisions which occurred just prior to midnight (21:00 to 23:59), more than half of drivers were positive for alcohol (51.6%) compared to 24.8% who tested positive for marijuana.

Figure 8: Percentage of fatally injured drivers who tested positive for marijuana and alcohol by time of day: Canada, 2010-2014



Conclusions

In the past 15 years, there has been a steady increase in the percentage of fatally injured drivers in Canada who tested positive for marijuana. Generally speaking, drivers aged 16-19 years were the age group of fatally injured drivers who were most likely to test positive for marijuana. However, in 2014, a larger percentage of fatally injured drivers aged 20-34 years tested positive. Continued monitoring is required to determine whether the presence of marijuana in fatally injured drivers aged 20-34 remains higher as compared to the prevalence in younger drivers aged 16-19.

Trends in the percentage of male and female fatally injured drivers who tested positive for marijuana from 2000 to 2014 were similar in terms of annual increases and decreases. However, throughout this 15-year period, males were twice as likely as females to test positive for marijuana. While driver sex may explain differences in the magnitude of marijuana use among fatally injured drivers, it does not appear to account for differences in trends.

Between 2000 and 2014, a larger percentage of fatally injured drivers tested positive for alcohol than for marijuana. There was a four-year period (2010-2013) during which the percentage of alcohol-positive drivers decreased while the percentage of marijuana-positive drivers increased. Trends in the prevalence of these substances among fatally injured drivers warrant further attention.

Almost one-third of fatally injured drivers aged 16-19 tested positive for marijuana which is comparable to data reported previously. Notably,

the percentage of drivers aged 20-34 years who tested positive was almost as large. This suggests that education programs that have been developed to reduce marijuana use among 16-19 year old drivers may also be appropriate to address marijuana-impaired driving among this older age group. Conversely, fatally injured drivers aged 35-64, and aged 65 and older were more likely to test positive for CNS depressants and narcotic analgesics. Although programs to reduce marijuana use among older age drivers do not appear necessary at this time, continued monitoring of trends is needed to track whether the prevalence of marijuana use will increase across age categories. Furthermore, a 'one size fits all' approach to reduce any kind of drug-impaired driving among all age groups may not resonate equally throughout the driving population.

Similar to alcohol, a larger percentage of drivers tested positive for marijuana on weekends as opposed to weekdays and at night as opposed to daytime. However, it should be noted that the differences were less pronounced for drivers who tested positive for marijuana than for alcohol. This suggests targeting drivers by time of day and day of week may be less effective for marijuana impaired driving than alcohol impaired driving.

To summarize, an increasing percentage of fatally injured drivers in Canada tested positive for marijuana in recent years whereas a decreasing percentage of these drivers tested positive for alcohol. Nevertheless, despite such opposite trends, the percentage of alcohol-positive fatally injured drivers remains larger than the proportion of drivers who tested positive for marijuana. In addition, the incidence of marijuana use appears greater among drivers in younger age groups that are involved in crashes on weekends and night-time, however, these indicators were not as reliable to predict marijuana use as they were to predict alcohol use. Ongoing analysis of data in future years is needed to monitor progress in reducing marijuana-impaired driving.

References

Brown, S.W., Vanlaar, W.G.M., Robertson, R.D. (2017). Alcohol and Drug-Crash Problem in Canada 2013 Report. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators.

Grondel, D. (2016). Driver Toxicology Testing and the Involvement of Marijuana in Fatal Crashes, 2010-2014: A Descriptive Report. Olympia, WA.: Washington Traffic Safety Commission

Jonah, B. (2012). Drugs and Driving Framework. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators.

Robertson, R.D., Mainegra Hing, M., Pashley, C.R., Brown, S.W., Vanlaar, W.G.M. (2017). Prevalence and trends of drugged driving in Canada. Accident Analysis and Prevention, 99: 236-241.

Traffic Injury Research Foundation. (2014). Teens and Drug Impaired Driving. Ottawa, Ontario: Traffic Injury Research Foundation.

¹ Fatality data from British Columbia from 2011 to 2014 were not available at the time that this fact sheet was prepared. As a result, Canadian data presented have been re-calculated to exclude this jurisdiction and make equitable comparisons.

Traffic Injury Research Foundation

The mission of the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) is to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries. TIRF is a national, independent, charitable road safety institute. Since its inception in 1964, TIRF has become internationally recognized for its accomplishments in a wide range of subject areas related to identifying the causes of road crashes and developing programs and policies to address them effectively.

Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF)

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Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada



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CANADA

PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

JAN 19 2018

Dear Mayor Van Bynen:

Thank you very much for taking the time to write to me regarding the ongoing North American Free Trade Act (NAFTA) renegotiations. Our government understands that the highly integrated Canada-US auto sector supports good, middle class jobs in Newmarket and across Ontario.

I had the opportunity to discuss the value of Canada's automotive sector with the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association earlier this year alongside the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland. I also had the chance to witness firsthand the innovation which occurs every day in the automotive sector when I visited General Motors' Oshawa headquarters in June 2016.

I am pleased to note that the Minister of Foreign Affairs hosted a roundtable in Toronto with key players in the automotive parts industry on September 22, 2017. She and the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development remain in constant contact with representatives of the automotive industry and labour groups.

I would also like to highlight the work that the MP for Newmarket--Aurora, Mr. Kyle Peterson and the Auto Caucus have accomplished in working with representatives of the industry and labour groups to secure jobs and help grow the economy.

His Worship Tony Van Bynen
Mayor of the Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328, STN Main
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 4XY

- 2 -

I believe we have an opportunity to improve and update NAFTA, including as it pertains to the Canadian automotive sector. Indeed, our main objective remains defending Canada's national interest in a progressive, free, and fair manner.

Given that your letter is also of interest to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, I have asked that a copy of our exchange be sent to her office. I am certain that she will give it every consideration.

Thank you once again for the thoughtful letter.

Please accept my warmest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "John Doe", written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



TOWN OF LAKESHORE

419 Notre Dame St.
Belle River, ON N0R 1A0

January 22, 2018

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

RE: MARIJUANA TAX REVENUE

At their meeting of January 16, 2018 the Council of the Town of Lakeshore duly passed the following resolution.

577-01-2018 Councillor Wilder moved and Councillor McKinlay seconded:

It is recommended that:

WHEREAS marijuana will soon be available for purchase through retail outlets in Canada;

WHEREAS the sale of marijuana will generate new tax revenues;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario have been actively discussing how to distribute the new tax revenues generated by the sale of marijuana;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario have thus far not agreed to distribute any of the new tax revenues generated by the sale of marijuana to municipalities directly;

WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for critical infrastructure projects, such as roads, bridges, water treatment and delivery of potable water;

WHEREAS municipalities face a significant challenge in funding critical infrastructure projects and have limited options for increasing revenues, aside from raising property taxes, which negatively impacts all taxpayers; and

WHEREAS the new tax revenues generated from the sale of marijuana, could be used to help offset infrastructure costs for municipalities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario be urged to allocate a proportionate share of the new tax revenues generated from the sale of marijuana, to municipalities directly;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario be urged to create a fund, similar to the Gas Tax Fund and the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund, from the new tax revenues generated by the sale of marijuana, to provide funding to municipalities for infrastructure projects;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this motion be sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Mr. Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada, Ms. Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, all Members of Parliament, the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, Mr. Patrick Brown, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, Ms. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario, and all Members of Provincial Parliament in Ontario; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Motion be sent to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their consideration.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Should you require any additional information with respect to the above matter, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,



Mary Masse
Clerk

/cl

cc: Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
 cc: Mr. Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
 cc: Mr. Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada
 cc: Ms. Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada
 cc: Hon. Patrick Brown, Leader of Progressive Conservative Party
 cc: Hon. Andrea Horwath, Leader of New Democratic Party
 cc: Members of Provincial Parliament in Ontario
 cc: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
 cc: Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO)
 cc: Via Email - All Ontario Municipalities



TOWN OF LAKESHORE

419 Notre Dame St.
Belle River, ON N0R 1A0

January 22, 2018

Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Legislative Building, Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne:

RE: POPULATION GROWTH PROJECTIONS

At their meeting of January 16, 2018 the Council of the Town of Lakeshore duly passed the following resolution.

576-01-2018

Councillor Wilder moved and Deputy Mayor Fazio seconded:

That:

WHEREAS municipalities are required to create and implement master plans and asset management plans, as part of prudent financial planning;

WHEREAS population growth projections and estimates are a key foundational component, relied upon in creating master plans and asset management plans, as part of prudent financial planning;

WHEREAS population growth projections and estimates are simply estimates of future events, often several years into the future, and are highly susceptible to ultimately being inaccurate, due to changes in circumstances, such as economic conditions and housing patterns;

WHEREAS both upper-tier municipalities and lower-tier municipalities often prepare their own growth projections and estimates, which can result in a significant discrepancy between their respective, anticipated population numbers in future years;

WHEREAS lower-tier municipalities are essentially forced to accept and rely upon upper-tier municipalities growth projections and estimates, regardless of whether those projections and estimates reflect reality; and

WHEREAS inaccurate growth projections and estimates, negatively impacts municipal financial planning, resulting in significant financial difficulties for municipalities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Ontario be urged to grant more autonomy to lower-tier municipalities, to adopt and rely upon their own growth projections and estimates, especially for financial planning purposes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Ontario be urged to create a mechanism, whereby lower-tier municipalities can more easily dispute growth projections and estimates of upper-tier municipalities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Ontario be urged to require upper-tier municipalities to update growth projections and estimates, when reality indicates that the previous projections and estimates are inaccurate and unreliable;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this motion be sent to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Patrick Brown, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, the Honourable Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party, and all MPPs in the Province of Ontario; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Should you require any additional information with respect to the above matter, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,



Mary Masse
Clerk

/cl

cc: Hon. Patrick Brown, Leader of Progressive Conservative Party
cc: Hon. Andrea Horwath, Leader of New Democratic Party
cc: Members of Provincial Parliament in Ontario
cc: Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO)
cc: Via Email - All Ontario Municipalities



Corporate Services
Regional Clerk's Office

January 26, 2018

Ms. Lisa Lyons
Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive, P.O. Box 328
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES		
INCOMING MAIL	REFD TO	COPY TO
FEB 01 2018		

Dear Ms. Lyons:

Re: Establishing Procedures for Alternate Members of Council

Regional Council, at its meeting held on January 25, 2018, adopted the following recommendations of Committee of the Whole regarding "Establishing Procedures for Alternate Members of Council":

1. Council support the use of alternates in the Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Whitchurch-Stouffville and the Township of King.
2. Council approve the Procedures for Alternate Members of Council as shown in Attachment 1.
3. Council approve an amendment to Indemnification By-Law No A-0263-1999-064 to provide reimbursement of legal expenses for Alternate Members of Council in accordance with the bylaw.
4. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the local municipalities.

A copy of Clause 24 of Committee of the Whole Report No. 1 is enclosed for your information.

Please call me at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher Raynor
Regional Clerk

/S. Dumont
Attachments

Attachment 1**Procedures for Alternates to Regional Council**

This Procedure relates to alternates to Regional Council who are appointed by local municipalities under section 268 of the *Municipal Act* when they are required to attend a Regional Council meeting. Alternates are only able to attend Regional Council meetings. This excludes Committee of the Whole, standing committee or other meetings.

Remuneration

1. Alternate members shall be entitled to mileage reimbursement in accordance with the Region's Reimbursement for the Use of Personal Vehicles Policy.
2. Mileage shall be calculated based on the shorter of the distance between the alternate member's home and the Region's Administrative Centre or the alternate member's municipal office and the Region's Administrative Centre.

Notification processes

3. A local municipality shall notify the Regional Clerk in the event that its council appoints an alternate member of Regional Council.
4. The Regional Clerk shall keep a record of all appointed alternate members which shall be available to the public.
5. The local Clerk or incumbent Council Member shall notify the Regional Clerk, in writing, as soon as reasonably possible when an alternate shall be attending a meeting of Regional Council.
6. Each local municipality will be responsible for notifying its alternate member that they are to attend any Regional Council meeting.
7. In situations where no prior notice has been given the alternate member shall at the time they attend a Regional Council meeting, provide the Regional Clerk, or designate, with written confirmation that they are acting as an alternate for that Council meeting.
8. Alternate members shall receive hard copy agendas, including confidential material, for any Council meeting for which notice of their attendance was provided. If no notice was provided they shall receive hard copy agendas at the time they attend the Council meeting and confirm they are acting as an alternate member.

Meeting Administration

9. No alternate member shall take their seat unless they have first taken their declaration of office. This is not required for subsequent meetings they might attend.
10. Alternate members must only be used when the Regional Council Member is unable to attend an entire Council meeting.
11. The alternate member shall have all the powers and duties of a Regional Council Member, including the power to make motions and vote and the duty to abide by the Region's Procedure Bylaw and Code of Conduct, as applicable.
12. The alternate member's powers and duties as a Regional Council Member extend only to the time they are present at the Council meeting.
13. Regional Council minutes shall note the absence of the incumbent member and the attendance of the alternate member.
14. Where both an alternate member and the Regional Council Member attend a Council meeting the Regional Council Member shall assume their seat. The alternate member may attend as a spectator.

#8017756

Clause 24 in Report No. 1 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on January 25, 2018.

24

Establishing Procedures for Alternate Members of Council

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated January 18, 2018 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. Council support the use of alternates in the Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Whitchurch-Stouffville and the Township of King.
2. Council approve the Procedures for Alternate Members of Council as shown in Attachment 1.
3. Council approve an amendment to Indemnification By-Law No A-0263-1999-064 to provide reimbursement of legal expenses for Alternate Members of Council in accordance with the bylaw.
4. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the local municipalities.

Report dated January 18, 2018 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services now follows:

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Council support the use of alternates in the Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Whitchurch-Stouffville and the Township of King.
2. Council approve the Procedures for Alternate Members of Council as shown in *Attachment 1*.
3. Council approve an amendment to Indemnification By-Law No A-0263-1999-064 to provide reimbursement of legal expenses for Alternate Members of Council in accordance with the bylaw.

Establishing Procedures for Alternate Members of Council

4. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the local municipalities.

2. Purpose

This report presents a process for accommodating alternate members of Council who may be appointed by local municipal councils under new provisions in the *Municipal Act*. The purpose is to provide clarity to all parties and reduce disruption to Council.

3. Background

Regional Council has previously discussed alternate members in the context of those municipalities with only one Regional Council Member

In both this and the previous term, Regional Council has broadly considered its overall composition and representation. During this consideration, there was discussion, but no formal position, on how the Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville and the Township of King might benefit from legislative amendments to permit them to use alternates in the event their single member was unable to attend a meeting. This would ensure that each Town was duly represented at meetings.

The *Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017* amended the *Municipal Act* in several ways, including to permit local municipalities to appoint alternates for their members of Regional Council

Following municipal consultation, the province enacted the *Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017*, which contained a number of amendments to the *Municipal Act* in areas such as accountability and transparency, financial sustainability and governance. Council submitted comments in response to the consultation at its October 15, 2015 meeting. Council received additional updates on the proposed legislation on April 20, 2017 and June 29, 2017.

The amendments have different implementation dates but the provision relating to alternates came into effect on January 1, 2018. The provision permits a local municipality to appoint one of its members to act in place of any of its Regional Council members when any of those members are unable to attend a Regional Council meeting for any reason. It does not apply to Committee of the Whole, Board or other meetings.

Establishing Procedures for Alternate Members of Council

The new legislation contains parameters for the appointment of alternates

Local municipalities are able to appoint an alternate member of Regional Council in accordance with the following provisions:

1. There can only be one alternate member appointed per municipality
2. The appointment is for the term of Council
3. Municipalities cannot appoint another alternate to act in place of the appointed alternate member.

4. Analysis and Implications

The authority to appoint alternate members resides with the local municipalities

Each of the nine local municipalities has the option to appoint one of its members to act as an alternate if any of their Regional members are unable to attend any meeting for any reason. The alternate is appointed for the term of Council.

Although each of the nine local municipalities is authorized to appoint an alternate it might be prudent to start with the Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville and the Township of King should they so desire. This aligns with previous discussion at Regional Council about the use of alternates as a way to ensure those municipalities with only one member are always represented at Regional Council meetings. It also allows the opportunity to tune and streamline related procedures while the use of alternates is at a relatively small scale.

Regional Council has no role in the appointment of alternates but it can establish procedures for accommodating alternates at Regional Council meetings.

Establishing procedures for alternate members helps to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of Regional Council meetings

There are several things to consider in relation to alternate members of Regional Council. For example, each alternate will need to make their declaration of office before they are permitted to first take their seat as an alternate member of Council.

Additionally, it is important to establish notification requirements from the Clerk or incumbent member so that Regional Council knows when an alternate will be attending a Council meeting. This helps to ensure the Regional Clerk's Office can

Establishing Procedures for Alternate Members of Council

provide the alternate with the agenda, reports and other material being considered at the meeting and also minimizes potential disruption at the start of a meeting.

Consideration has also been given to appropriate remuneration, administrative processes, indemnification and in-meeting procedures.

Attachment 1 sets out procedures to address these matters. Additionally alternates will be provided with a general orientation to allow them to effectively transition into their new role.

Alternate Members of Council will receive the same indemnification coverage as incumbent Members

The Indemnification Bylaw provides certain coverage and reimbursement to members of Regional Council and employees for expenses incurred as a result of acting in such capacity. Members of Regional Council are entitled to reimbursement for legal expenses relating to actions or proceeding as well as expenses incurred in obtaining legal advice to determine whether the member has a pecuniary interest in a matter which is the subject of consideration by Regional Council. The bylaw should be amended to ensure coverage for Alternate Members of Council for matters relating to their capacity when serving as members of Regional Council.

5. Financial Considerations

Financial considerations will be minimal since alternates are proposed to only receive mileage for the meetings they attend. Mileage will be calculated based on the shorter of the distance between the alternate member's home and the Region's Administrative Centre or the alternate member's municipal office and the Region's Administrative Centre from the relevant local municipal office to the Region's Administrative Centre. This is in accordance with the Region's Reimbursement for the Use of Personal Motor Vehicles which also applies to Council Members. Mileage will be paid as set out in the Canada Revenue Agency's tax-exempt kilometre limit.

6. Local Municipal Impact

Local municipalities have the power to appoint alternates for their Regional Council Members. However, Council might choose to initially support alternates for the four local municipalities with only one Regional Council Member.

Establishing Procedures for Alternate Members of Council

Alternates can attend Regional Council meetings if the elected member is unable to attend for any reason. Should a local municipality appoint an alternate, the attached procedures will help inform the alternate and ensure they have a relatively smooth transition into their new role. Once adopted, these procedures will be shared with the local municipal clerks.

7. Conclusion

Regional Council has previously discussed the hypothetical use of alternates in the Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville and the Township of King as they each only have one Regional Council member.

On January 1, 2018, local municipalities received powers through the *Municipal Act* to appoint alternates from their local councils to fill the role of a Regional Council Member should that member be unable to attend a Regional Council meeting for any reason. Council might consider encouraging the use of alternates only in the four municipalities with a single elected member.

Although Regional Council has no role in the appointment process it can adopt procedures to help accommodate alternate members. Proposed procedures are set out in *Attachment 1* and cover such things as notice requirements prior to an alternate's attendance, remuneration and in-meeting procedures. The procedures will ensure that alternates are transitioned smoothly into their role on Regional Council and will minimize disruption as the Region works with the local municipalities to implement the new *Municipal Act* provisions.

The Region's Indemnification Bylaw covers certain expenses occurred by Members of Council while acting in such capacity. The Bylaw should be amended to permit the same coverage for alternate Members when they are acting in such capacity.

For more information on this report, please contact Christopher Raynor, Regional Clerk at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

January 18, 2018

Attachments (1)

#8120988

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request



Corporate Services
Regional Clerk's Office

January 26, 2018

Ms. Lisa Lyons
Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive, P.O. Box 328
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
INCOMING MAIL	REFD COPY TO TO
FEB 01 2018	

Dear Ms. Lyons:

Re: Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Update

Regional Council, at its meeting held on January 25, 2018, adopted the following recommendations of Committee of the Whole regarding "Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Update":

1. The Commissioner of Environmental Services be authorized to execute Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Project Agreements, where requested by the subject local municipality, to address capacity constraints in conveyance system (sewers, forcemains and pumping stations), in accordance with the principles outlined in Attachment 1.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate a copy of this report to the local municipalities.

A copy of Clause 6 of Committee of the Whole Report No. 1 is enclosed for your information.

Please contact James Steele, Director, Infrastructure Asset Management at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73018 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher Raynor
Regional Clerk

/C. Clark
Attachments

Clause 6 in Report No. 1 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on January 25, 2018.

6

Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Update

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated December 8, 2017 from the Commissioner of Environmental Services:

1. The Commissioner of Environmental Services be authorized to execute Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Project Agreements, where requested by the subject local municipality, to address capacity constraints in conveyance system (sewers, forcemains and pumping stations), in accordance with the principles outlined in Attachment 1.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate a copy of this report to the local municipalities.

Report dated December 8, 2017 from the Commissioner of Environmental Services now follows:

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The Commissioner of Environmental Services be authorized to execute Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Project Agreements, where requested by the subject local municipality, to address capacity constraints in conveyance system (sewers, forcemains and pumping stations), in accordance with the principles outlined in Attachment 1.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate a copy of this report to the local municipalities.

Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Update

2. Purpose

This report provides an update on inflow and infiltration reduction efforts and requests Council authorization for the Commissioner of Environmental Services to enter into agreements, where requested by local municipalities, for additional Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects.

To be considered, proposed projects must address capacity constraints in the Regional sewer conveyance system (sewers, forcemains and pumping stations) and assist with achieving the inflow and infiltration reduction targets identified in the Region's Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy.

3. Background and Previous Council Direction

Inflow and infiltration reduction program initiated as condition of Southeast Collector approval in 2010

Inflow and infiltration reduction became a regulatory requirement for York Region, in 2010, upon approval of the Southeast Collector Individual Environmental Assessment. The conditions of approval require the Region to submit and implement an Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy and set a reduction target of 40 million litres in a 24 hour period during a 25-year storm event by 2031. The conditions required annual reporting of work undertaken and resulting flow reductions, to achieve the reduction target. This information is compiled and submitted to the Province, by staff, in March of each year.

In February 2011, Council endorsed the Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy. The strategy included a commitment to review the strategy every five years and the first Strategy update in March 2016. The next update is planned to be brought before Council in March 2021.

The Region continues to meet the goals set in the Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy

Over the last six years, York Region, in partnership with local municipalities, has achieved goals set in 2011. Some of these major achievements are:

- Reductions of flow from inflow and infiltration by nearly 12 million litres per day in the York Durham Sewage System, representing 30 per cent of the 2031 target reduction of 40 million litres per day. This was completed through remedial works including downspout disconnections, laterals and sewer mainline relining, spot repairs and maintenance hole repairs. This reduction has exceeded the 25 per cent interim reduction target set for 2017.

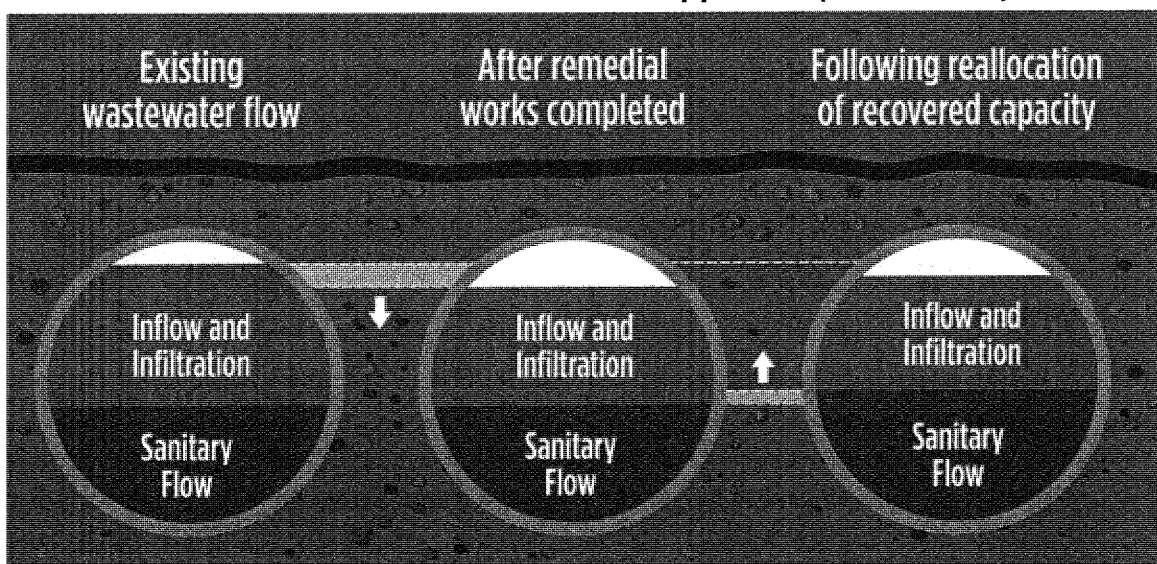
Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Update

- Completion of the Region's Sanitary Sewer System Inspection, Testing and Acceptance Guideline to standardize procedures across York Region.
- Development of a region wide sanitary sewer flow and rainfall monitoring program to identify priority areas with high inflow and infiltration.
- Development of two incentive programs to partner with local municipalities and development industry to reduce inflow and infiltration consisting of the Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Program and the Servicing Incentive Program. Both programs provide participating developers with additional servicing capacity in exchange for completing water efficiency conservation and proven inflow and infiltration related remedial works to more stringent construction and inspection standards.
- Development of an all-pipes hydraulic model to provide a state-of-the-art tool to assist in the assessment of inflow and infiltration and in the decision making process for implementing remedial works.

Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects assist in achieving Southeast Collector Approval requirements

Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects provided mutually beneficial opportunities to improve wastewater conveyance systems by reducing inflow and infiltration and allocating a portion of recovered capacity to allow planned growth to continue without additional infrastructure investment. Figure 1 depicts how capacity in the Regional wastewater system is recovered through Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects and reallocated to support growth.

**Figure 1
Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Approach (2 to 1 Ratio)**



Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Update**Council approved the first Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Pilot Project in 2010**

On September 23, 2010, Council authorized staff to enter into an agreement with the City of Markham and a developer, Upper Unionville Inc., to undertake an inflow and infiltration reduction pilot project. This project was to be funded solely by the developer and in exchange for completing the inflow and infiltration reduction work, the developer was allocated a portion of the recovered capacity, before, or in lieu of, capital infrastructure improvements. The allocation is calculated based on quantities recovered, which provide long-term benefits to the conveyance system.

Staff were also authorized to consider similar developer initiated projects in the remaining local municipalities. For a project to be considered, the proposed development and associated inflow and infiltration reduction works must be situated within a common sewershed, upstream of a Regional conveyance system capacity constraint point. Constraint points are locations in the conveyance system where there is a capacity bottleneck (sewer, forcemain or pumping station capacity), limiting planned growth in the sewershed. In addition, as part of the application review process, staff confirm that there is water system capacity to service the anticipated units realized from the project.

Half of the recovered capacity is retained by the Region to help mitigate future risks on the conveyance system

To reduce future risks on the conveyance system, some of the recovered capacity is retained by the Region. This capacity buffer provides operational flexibility to address circumstances such as aging infrastructure and climate change impacts on the conveyance system. A capacity assignment ratio of two to one (that is, one person capacity is assigned to the developer for every two persons capacity recovered through the project) was established to address these future risks. Recovered capacity is reported against the required reduction target received as a condition of approval of the Southeast Collector Sewer project.

Further analysis of Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects was required before considering additional projects

Administration of the agreement for the first Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Project required post-construction evaluation of the capacity recovered and its effect on reducing system bottlenecks. Information gathered during the first project was used to estimate flow reduction benefits for specific types of repair work on subsequent projects. An Inflow and Infiltration Pilot Project Status Update report was brought before Council in November 2012.

Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Update

This report did not recommend acceptance of additional allocation-seeking proposals beyond one pilot per municipality as the full evaluation of the benefits of the first project had not been evaluated at that time.

At the end of 2017, agreements for five Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration pilot Projects have been executed

Since approval of the first pilot project, four additional pilot projects have been considered and agreements executed. These projects are all at varying stages of completion, from investigation and evaluation to monitoring, verification and capacity assignment. To date, remedial works have been carried out, or are underway, in the Towns of Aurora, Richmond Hill and Newmarket and the Cities of Markham and Vaughan. These projects are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1
Summary of Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects

Local Municipality	Landowners Group	Date of Execution	Initial Estimated Capacity Assignment (units)	Capacity Assigned to Date (units/persons)
Markham	Upper Unionville Inc.	May 30, 2011	2500	480/1488
Vaughan	Huntington Landowners Trustee Inc.	Aug. 24, 2012	2899	1591/4932
Aurora	Aurora 2C Landowners Group Inc.	Sept. 25, 2012	3300	1292/4006
Richmond Hill	North-East Leslie Landowners Group Inc.	May 29, 2013	2232	81/250
Newmarket	Marianneville Developments Limited	July 26, 2016	1170	In Progress

Studies and work undertaken by developers have varied, depending on the site specific conditions of the catchment

Inflow and infiltration remedial works have predominantly included disconnection of residential and commercial rainwater downspouts from the sanitary sewer system. Other types of work completed through the developer-funded projects included in-line point repairs on local sanitary sewers, modifications to drains on reverse sloped residential driveways, disconnection of cross-connected catch basins and manholes, residential sump pump disconnections and manhole structural repairs.

Over four million litres per day of flow from inflow and infiltration have been removed through Developer-funded projects

To date, 4.1 million litres per day of the 12 million litres per day of inflow and infiltration reductions were achieved through Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects. These projects have produced one-third of the 12 million litres per day removed through the overall Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy. Continued partnerships with local municipalities and the development community will help achieve the 2031 target of 40 million litres per day.

10,676 persons capacity has been assigned, to date, for Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects

At the end of 2017, flows equivalent to 21,352 persons capacity in the York-Durham Sanitary Sewer system, have been recovered through developer-funded projects. Based on the previously established two to one ratio, 10,676 persons capacity was made available to new development. Reductions in flows caused by inflow and infiltration have helped to alleviate system bottlenecks and restored capacity in the conveyance system.

Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects provide multiple benefits to the Region

Key benefits of Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects are as follows:

- Improvements to the Regional and local infrastructure are completed at no cost to the Region or local municipalities
- Reductions in flows from inflow and infiltration benefit the operation and maintenance of the conveyance system and contribute to achieving the targets set as part of the Southeast Collector Approval

Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Update

- Planned growth, and, in turn, generation of development charges, can be realized without additional infrastructure investment
- Collection of sewer flow data, which can be used by staff for analysis and capacity monitoring of the conveyance system

Principles set out in the first pilot project agreement continue to be effective

Although each Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Project agreement contains minor differences, based on site specific conditions, guiding principles identified in the September 2010 report continue to be effective. Principles contained in the report authorizing the first project are provided in Attachment 1.

4. Analysis and Implications

Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects can address capacity constraints in conveyance system

Over the last five years, staff analyzed flow monitoring data and evaluated efficacy of initiatives led by developers. Information obtained through the analysis provides staff with tools to evaluate future proposals, ensuring mutually beneficial outcomes, while minimizing risks to the conveyance system. In appropriate circumstances and where bottlenecks exist in the conveyance system, developer-funded projects can help to address capacity constraints.

A second Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Pilot Project was approved for the Town of Newmarket

Delay in approval for the Upper York Sewage Solutions Environmental Assessment has affected the timing of the twinning of Newmarket forcemain. Allocation of 1,500 persons capacity will be unlocked with commissioning of the second forcemain, however, uncertainty around the timing for the construction and commissioning has created an interim constraint in the conveyance system. To help address this constraint, Council authorized a second developer-funded pilot project for the Town of Newmarket in September 2016, Capacity Assignment report.

A second Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Project may address interim conveyance system constraints in the Town of Aurora

Until construction of the Upper York Sewage Solutions project is complete, the conveyance system for the Town of Aurora is constrained. Given the pace of development and demand for capacity allocation in Aurora, developers have approached Town staff to consider opportunities to participate in a second Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Project.

Town of Aurora staff, Regional staff and the interested Developer have discussed the opportunity for a second developer-funded project in the Town to help address the interim capacity constraints. Preliminary information indicates that a second Developer funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Pilot project can be authorized.

Subsequent Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Projects cannot impact the previous projects' ability to achieve the required allocation

The general principles set out for the first pilot project were to apply to the second project, however, prior to entering into an agreement, the first pilot project in the Town was required to be complete, or analysis could demonstrate, that the second project would not impede first pilot project's ability to achieve the allocation needed to complete its development, up to the maximum capacity stipulated in the project agreement.

Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects help achieve fiscally prudent growth

Work completed through Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Projects unlocks capacity in the existing conveyance system and allows planned growth to occur in constrained areas. This work has supported growth identified in the Regional Official Plan while optimizing critical infrastructure systems capacity. Both of these objectives are identified as Sustainable Environmental objectives in the 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan.

5. Financial Considerations

Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects provide the Region and local municipalities with opportunities to address capacity constraints and generate development charges, while achieving inflow and infiltration Reduction Strategy objectives without capital expense.

Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Update

Projects are fully funded by the developer including local municipal and Regional costs. Some of these costs are consultant fees for review and inspection of remediation works, costs for Regional and local municipal staff to prepare and administer the agreement and legal fees incurred by the Region.

Additionally, the intent of the pilot project was to accommodate growth where there are currently conveyance capacity constraints. These projects accommodate planned growth and generate development charges, from the advanced capacity assignment, where such opportunity would not otherwise be available.

6. Local Municipal Impact

Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Projects provides local municipalities with opportunities to grow in areas with conveyance system constraints, in turn generating development charges to support capital infrastructure initiatives. In addition, sewer remediation projects that would otherwise be funded by user rates, can be completed with no capital funding required, while supporting commitments under the Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Strategy.

7. Conclusion

Since implementation of the initial pilot project in 2010, the Region has executed five Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction agreements, advancing servicing capacity of 10,676 persons. Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction projects provide benefits to both local municipalities and the Region.

As the principle of capacity assignment is based on one unit assignment for every two units of capacity created by inflow and infiltration reduction, the program reduces operational risk in the system even as additional capacity is being assigned. The program supports growth and generates development charges from the capacity assignment allocated.

This report seeks Council endorsement to authorize the Commissioner of Environmental Services to execute future agreements.

For more information on this report, please contact James Steele, Director, Infrastructure Asset Management at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73018.

Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Update

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

December 8, 2017

Attachment

#8121210

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Programs – Guiding Principles

- The work shall be funded by developer at no cost to the Region and is not eligible for Regional development charge credits
- The work shall be an area specific pilot project and co-ordinated with the Region's broader inflow and infiltration reduction program
- Similar initiatives in all other local municipalities based on the same general principles set out in this report are authorized
- Capacity assignment to the local municipality shall be at the sole discretion of the Region. Capacity assignment will be provided based on reduction of inflow and infiltration through remedial works carried out through Developer-funded Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Pilot Project.
- The work will be carried out in prescribed catchment areas defined by the Region and the local municipality. A work plan outlining the remedial works and for the chosen catchment area shall be approved by the Region and local municipality prior to commencement of the work.
- The project will be deemed to be complete if enough capacity is identified to support a total capacity assignment.
- The Region and/or its agent will review the analysis and monitoring works carried out by the developer to determine the inflow and infiltration reduction. At its sole discretion, Region and/or its agent may carry out independent analysis and monitoring works to quantify and verify the inflow and infiltration works. All costs associated with retaining a consultant to act on behalf of the Region of the above shall be borne by the developer/landowner subject to the pilot project.
- The method used to quantify inflow and infiltration reduction shall be one adopted by the Region with a baseline defined by the Region. Capacity assignment to the Town shall not exceed more than 1 unit for every 2 units of proven capacity created by inflow and infiltration reduction.
- Prior to implementing the work, a resident communication protocol shall be established by the developer and/or the Town to the satisfaction of the Region and the Town.
- The Region and/or the Town may inspect the work and may require stoppage of work at its sole and absolute discretion, if the work has been commenced without obtaining the necessary approvals, or private properties entered without prior consent of property owners, and/or the work is not performed in accordance with the Region's overall inflow and infiltration reduction program.

- Any flow monitoring records obtained by the developer shall become the property of the Region at the end of the pilot project.
- Development shall use new sewer design, inspection and commissioning standards developed by York Region in conjunction with local municipalities and inspected to the satisfaction of the Region and the Town.
- Local municipality shall commit a portion of allocation to the developer as part of the Developer funded inflow infiltration pilot project from the existing capacity assignment.
- The developer shall pay a fee equal to 0.5% of the estimated cost of pilot project for the Region's legal costs to prepare and administer the agreement.
- The developer shall agree to pay for the Region's legal costs (external and internal) to prepare the agreement.
- The developer shall provide a Letter of Credit for the full estimated value of the work and if work is subsequently expanded into other catchment areas, the Letter of Credit shall increase accordingly.
- The developer shall agree to fully indemnify the Region against any and all legal action that may arise during the design and construction of works and thereafter, as well as against any action taken against the Region as a result of the Region agreeing to proceed with this project.
- The Region and the local municipality will support draft plan approval provided that no presales be permitted prior to allocation.

January 26, 2018

Ms. Lisa Lyons
Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive, P.O. Box 328
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES		
INCOMING MAIL	REFD TO	COPY TO
FEB 01 2018		

Dear Ms. Lyons:

Re: Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan Update and Vision 2051 - Consultation Plan

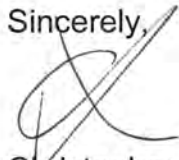
Regional Council, at its meeting held on January 25, 2018, adopted the following recommendations of Committee of the Whole regarding "Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan Update and Vision 2051 - Consultation Plan":

1. Receipt of the presentation by Valerie Shuttleworth, Chief Planner.
2. Adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated January 5, 2018 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and the Chief Planner:
 1. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities for information.

A copy of Clause 14 of Committee of the Whole Report No. 1 is enclosed for your information.

Please contact Paul Freeman, Acting Chief Planner at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71534 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,



Christopher Raynor
Regional Clerk

/S. Dumont
Attachments

CONSULTATION PLAN

Municipal Comprehensive Review | Regional Official Plan Update | Vision 2051 Evaluation



Your community, your say.

1.0 BACKGROUND

In 2014, York Region embarked on a Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) process that consisted of a review of the Region's population and employment forecasts, land budget and Regional Official Plan policies.

In May 2016, draft Provincial plans (Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan) were released and work on the MCR was suspended, recognizing that pending new Provincial Plans would require a conformity update to the Regional Official Plan.

The Transportation Master Plan and Water Wastewater Servicing Master Plan were also under review as part of the coordinated MCR process. Updates were completed and endorsed by Regional Council in June 2016.

In May 2017, following extensive consultation the Province released new Provincial Plans. The Region's MCR has now been resumed; it will address modified minimum intensification and density targets, and additional new targets introduced through the 2017 Growth Plan. Updated Provincial Plans have introduced new opportunities and challenges which warrant significant investment in consultation.

2.0 CONSULTATION PLAN OVERVIEW

Comprehensive consultation on Vision 2051, the Regional Official Plan update and the MCR will be undertaken. Community consultation will provide input on the future vision for York Region and that input will inform the MCR and Regional Official Plan update as well as assess the ongoing applicability of Vision 2051 goal areas.

This consultation plan provides a framework to manage and coordinate the wide variety of consultation and communications that will take place during the project. It covers:

- Who will receive the communications and be consulted
- What information will be communicated
- Tools for communications and consultation

A wide variety of stakeholders ranging from internal staff to the general public will be consulted on the various aspects of the project.

2.1 OBJECTIVES

Effective consultation is critical to the success of the project. The key consultation objectives for the project are:

- a) Provide accurate and timely information to all stakeholders
- b) Deliver consistent messaging
- c) Consult with key stakeholders in a meaningful way
- d) Apply consultation results to the Regional Official Plan and Vision 2051 updates
- e) Build public awareness regarding how growth is managed in York Region, including the requirement for conformity with Provincial planning documents
- f) Improve understanding of the Regional urban structure, including targets, as established in the Growth Plan, Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan(ORMCP)
- g) Articulate and demonstrate conformity with Provincial direction including the Provincial Land Needs Assessment methodology
- h) Coordinate consultation with infrastructure master plan updates and Regional financial planning

- i) Meet Statutory Planning Act requirements
- j) Confirm linkages between and the Regional Official Plan and Vision 2051
- k) Coordinate Vision 2051 consultation with Regional Official Plan update
- l) Facilitate consultation for residents and business owners to articulate what kind of place they want York Region to be
- m) Confirm linkages between Vision 2051 and the Regional Official Plan

Public input is integral to the success of the Regional Official Plan and Vision 2051. Council, as the decision-maker, will have regard for the advice and input received from the public when setting policy direction through the Regional Official Plan and the focus of action areas for Vision 2051. It is the policies and goals/actions of both documents that help direct Council decisions which are aligned with the future as aspired through the consultation.

The proposed consultation approaches were selected based upon the objective of increasing public participation. The majority of the techniques have a technology emphasis combined with some of the traditional consultation methods. This approach responds to public desire for accessibility. The use of technology provides convenience facilitating positive participation outcomes.

3.0 WHO WILL RECEIVE THE COMMUNICATION AND BE CONSULTED

In order to manage and coordinate engagement and communication to the wide range of public, government and stakeholders are identified as target audiences representing two groups: external and internal.

Long Range Planning staff will be the primary communicators of the messages and coordinate the consultation. The nature of delivery will focus on a technical based consultation campaign while still using traditional delivery methods such as face to face meetings.

3.1 EXTERNAL AUDIENCES

This group will receive communication and be asked for input and/or feedback. The external audience will include:

- Public, including residents and business owners
- Regional Council
- Indigenous Communities
- Local municipal councils
- Committees such as:
 - Planning Advisory Committee
 - York Region Agricultural Advisory Liaison Group
 - York Region Local Municipal Housing Working Group
 - Climate Change Working Group
 - York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Boards and Agencies (e.g Conservation Authorities, School Boards)
- Human Services Planning Board
- Various other stakeholders – interest groups, non-government officials, development industry

3.2 INTERNAL AUDIENCES

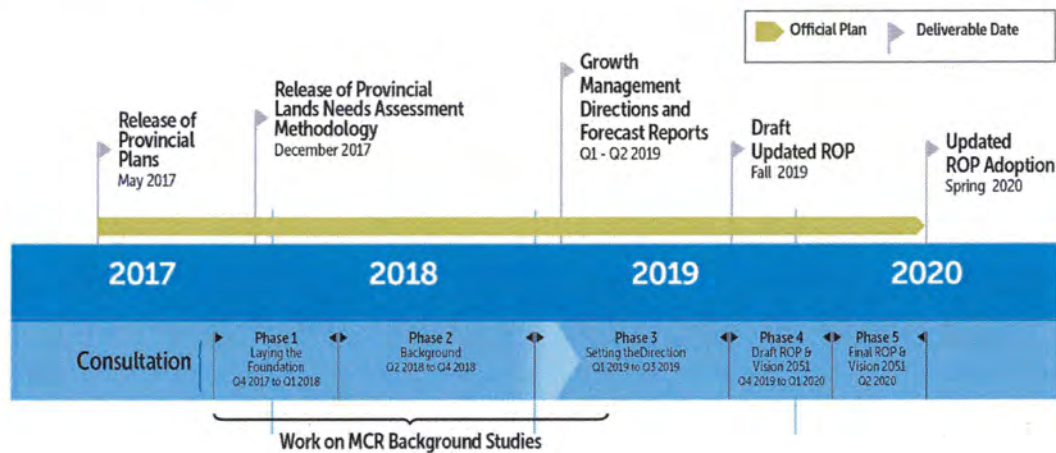
The internal audience has a staff level focus where collaboration occurs among York Region and local municipal staff. The internal audience may include:

- Regional staff including a steering committee
- Local municipal staff
- Local municipal working groups and committees
- Police Services Board
- Provincial staff

4.0 WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COMMUNICATED

The phases identified in figure 1 provide the overall consultation strategy and schedule for Council, local councils, Indigenous Communities, internal staff, external agency staff and the public.

FIGURE 1 SCHEDULE OF PHASES



4.1 PHASE 1 – LAYING THE FOUNDATION – Q4-2017 TO Q1-2018

The MCR resumed in October with the staff report on [the Implications of the New Provincial Plans and Regional MCR Work Plan](#) which discusses the integrated communication plan. The focus of phase 1 is to officially launch the project. In this phase we will provide information and share knowledge with both external and internal audiences. Background information will be provided on the MCR process, how it ties into the Regional Official Plan update and how the Provincial Plans influence regional planning potentially using a series of educational videos with on-line follow-up questions. Specifically, Phase 1 will seek to provide information that answers the following questions:

- 1) What is an MCR?
- 2) What is a Regional Official Plan?
- 3) Why should you be involved in York Region's Official Plan Update?

4.2 PHASE 2 – BACKGROUND – Q2-2018 TO Q4 2018

A number of strategy documents and background studies will be prepared by the Region as part of the MCR process. The following provides a list of the major projects that will be undertaken as part of the MCR process. Most will require extensive consultation and collaboration with local municipalities.

- Updated Growth Forecasts and Land Budget
- Vacant Residential Land Inventory
- Employment Land Inventory Update
- Employment Trends
- Intensification Strategy
- Major Transit Station Area Analysis
- Housing Strategy (Growth Plan requirement)
- Visualizing Density
- Fiscal Impact Analysis
- Traffic Zone Forecasts
- Transportation Master Plan update
- Water and Wastewater Master Plan update
- Climate Change Initiatives including Regional Community Energy Plan
- Natural Heritage and Agricultural Systems planning

It is anticipated that an employment workshop will be held to help inform the employment strategy direction. The Local Municipal MCR Working Group and Steering Committee will provide input into the background work. Background information will feed into a number of strategies targeted for Council endorsement in 2018. During the summer and fall of 2018, staff will share background work with stakeholders, engaging the working groups and committees as additional work is completed using a variety of engagement techniques and may include walking tours, social media and online conferencing. Communication updates will be provided on the status of the background studies and input gathering will occur. This background will also help confirm the Vision for York Region in 2051, and inform review of the Vision 2051 goal areas.

4.3 PHASE 3 – SETTING THE DIRECTION – Q1-2019 TO Q3-2019

In 2019 the consultation platform will shift to seeking input in response to Council direction on the strategy documents and background studies. The majority of the MCR work, including the growth management forecasts will be concluded by the first quarter of 2019 informing the development of Regional Official Plan policy updates and confirmation of the Vision 2051 direction. Input from Council, Indigenous communities, working groups, committees, boards & agencies, and the public will be interpreted, summarized, shared, and used to inform policy development. The consultation aims to foster continued conversation and relationship building between staff and public in recognition of the importance of strong Regional Planning.

4.4 PHASE 4 – DRAFT REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AND DRAFT VISION Q4-2019 TO Q1-2020

In the fall of 2019, it is expected that a draft Regional Official Plan update will be released for public comment. Under the requirements of the Planning Act, a public open house will be held. A statutory public meeting will follow as per section 17 of the Planning Act on the proposed amendments to the Regional Official Plan. Concurrently, a draft of the updated Vision 2051 will also be released for comment. The outcomes of the comprehensive consultation with Council, local councils, Indigenous Communities, the public and other stakeholders reflect what was heard in the release of a draft policy framework.

4.5 PHASE 5 – ADOPTION OF REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AND FINAL VISION 2051 Q2-2020

When the commenting period for the draft Official Plan and Vision 2051 ends, staff will assemble comments and make any necessary revisions to both documents. This will be carried out in preparation of Council's consideration of the Regional Official Plan for adoption and finalization of Vision 2051. Any outstanding issues may be addressed at specific internal working committees, local council and/or the Planning Advisory Committee as appropriate. Staff will prepare reports for Committee of the Whole recommending adoption of the Regional Official Plan and finalization of Vision 2051.

Local municipalities are required by the Growth Plan to update their official plans within one year of the Region's Official Plan being approved. A collaborative consultation approach with local municipalities will be integral to meeting this aggressive timeline.

5.0 POTENTIAL TOOLS FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATION

Continual engagement throughout the entire public consultation schedule emphasizes staff building a strong relationship with residents and business owners to obtain meaningful input. To make it more convenient for residents and business owners, staff is proposing to use various formats of consultation, some with a technology emphasis. The list below provides options of potential engagement techniques that could be selected that best suit the consultation need and communication style:

- York.ca Website
- Social media (YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, websites)
- eBlasts of updates
- Videos
- Guest speakers
- Infographics and maps
- Online conferencing
- Surveys
- Workshops
- Open houses
- Presentations

Clause 14 in Report No. 1 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on January 25, 2018.

14

**Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan Update
and Vision 2051 - Consultation Plan**

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. Receipt of the presentation by Valerie Shuttleworth, Chief Planner.
2. Adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated January 5, 2018 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and the Chief Planner:
 1. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities for information.

Report dated January 5, 2018 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and the Chief Planner now follows:

1. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities for information.

2. Purpose

This report provides Council with a consultation plan (Attachment 1) for the Regional Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR), Regional Official Plan update and review of long range community aspirations currently articulated in Vision 2051. The consultation plan is designed to engage Regional and local municipal staff and Councils, the public, and other stakeholders.

Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan update and Vision 2051 - Consultation Plan

3. Background and Previous Council Direction

With Release of final Provincial Plans in May 2017, the Municipal Comprehensive Review has resumed

The Province requires the Region to update population and employment forecasts to 2041, develop a land needs assessment and review official plan policies for Provincial plan conformity. Staff initiated the MCR in May 2014 through a Council approved staff report which outlined a work plan and schedule. When draft revised Provincial Plans (Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan) were released for comment in 2016, work on the Region's MCR was paused. With release of the final Provincial Plans in May 2017, work planning on the MCR resumed.

Council endorsed an updated work plan and schedule for completing the Municipal Comprehensive Review in October 2017

The MCR work plan identifies the need to combine consultation on the MCR and Regional Official Plan update with an assessment of the eight goal areas of Vision 2051. The consultation will build on the previous input and feedback received from the public, other stakeholders and local municipal councils and staff as part of the 2014 MCR.

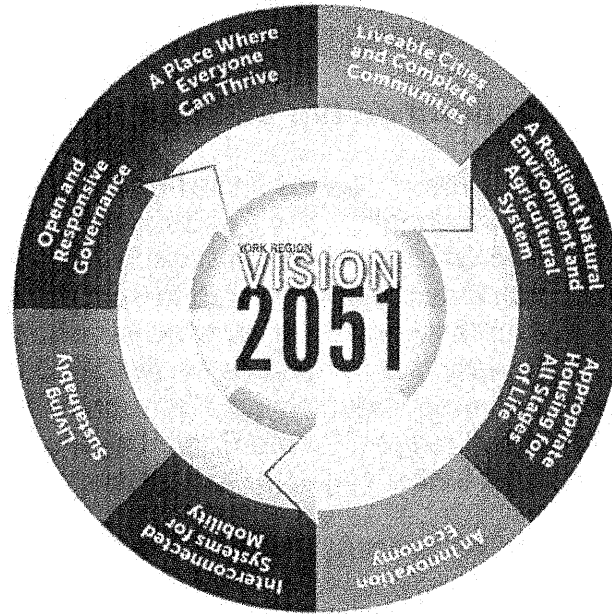
4. Analysis and Implications

Comprehensive community consultation will occur in 2018 and 2019

Comprehensive consultation on Vision 2051, the Regional Official Plan update and the MCR will be undertaken. Community consultation will provide input on the future vision for York Region. That input will inform the MCR and Regional Official Plan update as well as assess the ongoing applicability of Vision 2051 goal areas.

Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan update and Vision 2051 - Consultation Plan

Figure 1
The Vision for 2051



The blueprint for Vision 2051 is about creating strong, caring and safe communities. It helps inform Council direction and the Region's Strategic Plan. The timing is right to undertake a review of Vision 2051 as the goal areas provide guidance on how the Region should grow and directly relate to the Regional Official Plan.

The proposed consultation plan as outlined in Attachment 1 provides the framework for staff to manage and coordinate engagement and communication to a wide variety of external and internal audiences including but not limited to:

- Public – business owners and residents, with a focus on youth and seniors
- Regional Council and staff
- Local municipal Councils and staff
- Indigenous communities
- Boards and Agencies
- Human Services Planning Board
- York Region Police Services Board

Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan update and Vision 2051 - Consultation Plan

- Regional committees
- Various other stakeholders – interest groups, non-government organizations, development industry

Current work will build on the existing Regional urban structure

The Region has been working toward achieving the goal of sustainable communities since the foundation of a Centres and Corridors urban structure was introduced in the 1994 Official Plan. Significant investment has gone into the existing and planned infrastructure required to support this urban structure. The Province has solidified the Region's approach with stronger Provincial policy. York Region is well positioned to address these policies, including achieving new or increased growth management targets. Through continued consultation, public feedback has confirmed support for the Region's growth management strategy of directing intensification to the Region's Centres and Corridors.

Through the Growth Plan policies, the Province requires an integrated planning approach for all levels of government. This supports the proactive consultation framework desired as part of all Regional endeavours.

Staff are leveraging award winning best practices to guide the Region's consultation

Staff conducted a jurisdictional scan of award winning community consultation plan examples within Canada, the United States and Australia. Plans reviewed used innovative public engagement methods for resident participation in municipal initiatives. Within York Region, innovative approaches have been used to convey the municipal budgeting process to the public, engage residents through personal invitations to open houses and through creative informational videos.

Best practices provide an opportunity for staff to explore alternative engagement approaches for the public to tell staff about the kind of place they want York Region to be, and to directly participate in shaping the Region's planned community structure. Some additional examples of consultation best practices include:

- Niagara Region - YouTube videos to educate and inform residents
- London, Ontario - Polling software for live interactive audience participation

Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan update and Vision 2051 - Consultation Plan

- Abbotsford, British Columbia – Targeted town hall meetings at community gathering places coinciding with planned festivals and events
- Melbourne, Australia – Focused consultation on youth engagement, hosting fine art competitions and using social media to obtain input
- Plano, Texas - Interactive mapping illustrating where and what type of growth will occur

Using technology in public consultation is aimed to engage the public at their convenience

To increase public engagement, London and Abbotsford developed comprehensive consultation platforms combining the use of technology and traditional methods that each spanned two years to update their official plans. As a result of the integrated approach, London was able to reach 13% of their population of 380,000, while Abbotsford engaged 30% of their approximately 140,000 residents. Both award winning consultation plans were recognized for significantly increasing participation. The use of technology facilitated positive participation outcomes by providing the public with the opportunity to access information and participate at their convenience.

This approach has proven successful for other York Region public engagement projects. Animated educational videos for waste management, online polling for the Transportation Master Plan and water hero videos featuring the role staff plays in keeping our water safe are just a few examples. It is proposed that some of these technology based platforms be applied to the MCR, Official Plan and Vision 2051 work in coordination with Corporate Communications.

Consultation occurs at each stage of the Municipal Comprehensive Review process with a public launch and Council workshop in 2018

The proposed consultation plan consisting of five phases is coordinated with the timing of key deliverables related to the MCR process and Official Plan update as outlined in Figure 2.

Throughout the phases, Council will be involved through participation in Council workshops. At regular intervals, staff will be reporting to Council to confirm direction on the various MCR background studies, draft Regional Official Plan policies and the future of Vision 2051. Council will also be invited to participate in various planned public events.

Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan update and Vision 2051 - Consultation Plan

Figure 2
Five Phase Consultation Plan for Public and Stakeholder Engagement

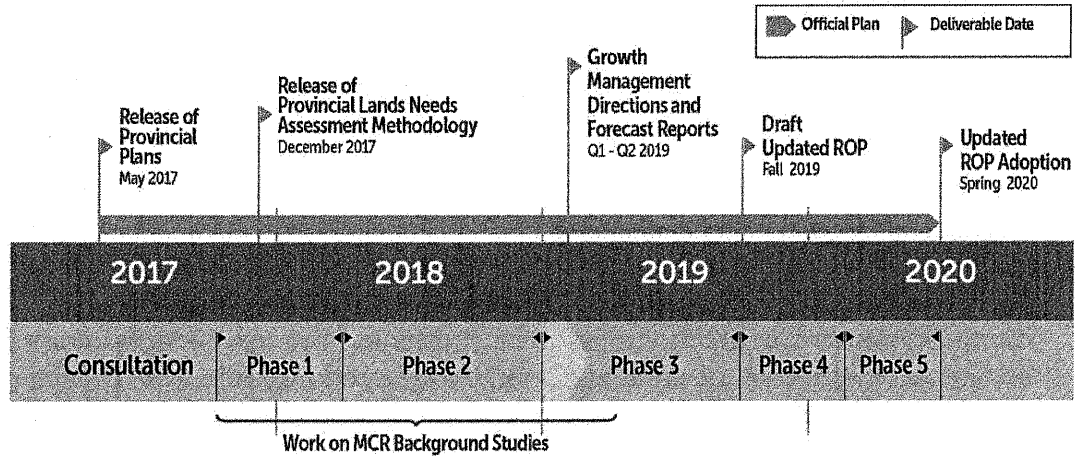


Table 1 describes the purpose of each phase and provides highlights of the consultation:

Table 1
Information to be communicated in the five phases

Phase & Timing	Purpose	Highlights
Phase 1 Current	Laying the Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of public consultation • Questions to be answered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is an MCR? ○ What is a Regional Official Plan? ○ Why should you be involved in York Region’s Official Plan Update? • Information on how the MCR process ties into the Regional Official Plan update and review of Vision 2051
Phase 2 Q2 2018 to Q1 2019	Technical Background Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on the MCR background studies, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Growth forecasts and Visualizing Density ○ Employment Strategy ○ Major Transit Station Area Analysis

Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan update and Vision 2051 - Consultation Plan

Phase & Timing	Purpose	Highlights
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing Strategy ○ Climate Change ● Council workshop(s)
Phase 3 Q1 2019 to Q3 2019	Setting the Direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue receiving input and feedback on MCR background studies ● Confirm what was heard from public and other stakeholders ● Seek public and Council input into the direction for policy development for Official Plan ● Council workshop(s)
Phase 4 Q4 2019 to Q1 2020	Draft Regional Official Plan and Vision 2051	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Statutory Public Open House held on the Official Plan ● Drafts released on Official Plan and Vision 2051 for comment
Phase 5 Q2 2020	Adoption of Regional Official Plan and Final Vision 2051	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assemble comments from Official Plan and Vision 2051 & finalize both documents ● Council adopt Regional Official Plan ● Council endorse Vision 2051 update

Early input and awareness is integral to project success. The consultation process will be launched in the first quarter of 2018 with a public campaign and a Council workshop targeted for spring 2018.

Public consultation proposes a variety of engagement techniques

Based on review of best practices, staff proposes to use a number of engagement techniques ranging from public open houses to the use of technology to maximize opportunities for public participation. London used a combination of public events, social media, videos, surveys and online visits to their website. Over 50,000 individuals participated in the consultation process. Similarly, Abbotsford using the same methods engaged over 40,000 individuals. The public consultation approach as outlined in Attachment 1 provides details on the timing and overall implementation strategy. Several of these engagement methods draw upon and enhance established consultation approaches.

Consultation techniques to be considered include the following:

Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan update and Vision 2051 - Consultation Plan

- Education videos on what is an MCR and Official Plan in Phase 1 (Q1-2018)
- “Good planning” and “Your Vision of York Region” photo contests in Phase 1 (Q1-2018)
- Interactive mapping and Visioning workshops in Phase 2 (Q2 & Q3 -2018)
- Walking tours of growth areas in Phase 3 (Q2-2019)
- Online conferencing to highlight draft documents in Phase 4 (Q4-2019)
- Public open houses at community gathering places in Phase 4 (Q4-2019)
- Online surveys to provide feedback and comments on materials throughout all of the phases

Consistent with Regional planning consultation approaches in the past, staff have had and will continue to schedule one-on-one meetings with local municipal staff and will make themselves available to meet with landowners and other stakeholders as requested/required.

Engaging Indigenous communities forms an important component of the consultation plan

Staff will leverage some of the consultation approaches from the consultation plan and those used in development of the Archaeological Master Plan to engage with Indigenous communities with historical territory and interest in York Region. Consultation with indigenous communities will be undertaken based on their preferred approach, which will be discussed with them prior to initiating consultation.

Consultation Plan supports the objectives of Vision 2051, Regional Official Plan and the 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan

The Regional Official Plan update supports all of the *2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan* goals, specifically, by strengthening the Region’s Economy, Supporting Community Health and Well-being, Managing Environmentally Sustainable Growth and Providing Modern and Efficient Public Service. The Official Plan also supports the Region’s Vision for 2051 of Livable Cities and Complete Communities, an Innovative Economy and a Resilient Natural Environment and Agricultural System.

Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan update and Vision 2051 - Consultation Plan

5. Financial Considerations

The consultation program will be undertaken by Regional planning staff, in close partnership with other departments. Consulting expertise will be used as required. Budget requirements are addressed through the annual budgeting process.

6. Local Municipal Impact

A number of the policies in the new Provincial Plans require collaboration and cooperation among the Region, local municipalities and the Province in order to achieve required targets and objectives. Local municipalities are an important part of the work and the overall communication process. As outlined in the consultation plan, the Region will be working extensively with the local municipalities in undertaking the MCR work and will continue to engage local municipalities on policy development for the Regional Official Plan. Recently, a MCR working group was formed with local municipal staff to collaborate on key requirements for conformity with the Provincial Plans. Local municipal staff will be engaged in the MCR through other existing working groups including climate change, housing and agriculture.

The Growth Plan requires the Region to have its Official Plan approved by the Province by July 1, 2022. The Region is well positioned to meet this deadline as it is anticipated that the Official Plan will be presented to Council for adoption in spring 2020. Local municipalities are required to have their conformity exercise completed within one year of the Region's Official Plan being approved. A collaborative consultation approach with local municipalities will be integral to meeting this aggressive timeline.

7. Conclusion

This report summarizes the proposed consultation plan, sets out a schedule and provides highlights of proposed engagement techniques. The consultation plan will set up to meet and exceed the statutory consultation requirements of the *Planning Act*. It is anticipated that the integrated approach of combining consultation on the MCR, Regional Official Plan and Vision 2051 will help achieve the objective of fulsome input and feedback from the public and other stakeholders.

Implementation of new Provincial Plan policies will require extensive collaboration with local municipalities. Using working groups will provide local

Municipal Comprehensive Review, Regional Official Plan update and Vision 2051 - Consultation Plan

municipal staff with ongoing input into the MCR work leading to the policy update of the Regional Official Plan. The consultation schedule aligns with the MCR and Regional Official Plan work plan. It is proposed that by 2020, there will be an adopted Regional Official Plan and updated Vision 2051 document.

For more information on this report, please contact Paul Freeman, Director of Long Range Planning at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71534.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

January 5, 2018

Attachment (1)

8119246

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request



January 26, 2018

Ms. Lisa Lyons
Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive, P.O. Box 328
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES		
INCOMING MAIL	REFD TO	COPY TO
FEB 01 2018		

Dear Ms. Lyons:

**Re: Provincial Consultation on Income Security:
A Roadmap for Change**

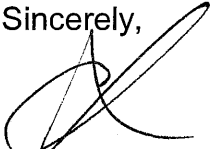
Regional Council, at its meeting held on January 25, 2018, adopted the following recommendations of Committee of the Whole regarding "Provincial Consultation on Income Security: A Roadmap for Change":

1. Council endorse York Region's response to the Provincial consultation on Income Security: A Roadmap for Change as set out in in Attachment 1 to this report, which includes:
 - a. Urging the Province to take immediate action on the Roadmap's recommendations
 - b. Ensure supports are co-designed with municipal partners as they have significant experience and play a central role in planning and delivering human services related to people living on low incomes, especially those receiving social assistance
 - c. Avoid any potential inadvertent impacts or costs to municipal programs by ensuring municipal flexibility to determine discretionary benefits for residents
 - d. Ensure fulsome consideration of all the recommendations made by the Provincial Income Security groups as the recommendations are reinforcing and dependent on one another
 - e. Ensure alignment of actions across all governments to create a truly client-centric outcome that creates a holistic system
2. This report be circulated by the Regional Clerk to the local municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and the Human Services Planning Board of York Region.

A copy of Clause 11 of Committee of the Whole Report No. 1 is enclosed for your information.

Please contact Lisa Gonsalves, Director, Strategies and Partnerships Branch, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72090 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Raynor', written over a horizontal line.

Christopher Raynor
Regional Clerk

/C. Clark
Attachments

Clause 11 in Report No. 1 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on January 25, 2018.

11

**Provincial Consultation on Income Security:
A Roadmap for Change**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated January 8, 2018 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. Council endorse York Region's response to the Provincial consultation on Income Security: A Roadmap for Change as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, which includes:
 - a. Urging the Province to take immediate action on the Roadmap's recommendations
 - b. Ensure supports are co-designed with municipal partners as they have significant experience and play a central role in planning and delivering human services related to people living on low incomes, especially those receiving social assistance
 - c. Avoid any potential inadvertent impacts or costs to municipal programs by ensuring municipal flexibility to determine discretionary benefits for residents
 - d. Ensure fulsome consideration of all the recommendations made by the Provincial Income Security groups as the recommendations are reinforcing and dependent on one another
 - e. Ensure alignment of actions across all governments to create a truly client-centric outcome that creates a holistic system
2. This report be circulated by the Regional Clerk to the local municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and the Human Services Planning Board of York Region.

Report dated January 8, 2018 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services now follows:

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Council endorse York Region's response to the Provincial consultation on Income Security: A Roadmap for Change as set out in Attachment 1 to this report, which includes:
 - a. Urging the Province to take immediate action on the Roadmap's recommendations
 - b. Ensure supports are co-designed with municipal partners as they have significant experience and play a central role in planning and delivering human services related to people living on low incomes, especially those receiving social assistance
 - c. Avoid any potential inadvertent impacts or costs to municipal programs by ensuring municipal flexibility to determine discretionary benefits for residents
 - d. Ensure fulsome consideration of all the recommendations made by the Provincial Income Security groups as the recommendations are reinforcing and dependent on one another
 - e. Ensure alignment of actions across all governments to create a truly client-centric outcome that creates a holistic system
2. This report be circulated by the Regional Clerk to the local municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and the Human Services Planning Board of York Region.

2. Purpose

This report requests Council endorsement of the staff response submitted to the Minister of Community of Social Services on December 22, 2017, on its report: Income Security: A Roadmap for Change (The Roadmap). The deadline to submit comments to the Ministry was January 5, 2018. There was insufficient time for Council to consider the response in advance of its submission. Any additional comments from Council's consideration of this report will be forwarded to the Ministry.

3. Background

The Province established three Working Groups to review the income security system and make recommendations for reform

The income security system includes all those supports delivered by federal, provincial or municipal governments aimed at addressing low income and related needs. Examples include the Ontario Works Program, the Ontario Disability Support Program and the Canada Pension Plan.

In 2016, the Ontario government tasked the Income Security Working Group, the First Nations Income Security Reform Working Group and the Urban Indigenous Table on Income Security Reform to recommend improvements to Ontario's income security system so that it will better support the diversity of those who use it. Membership across the three groups included delivery and municipal partners, legal experts, poverty and disability advocates, academics and experts, people with lived experience, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, and Independent First Nations.

Ontario has now received the Roadmap report from the Income Security Working Groups

The Roadmap sets out 18 recommendations aimed at helping people living on low income to get ahead, and provides specific advice to government to help guide decisions on a multi-year path for reforming the income security system. As stated in the report:

We have seen the human toll caused by inadequacies in the current system, including the deprivation, despair and lost opportunities for individuals and families living in poverty. Higher health care, social service and justice system costs and lower tax revenues follow as a reminder of the poor outcomes people are experiencing. The bottom line is that poverty is expensive and it costs us all.

The Province has indicated that it agrees with the need to fundamentally reform the income security system, including transformation of social assistance, to ensure all individuals are treated with respect and dignity and are inspired to reach their full potential.

The government is now reviewing the report and will use it as a guide as it considers changes to the income security system in 2018.

Provincial Consultation on Income Security: A Roadmap for Change**The Ministry of Community and Social Services posted the report online for public review and comment until January 5, 2018**

The Roadmap was posted online on November 2, 2017 for public feedback. As a direct result of the timing, there was insufficient time to bring this item forward for Council approval prior to submission.

The Region's response, Attachment 1 to this report, urges the Province to take immediate action on the Roadmap's recommendations. The recommendations are wide-ranging and when implemented create a more modern, responsive and effective system of income by addressing income inadequacy, engaging the whole income security system, transforming social assistance and helping those in deepest poverty.

The Region's Submission was developed through cross-departmental consultation

The Community and Health Services Department conducted a cross-departmental consultation including Transportation Services, Legal and Court Services, Corporate Services, Finance, Environmental Services, and the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. All feedback collected was used to develop the Region's submission.

The response to the Roadmap's recommendations from other municipalities and associations has been favourable

Based on feedback released by other municipalities, various associations and media, response to the Roadmap and its recommendations has been favourable. Some municipal governments and partners that have already released their position or support for the recommendations include: the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Region of Waterloo, the Income Security Advocacy Centre and the Ontario Community Legal Clinic System's Steering Committee on Social Assistance.

Staff continues to monitor and review responses to the Roadmap.

4. Analysis and Implications

The Roadmap outlines key initiatives that could provide significant improvements to existing income security benefits

The current income security system is built on traditional assumptions that most people have full-time, permanent jobs. The Roadmap outlines a modern approach that recognizes that the job market and people's needs have changed. This includes establishing a definition of an adequate level of income, a housing benefit for all residents living on low income and transforming the culture of social assistance to become more centred on helping people achieve their goals.

Many of the recommendations complement policy initiatives that the provincial and federal governments have recently introduced or are currently testing. This may signal a willingness to implement the recommendations included in the Roadmap.

York Region's submission focuses on six short-term priorities

The Region's submission has asked the Province to most immediately focus on the following six short-term priorities:

1. Create a set of core health benefits (i.e. dental and vision care) for all adults receiving Ontario Works as a first step, and once implementation is underway, extend core health benefits to all residents living with low income
2. Take quick action to reduce unnecessary rules that create barriers for people in need and receiving social assistance. This would lead the shift from a rule-based system in social assistance to case collaboration, a direction York Region is already pursuing
3. Provide tools and training for social assistance administrators to support more holistic assessments of client needs early in the case management process
4. Define a minimum income standard. The minimum income standard would be the basic level of income needed to cover essential living costs, and set the level which income support programs would be expected to achieve. Establishing a defined minimum income standard is important to ensuring that income security is defined consistently across Ontario

Provincial Consultation on Income Security: A Roadmap for Change

5. Permit stacking of benefits. Benefits should interact positively together so that residents can better rely on their cumulative impact to achieve income security. Currently, individuals may receive additional benefits outside of social assistance only to have their monthly Ontario Works entitlement reduced, placing them no further ahead and facing difficulties managing additional expenses. This has resulted in the creation of additional benefits to support these unique costs. Reducing or eliminating claw-backs in benefits such as Workplace Safety & Insurance Board and Canada Pension Plan Disability positions residents so they can maximize income sources available to them and save for the future.
6. Permit municipalities to retain the ability to provide discretionary benefits until the full impact of the Roadmap changes are known. This flexibility will help York Region to manage the shift and to meet client-specific needs beyond core benefits

The Roadmap's recommendations will improve the lives of York Region's residents living with low income

If implemented, recommendations included in the Roadmap will improve outcomes for York Region's residents, including:

- Reducing pressures on municipal programs that address poverty among our residents. This could result in better support for residents with complex needs
- Expanding benefits outside of the social assistance system to help residents thrive within the current labour and housing market
- Creating a culture shift moving away from a rule-based system that creates barriers to accessing benefits, starting with social assistance. This includes promoting a new culture of respect, collaboration and autonomy, which is linked to improved client outcomes
- Defining a minimum income amount that ensures progress in achieving income adequacy for residents can be tracked and is standardized across Ontario

5. Financial Considerations

There are no financial impacts directly associated with providing a submission to the Roadmap.

Provincial Consultation on Income Security: A Roadmap for Change**York Region's submission strongly recommends that changes must not result in new or increased costs for municipalities**

If recommendations are implemented by the Province, there may be financial impact. For example, social assistance and benefits provided through the broader income security system are primarily funded by the provincial and federal governments, and include various requirements for Regional cost sharing. The amount of benefits, and eligibility requirements, may expand.

The Roadmap's recommendations do not provide details on a funding model or how each level of government should work together to achieve income adequacy. It is unclear who would be responsible for funding the changes outlined in the Roadmap.

6. Local Municipal Impact

The recommended transformation of Ontario's income security system would impact residents living with low to moderate incomes.

7. Conclusion

Recommendations contained within the Income Security Roadmap for Change are advice to the Minister of Community and Social Services. The Region will continue to monitor the Provincial Government's response to these recommendations and progress towards implementing the Roadmap to transform the income security system.

For more information on this report, please contact Lisa Gonsalves, Director, Strategies and Partnerships Branch, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72090.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

January 8, 2018

Attachment (1)

#8062153

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request



KATHERINE CHISLETT, Commissioner
Community and Health Services Department

December 21, 2017

Via Email: incomesecurity@ontario.ca

Honourable Helena Jaczek
Ministry of Community and Social Services
Communications and Marketing Branch
7th Floor, Hepburn Block
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Dear Minister:

Re: York Region Response to the Income Security Reform Working Group's report on Income Security: A Roadmap for Change

Attached is the York Region submission to the Ministry of Community and Social Services consultation on *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change*.

Due to the timing of the consultation process, staff was not able to secure Council endorsement in time for the January 5, 2018 deadline. Council endorsement will be sought at their meeting of January 25, 2018. We respectfully request the opportunity to provide any additional comments and/or changes that may be required by our Council at that time.

York Region strongly supports the recommendations put forward by the Income Security Reform Working Group. If implemented, the Roadmap's recommendations could provide significant improvements to a system that is currently flawed and challenging for our residents to navigate. In particular, I would like to highlight the recommendations that could potentially have the most positive outcomes for our residents. These include:

- An established definition of a minimum income amount for which progress in achieving income adequacy for residents can be tracked and standardized across Ontario. This is significant as it would set a level of income at which no person should fall below.

- A housing benefit that is made available to all low income residents regardless of whether or not they receive assistance. This is an important step that recognizes the importance of a reliable safety net that can reduce the chance of life setbacks and prevents the need to access Ontario Works.
- Creating a culture shift in the administration of benefits by promoting a culture of respect, collaboration and autonomy. This is a vital step as it could disband rules premised on ill-conceived notions about the motivations of those in crisis or who have long-term experiences in poverty.

The Roadmap is a positive step to ensure municipal governments are well positioned to continue to support the range of human services residents require. The recommendations have potential to reduce pressures on municipal programs that address poverty among residents. In the role of service system manager, municipalities provide support services that directly reflect and meet local needs (such as housing, child care, employment and income supports) and are best suited to address the complex factors or social determinants of health that often underlie an individual's situation.

While the Region is supportive of system reform, change must not include new costs for municipalities, and indeed the Roadmap does not suggest a municipal contribution to helping achieve income adequacy. Municipal property taxes are not well suited to respond to the growing income needs of residents; the provincial income tax is the most appropriate source of revenue for new and enhanced income security programs.

Since the Roadmap outlines a transformative plan that will require concerted effort across governments, it is important that this momentum is not lost in long-term planning. York Region strongly encourages moving forward with the most immediate concerns outlined in the Roadmap to stabilize emergent needs of residents in the short-term. In our view, short-term priorities that require immediate attention include:

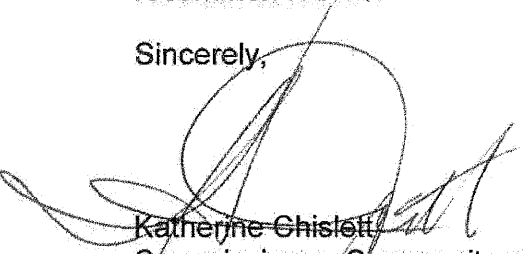
- Co-designing supports with municipal partners as they have significant experience and play a central role in planning and delivering human services related to social assistance.
- Enhancing the regulatory framework to support change management and a client centric approach.
- Avoiding inadvertent negative impacts on municipal programs by:
 - Ensuring municipal flexibility to determine discretionary benefits for residents; and

- o Allowing stacking of benefits for residents to reach income adequacy so that they have what they need for additional or unplanned expenses.

The recommendations of the Roadmap should all be implemented, as they are reinforcing and dependent on one another.

For a truly successful transformation in the income security system to occur – one that lifts people out poverty and despair by helping them move towards employment and economic and social inclusion within their communities – collaboration of all governments is required to ensure policies work together to achieve a holistic system that works seamlessly to adequately support people. York Region would be pleased to participate in and lend our expertise to the work necessary to implement these recommendations.

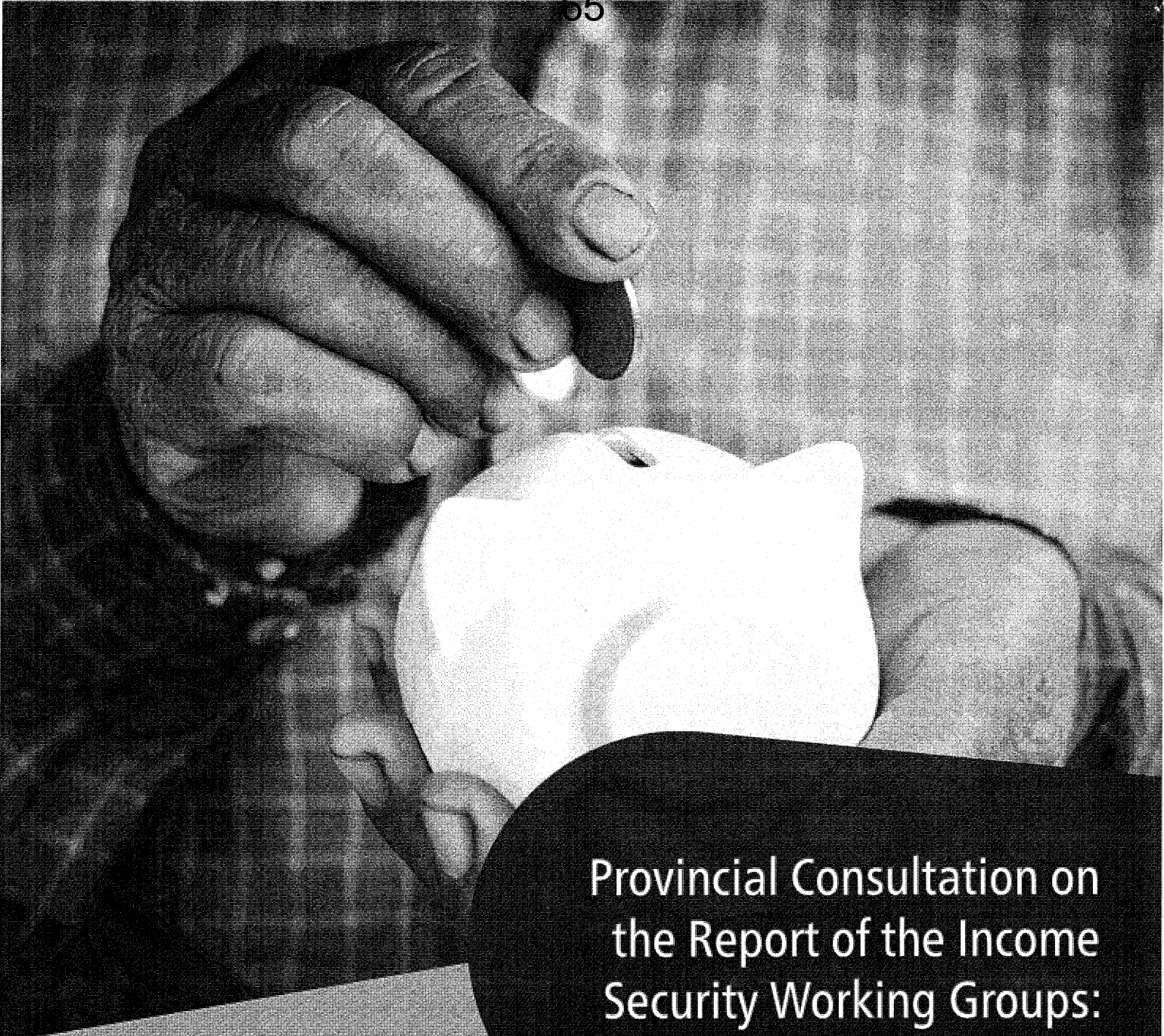
Sincerely,



Katherine Chislett
Commissioner, Community and Health Services
Regional Municipality of York

Copy to: Wayne Emmerson, Chair and CEO, Regional Municipality of York
Bruce Macgregor, CAO, Regional Municipality of York
Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Hon Chris Ballard, MPP (Newmarket—Aurora)
Hon Michael Chan, MPP (Markham—Unionville)
Hon Steven Del Duca, MPP (Vaughan)
Hon Reza Moridi, MPP (Richmond Hill)
Gila Martow, MPP (Thornhill)
Julia Munro, MPP (York—Simcoe)
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
The Ontario Municipal Social Services Association

#8062222



Provincial Consultation on
the Report of the Income
Security Working Groups:

*Income Security:
A Roadmap
for Change*

Submission on behalf of
The Regional Municipality of York

January 2018


York Region

Foreword

On behalf of The Regional Municipality of York, we are providing York Region's perspectives on the recommendations made in the *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* Report of the Income Security Working Group. As a region that provides a wide range of human services to a population of 1.2 million residents, we have first-hand insight into the changing needs and complexities of our residents, and what it would take to give them more stability in their lives, and brighter futures. As the Minister of Community and Social Services reviews the recommendations of the Working Groups, we ask you to consider our feedback.

Executive Summary

The Regional Municipality of York strongly supports the Roadmap as it sets out an extensive platform to transform the income security system in Ontario that goes beyond social assistance. The plan, if implemented could:

- Reduce pressures on municipal programs that prevent, reduce or address poverty among residents. This is a positive step as property taxes and municipal revenues are poorly suited to respond to growing income needs, and this could help municipalities better support residents with complex needs that require more focused municipal case management and holistic supports
- Expand benefits outside of social assistance to help residents better survive within the labour and

housing market in order to manage temporary setbacks, life changes and/or crisis

- Create a culture shift and move away from benefits that punish people by requiring certain obligations be met in order to receive benefits. This includes changing the administration of benefits through promotion of a culture of respect, collaboration and autonomy
- Set a definition of a minimum income amount that ensures that progress in achieving income adequacy for residents can be tracked and standardized across Ontario

In approaching the Roadmap, York Region would like the Province to consider six short-term priorities:

- Create a set of core health benefits for all adults receiving Ontario Works as a first step, and once implementation is underway, extend core health benefits to all residents living with low income
- Take quick action to change regulations to reduce punitive and intrusive rules while moving forward on equally important, but more time-consuming, legislative change
- Provide tools and training for administrators to undertake more holistic assessments of client needs early in the case management process
- Define a minimum income standard
- Permit stacking of benefits
- Permit municipalities to retain the ability to provide discretionary benefits until the full impact of the Roadmap changes are known in terms of meeting individual needs

To ensure successful implementation of the Roadmap's recommendations, the following considerations are suggested:

- Ensure supports are co-designed with municipal partners as they have significant experience and play a central role in planning and delivering human services related to social assistance
- Avoid any potential inadvertent impacts or costs to municipal programs by ensuring municipal flexibility to determine discretionary benefits for residents; The Roadmap at a minimum should not add to municipal costs
- Ensure a fulsome consideration of all the recommendations as reinforcing and dependent on one another
- Ensure alignment across all governments to ensure a truly client-centric outcome that creates a holistic system

Background

Poverty or income insecurity is increasing across Ontario due to greater labour market instability including less access to jobs and more precarious employment. While unemployment rates are relatively low, many people have difficulties accessing living wage and stable employment. As a result, it is difficult for many to achieve economic stability and an adequate standard of living.

It is well documented that income is the most important social factor contributing to health and social well-being. People living with poverty have been known to experience greater health problems such as higher rates of mental illness and addiction. Further, literacy and community engagement is also known to decline with lower income earnings. Therefore, the complex factors or social determinants of health that underlie an individual's situation and life circumstances are directly impacted by their economic circumstances.

Ontario's current income security system provides a fragmented range of benefits and programs to individuals and families that are delivered across municipal, provincial, and federal governments. Programs are built on traditional assumptions that most people have full-time permanent jobs and only require temporary support. These issues have been recognized by all levels of government, and important changes have been implemented within social assistance and in broader income security such as recent changes to Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) asset levels, the Ontario Child Benefit, the exemption of child support as income and the Canada Child Benefit. However, critical gaps remain including a social assistance system that is still too punitive and difficult to navigate, particularly for people with complex issues, as well as a lack of support for working age adults who struggle to make ends meet.

York Region has long advocated for reform in the broad income security system, and has provided input

Investing in people through a fair income security system would create a system that both prevents and moves people out of poverty and has important benefits for the labour market and overall economic productivity of communities.

to similar consultations, such as the Federal Poverty Reduction Strategy, Ontario Basic Income Pilot, and the 2012 Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario. The Region's advocacy position is rooted in the belief that social assistance transformation needs to recognize that people inherently want to find and retain employment, but that they often face significant personal, systemic and skill/knowledge challenges that impact their overall stability.

In light of increasing costs of living, a transformative income security system must support both people experiencing crisis and those experiencing circumstances that prevent them from making ends meet. Such a system helps to move and keep people out of poverty, while minimizing the "last resort" type of thinking based in residual supports. Supports must be provided more universally outside of social assistance, in addition to a transformed social assistance system that does a better job at helping people with complex issues gain stability and make longer term change in their lives. The income security system also needs to support the working poor and those who transition to work to sustain themselves in the labour market.

York Region is Growing and Changing

York Region is known to be one of the most affluent regions in Ontario. The reality however is, in addition to an increasing population base, our low income population is growing and the complexity of our residents' needs is also increasing. We need to look ahead to ensure we are proactively meeting the needs

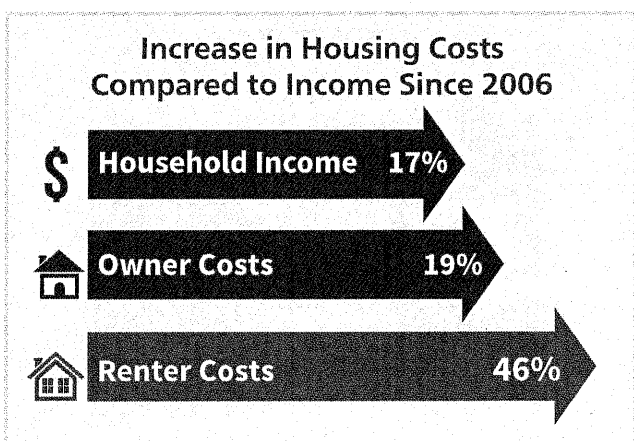
of our residents. York Region's current population is 1.2 million (2016), which is projected to increase to 1.8 million by 2041.

The 2016 Census indicates that income growth in our Region is not keeping pace with the cost of living. Residents living on low income have increased 26 per cent since 2005. Further, the working poor have increased from 37.2 per cent of the working age population in 2006 to 41.4 per cent of the working age population in 2012.

Additionally, housing costs are rising — the 2016 average cost of a new, detached, single family home in York Region was \$1,058,989. The need for affordable housing continues to grow as the rental vacancy rate in the Region has been holding steady at 1.5 per cent, well below a healthy vacancy rate of 3 per cent.

These complex changes are impacting community services and requires us to adapt to evolving expectations in service delivery. This includes being able to maximize provincial funding and always looking for ways to

Since 2006, the median monthly housing cost for rented dwellings increased by **46 per cent** compared to 17 per cent growth in household income



do more with less, while maintaining and often times improving service quality.

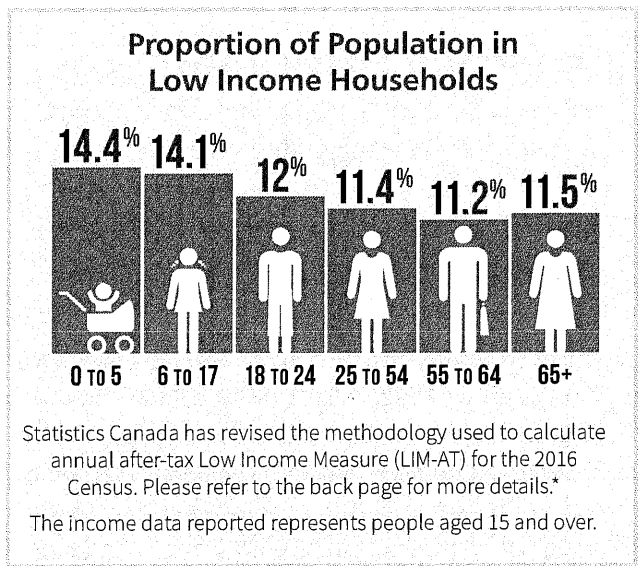
It is important that the Province continues to work with its municipal partners now more than ever in order to ensure that systems support residents and provide them with opportunities to succeed.

Municipal Governments are Partners

Providing residents with high-quality human services is a municipal function. Provincial investment in this area is just as important as investments in physical infrastructure.

In order to adjust and adapt to the growing and increased complexity of the people we serve, municipalities deliver a variety of interconnected services that address the complex factors (social determinants) that often underline an individual’s situation and life circumstances. To meet these challenges, the Region provides discretionary programs (beyond those that are provincially mandated) to address critical needs and provide opportunity to low and moderate income residents, such as:

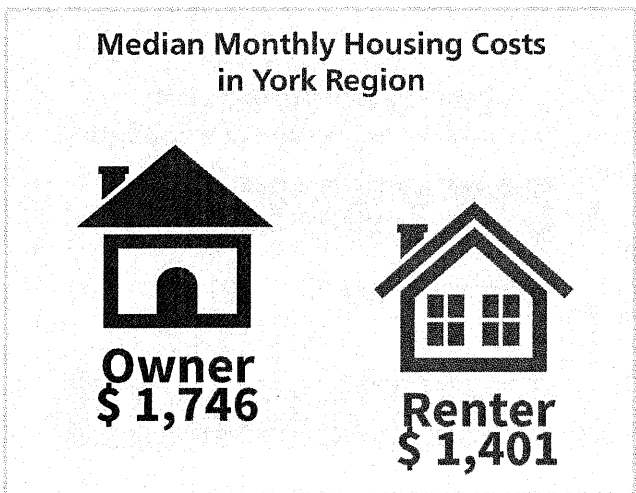
- Financial assistance to people who are homeless, and in need of emergency housing through the Homelessness Prevention Program



- Integrated supports for residents with diverse and complex mental health needs through the Mental Health Matters Initiative
- Annual community investment funding to local agency programs that are focused on serving low-to-moderate income residents that are often very hard to reach

Further, as the OW Administrator, the Region has worked within the OW system to provide better service to our residents despite the overly complex and punitive rules that can impact positive progress.

As the direct deliverers of services, municipalities help people to avoid crisis, and find social and economic stability. The range of expertise municipalities have to effectively and efficiently leverage, partner with and provide services such as child care, housing, and income supports has clear benefits to implementing a



52 per cent of renter households in York Region are spending 30 per cent or more on housing - the highest in the GTHA

53 per cent
of York Region residents worked
full time in 2016 compared to
57 per cent in 2006

Since 2006, the number of residents
working at home and with no
fixed workplace increased by
32 per cent and
36 per cent respectively

successful integrated income system that helps people meet basic needs and transition to employment.

The Roadmap and other provincial initiatives to develop more client-centered approaches is welcomed and supports Regional initiatives to implement wrap-around supports for residents who require assistance in improving their lives, achieving housing stability and building capacity to enter and sustain themselves in the job market.

Response to Provincial Consultation

After review of the *Income Security: A Roadmap for Change* Report, York Region strongly supports the recommendations put forward due to the many potential positive impacts for our residents. If implemented, the Roadmap recommendations could:

- Reduce pressures on municipal programs that prevent, reduce or address poverty among residents. This is a positive step as property taxes and municipal revenues are poorly suited to respond to growing income needs. However, residual supports may still be needed for some residents with complex needs or barriers that will require ongoing municipal government response.

The Roadmap at a minimum should not add to municipal costs.

- Expand benefits outside of social assistance to help residents better survive within the labour and housing market in order to manage temporary setbacks, life changes and/or crises.
- Create a culture shift not only in the way the public views the income support system, but in the way the administration of benefits is managed by promoting a culture of respect, collaboration and autonomy.
- Establish a definition of the minimum income amount for which progress in achieving income security over time can be tracked, and a level of income at which no person should fall below is standardized across Ontario.

We also strongly support moving forward with the Roadmap in a way that addresses the most immediate concerns now in order to stabilize emergent needs in the short-term, while putting in place a plan that addresses long-term system goals. It is important that the provincial response to the Roadmap includes a realistic plan to achieve this, as progress will require additional resources over time.

Although the Roadmap is an interconnected plan, prioritizing when and how to make investments will be crucial to its success. If the Province chooses to move forward with some or all of the recommendations, provincial decisions on prioritizing investments in income security will directly and indirectly impact municipal decisions in supporting the economic well-being and health of residents and communities. As such, we urge the Province to ensure that municipal partners are thoroughly consulted and engaged in all steps of the process, including development of a minimum income standard.

Key Short Term Priorities

The Region has identified the following 6 short-term priorities for consideration:

1. **Create a set of core health benefits for all adults receiving OW as a first step, and once implementation is underway, extend core health benefits to all residents living with low income**
 - Core benefits should complement other existing provincial programs (Healthy Smiles, Ontario Drug Plan, Trillium Drug Program, OHIP+) with a consistent design approach that simplifies access and administration
2. **Take quick action to change regulations to reduce punitive and intrusive rules while moving forward on equally important, but more time-consuming, legislative change**
 - This would lead the shift from a rule-based system in social assistance to case collaboration
 - Quick action is needed to lay the groundwork for moving from social assistance as a last resort, to a longer term safety net
 - Ensure the regulations provide flexibility to recognize differences across municipalities and not take a one size fits all approach
3. **Provide tools and training for administrators to undertake more holistic assessments of client needs early in the case management process**
4. **Define a minimum income standard**
 - A definition is crucial to ensuring that income security is defined consistently across Ontario, and so that progress can be tracked
 - The definition should set the basic level of income needed to cover essential living costs, such as housing, nutritious food, transportation, in the absence of earnings and private income, at which no individual should fall below
5. **Permit stacking of benefits**
 - To reach adequacy, benefits will need to be stacked
 - As a basic design principle, income programs intended for specific purposes need to interact positively so that residents receive at the minimum, a net benefit, and can better rely on the cumulative impact of these programs to achieve income security
6. **Permit municipalities to retain the ability to provide OW discretionary benefits until the full impact of the Roadmap changes are known in terms of meeting individual needs beyond core benefits**

In addition to the priorities outlined above, the attached table outlines further details about the reasons why York Region supports the Roadmap recommendations, as well as some areas of consideration if the recommendations are to be implemented.

Other Considerations and Conclusion

Overall, the recommendations address the many areas that municipalities have been advocating for in order to address real change in the broader social services system. The recommendations align with the direction we have suggested for the delivery of social assistance that will move towards better outcomes for clients in York Region.

However, beyond the recommendations of the Roadmap is the need for all governments to work together to achieve a holistic system that works seamlessly to provide income adequacy for people. This includes applying a lens to reform that continues to support all age groups experiencing low income (including seniors). A unified approach means one where government policies work together rather than in isolation to tackle income security and identifies where progress has been made and how we can build on these to move forward. This broad policy framework and service design is required to address systemic issues that often create additional barriers, such as discrimination, unstable jobs and availability of key support services (mental health and addictions, access to housing with supports).

Many of the recommendations in the Roadmap complement policy initiatives and legislation the Province is currently testing and/or developing. These include the recent Basic Income Pilot, the Social Assistance Service Modernization Strategy, the Action Plan for Seniors, the Public Health Standards, the Fair Housing Plan, the development of Ontario's First Food Security Strategy and legislation such as *Fair Workplaces*, *Better Jobs Act*, the *Child Care and Early Years Act* and the *Ambulance Act*. Additionally, recent Federal Government initiatives including the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and the National Housing Strategy should be considered together with provincial reforms in the implementation of the Roadmap.

The Province and municipalities will need to ensure alignment to avoid inadvertent negative impacts on other municipal programs. Further considerations include:

1. Ensure that changes to any social assistance programs do not negatively impact other income-tested programs
2. Clarify how the Basic Income Pilot will inform the Roadmap going forward
3. Expanding benefits outside of social assistance (health and housing) will help residents better manage in today's labour and housing markets. This is important to shifting public perception away from the idea that social assistance is providing "charity" to the people "in need" to supporting broader social and economic inclusion instead

The Roadmap highlights a fairly ambitious but reasonable strategy in how to move forward. It will require testing, pilots and modeling to identify fiscal risks and unforeseen interactions with other programs and unintended consequences for residents. Municipalities are well suited to inform and support this analytical work. The Roadmap presents a new way to establish income security. By working with municipalities and other partners, the Province will be able to move quickly, and succeed in the implementation of this plan.

Attachment 1:

Objectives and Recommendations

York Region positively encourages the Ministry of Community and Social Services to move forward with the recommendations outlined in the Roadmap while taking into account the considerations and implications outlined below in the corresponding response to each recommendation and sub-recommendation. If recommendations move forward, municipal partners should be fully involved and engaged along the way.

Note: any sections left unfilled where no additional explanation or significant implication is provided means that the Region is supportive and has no specific comments.

OBJECTIVE: ACHIEVING INCOME ADEQUACY

Recommendation 1: Minimum Income Standard

Adopt a Minimum Income Standard in Ontario to be achieved over the next 10 years through a combination of supports across the income security system.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>1.1 Adopt a Minimum Income Standard in Ontario to be achieved over the next 10 years through a combination of supports across the income security system.</p>	<p>York Region recognizes that over time, and if implemented, the Roadmap recommendations could reduce pressures on municipal programs that prevent, reduce or address poverty among their residents. This is a positive step.</p> <p>Residual supports may still be needed for some residents with complex needs or barriers to social and economic inclusion that will require an ongoing municipal response. In addition, municipalities are key funders of Rent Geared-to-Income (RGI) and contribute to affordable housing capital costs. Given the “whole government” approach to income security, how municipal investments are “costed” in moving toward income security will require municipal involvement in developing the minimum income standard.</p>
<p>1.2 The Minimum Income Standard should initially be established at the Low-Income Measure (LIM) currently used by Ontario’s Poverty Reduction Strategy (LIM-50 linked to a base year of 2012), plus an additional 30% for persons with a disability, in recognition of the additional cost of living with a disability.</p>	<p>It is critical that a minimum level of income security is defined in a transparent and consistent way so progress can be tracked. A minimum income standard that is sensitive to regional-specific costs and is based on improving social and economic inclusion is a positive step, particularly for areas with high and rising housing costs and a growing number of residents who are unable to access opportunities in the economy or their community due to very low income.</p> <p>In addition, a Market Basket Measure-like methodology is easier to explain and rationalize to the public.</p> <p><i>(Continued)</i></p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>1.3 Begin work immediately to define a made-in-Ontario Market Basket Measure that would include a modern basket of goods, with prices reflecting true costs, and adjusted for all regions in the province, including the remote north. The measure will be used in evaluating progress towards the Minimum Income Standard, and potentially revising or replacing the Poverty Reduction Strategy LIM as the measure used to set the standard. The made-in-Ontario Market Basket Measure could also be used to guide and evaluate investment decisions over the long term.</p>	<p><i>(Continued)</i></p> <p>Municipal involvement in developing an Ontario Market Basket Measure is important given understanding of local housing markets, costs of a nutritious food basket and barriers to social and economic inclusion.</p> <p>A Market Basket Measure should be aligned and consistent with other provincial initiatives such as the Province’s food security strategy.</p>
<p>1.4 Implement the recommendations in the Roadmap to move toward adequacy in the income security system by 2027–28.</p>	<p>The Region agrees with the need for a transparent benchmark for tracking progress. A strong communication strategy is needed to explain the policy rationale for a minimum income standard and how reform of social assistance and other benefits outside of social assistance will achieve this. This strategy is needed to educate the public and improve negative perceptions of income security. This is also an opportunity to communicate the role municipalities will play.</p> <p>Further, this will need to include clarity on how the Basic Income pilot will inform the Roadmap going forward.</p>

OBJECTIVE: ENGAGING THE WHOLE INCOME SECURITY SYSTEM

Recommendation 2: Ontario Housing Benefit

Adopt a Minimum Income Standard in Ontario to be achieved over the next 10 years through a combination of supports across the income security system.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>2.1 Confirm the design and implementation details for a universal, income-tested portable housing benefit for people who rent their homes.</p>	<p>York Region supports the proposal to move forward on an Ontario Housing Benefit with a co-design approach that includes municipalities and the federal government, particularly the proposed federal Canada Housing Benefit. Any Ontario housing benefit should be as sensitive as possible to actual rental costs. Further considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity on how the benefit will be funded is needed. The municipal tax base is not appropriate for funding income programs. • Clarity is needed on whether the proposed benefit may be stacked with other benefits so residents receive a net value, and not face benefit reductions (claw-backs). Claw-backs may inadvertently cause underfunding, and are administratively onerous. • The design will need to positively interact with other Roadmap recommendations to create an adult standard flat rate within OW (provide a net benefit or be stacked on-top of the standard OW benefit.) • While the proposed benefit would likely help reduce the risk of housing loss for the working poor or residents living on a fixed income who are struggling to balance housing costs with other essential needs, residents who face other challenges to retain housing (mental health) will still require emergency housing, outreach or homelessness prevention support if faced with short-term crisis. • A Housing First approach provides wraparound support to individuals and long term housing stability. It may reduce financial need for program-based rent benefits, but will still need non-financial supports to be in place. • Administration of the benefit must be designed so as to avoid challenges in accessing a portable housing benefit for residents that are marginally housed or unsheltered. Additional funding will also be required to support administrators. • A housing benefit should not be viewed as the solution that will address all housing affordability issues. Investments in affordable housing supply (including housing with supports) will remain critical for residents who are unable to access safe and suitable housing for their needs. In communities like York Region with a vacancy rate of 1.5 per cent, and market rents that have increased by 138 per cent between 2006 and 2016, federal and provincial actions to stimulate new supply of private and non-profit affordable housing are critical to ensuring housing benefits work. • A universal portable benefit requires new funding rather than re-allocating existing subsidized housing funding from fixed Rent Geared-to-Income (RGI) units to a portable benefit. The current Portable Housing Framework added to the Housing Services Act (HSA) is optional and not provincially funded; therefore Service Managers choosing to implement it must fund the program, and this limits its portability to the specific Service Manager area. <p><i>(Continued)</i></p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
	<p><i>(Continued)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In communities like York Region with very high rents, the number of benefits that the Region can afford to fund is limited. Further, as mentioned earlier, the property tax base is insufficient to fund income support programs like portable housing benefits. • Establishing a maximum rent threshold for the design of a new universal portable housing benefit and with expanding gap coverage. • Program design should prioritize mitigating the risk of rent inflation. Using a “gap coverage” formula is one way of combating this, and there may be other policy tools in other jurisdictions that have been successful. • Consider the impact to eligibility for access to other income-tested programs (child care subsidy, Canada Child Benefit, Healthy Smiles.) if the housing benefit is considered income. • Definitions of income level that are used as criteria for programming and funding may need to be reviewed in order to set clear and fair eligibility criteria across programs.
<p>2.2 Implement the portable housing benefit in 2019–20 at a modest “gap coverage” of 25%, with the gap defined as the difference between the actual cost of housing and a minimum household contribution given household income.</p>	<p>Although the housing benefit will be implemented at a modest level at first, it is important to consider how residents who are marginally housed will access the benefit. This includes not only filing income taxes if delivered as an income-tested benefit, but how informal rental costs will be applied in cases where residents are either unsheltered, staying in emergency housing or sub-letting, living in unregulated rooming houses or couch surfing. The province will also need to determine how “rental unit” is defined.</p> <p>The Region’s low vacancy rate may be a barrier to implementation, due to a lack of available affordable rental housing. The Region continues to advocate for increased federal and provincial funding for affordable rental housing construction, and for other policy tools to increase the rental housing supply. The Region, in partnership with its nine local municipalities, is investigating the use of incentives to encourage rental housing construction.</p>
<p>2.3 Increase gap coverage to 35% in 2020–21 and continue to increase gap coverage, reaching 75% by or before 2027–28.</p>	<p>Same as above.</p>
<p>2.4 First Nations need to be meaningfully included in the housing benefit and may need modifications or an alternate benefit to ensure it works in the reserve context.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>

Recommendation 3: Income Support for Children

Continue to move income support for children outside of social assistance so all low-income families can benefit fully, regardless of income source. Ensure supports are sensitive to the needs of children and youth who are at greater risk.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>3.1 Provide bridging child supplements within social assistance to ensure families are not worse off during the transition, as the social assistance structure is transformed to include flat rates.</p>	<p>York Region supports the overall policy direction to shift child benefits as an income-tested support to all families living with low income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities often go beyond these benefits to address locally determined gaps or needs. For example, York Region provides municipally funded discretionary benefit top-ups to supplement OW benefits to families. York Region assumes any changes to OW would still exempt these municipal benefits as income to families receiving OW or child care fee assistance.
<p>3.2 Re-brand the Temporary Care Assistance (TCA) program to focus on child well-being, increase the amount of income support provided to better align with foster care levels, and provide clear flexibility for Ontario Works Administrators to determine where it is best accessed</p>	<p>More details are required to assess this fully. In order to better align with the continued direction to move children's benefits outside of Social Assistance and be able to better support family reunification while supporting children often coping with upheaval and emotional trauma, responsibility for delivering TCA is better placed with the Children's Aid Society (CAS), where the expertise is.</p> <p>CAS is the referring agency for TCA benefits. In most cases, children are placed in Temporary Care through intervention/apprehension and case management of CAS. The alignment of rates with Foster Care levels is best achieved if the program was administered under CAS. In addition, many TCA recipients are not OW recipients. TCA under OW adds to the level and complexity of service navigation for family or friends who voluntarily accept a very important responsibility for a child in need.</p>
<p>3.3 Shift the remaining amounts paid in respect of children's essential needs in social assistance to the Ontario Child Benefit as a supplement targeted to the lowest-income families.</p>	<p>The Region supports this measure as long as it provides a net benefit to families i.e. it is stacked on other benefits.</p> <p>Benefits moved out of social assistance, are typically provided through the tax system, meaning recipients are required to complete an annual tax return. There is a gap in the ability of the community sector/ volunteers to provide income tax preparation services – support for this would help.</p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>3.4 Require Children's Aid Societies to place the federal Children's Special Allowance payments into a savings program for youth in care 15 years and older so the funds can be disbursed to the youth when transitioning from care.</p>	<p>Greater supports to youth from CAS is needed and welcomed. Youth transitioning from care often require OW. Any additional support through CAS is welcomed and may reduce the need for OW. Clarification is needed on whether the Children's Special Allowance is considered an asset for youth applying for OW.</p> <p>Overall, youth are a high-risk population that are underserved by the current OW framework. An enhanced service path and framework to assist youth transitioning from care is needed. Stackable benefits and savings programs would provide increased stability to ensure youth stay in school and pursue post-secondary education.</p> <p>In some situations, youth in care have parents with more than modest income, but are estranged from their parent(s). Education funds (RESP's) and/or child support income needs to be secured for these youth by the child welfare system. These are often overlooked at time of crisis and later youth do not have the capacity to establish these income sources without legal assistance.</p>
<p>3.5 Provide support to all low-income people, including those living in First Nations communities, to ensure that benefits paid through the tax system are accessed and equitably received.</p>	<p>The Region continues to support this recommendation.</p> <p>Clarification is needed on the impact for youth not living with parent(s) and not in care. Youth aged 16 and 17 living outside of the parental home and not in care are put through a process which first looks at family reunification prior to OW grant. They must prove special circumstances exist requiring the child to live outside the parental home.</p> <p>Like all Roadmap recommendations that create income-tested and income tax delivered benefits, in order for people to access these benefits, they will likely require support to file their income taxes.</p>

Recommendation 4: Working Income Tax Benefit (WITB)

Work with the federal government to enhance the effectiveness of the Working Income Tax Benefit so that it plays a greater role in contributing to income adequacy for low-income workers in Ontario.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>4.1 The federal government enhance the WITB so that it better reflects the realities faced by low-income workers in Ontario. This should include examining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of earnings at which an individual begins receiving the WITB and how the WITB is adjusted when earnings increase, including the threshold at which the WITB begins to be reduced. <p><i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>York Region supports the federal announcement and Roadmap recommendation to enhance WITB as a way to improve income stability of working low-income individuals and families who are already in the workforce and to encourage others to enter the workforce.</p> <p>Given the federal government allows provinces to make province-specific changes to the design of WITB to better harmonize with their own programs, the Region encourages the Province to explore how any federal WITB enhancements can align with the proposed Market Basket Measure and increases to minimum wage so WITB better reflects labour market conditions and variable costs in Ontario.</p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>(Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall amount of support provided through the WITB. • The net income at which individuals are no longer eligible to receive the WITB. • Outreach, support and any alternative delivery required to ensure that the WITB is accessible to First Nations individuals. 	

Recommendation 5: Core Health Benefits

Make essential health benefits available to all low-income people, beginning with ensuring those in deepest poverty have access to the services they need.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>5.1 Expand access to mandatory core health benefits to all adults receiving Ontario Works and adult children in families receiving ODSP, and add coverage for dentures (including initial and follow-up fittings) for all social assistance recipients.</p>	<p>Include OW Administrators as well as engaging public health groups in the design of core health benefits, on how current policy and funding of OW discretionary benefits will be impacted. Currently, OW Administrators provide key health benefits on a case-by-case basis through OW discretionary benefits, in some cases topping-up funding with municipal investments, to address individual client needs. A better set of mandatory core health benefits is critical to help improve people's health and employability, and would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be consistent between both the ODSP and OW programs • be available regardless of where they live in Ontario • be incorporated under 100 per cent provincial benefit funding • permit some local flexibility in issuing other OW discretionary health benefits so OW Administrators retain the capacity to meet client-specific needs <p>Allow costs for the inclusion of allied medical services such as chiropractor, physiotherapy and acupuncture, and for psychotherapy recognizing the lengthy waitlist to receive therapy from OHIP-covered resources.</p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>5.2 Expand existing and introduce new core health benefits for all low-income adults over the next 10 years starting with the expansion of prescription drug coverage to adults 25 to 65, followed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding Healthy Smiles Ontario to adults age 18 to 65 and adding dentures as part of the benefit • Designing and implementing a new vision and hearing benefit for low income individuals and families • Expanding access to medical transportation benefits 	<p>This measure is a central pillar of income security reform for low income workers who rely on unstable jobs and struggle with sustaining good health. In some cases, the Province already has a platform to expand benefits (Healthy Smiles, Ontario Drug Plan, Trillium Drug Program, OHIP+). However, given the scope of the recommendation, more policy and delivery options may be worth exploring, particularly how they intersect with employer-funded benefits (the possibility of a monetary benefit to be paid to low income employed individuals who can access medical benefits at a cost, through their employer)</p> <p>There are also specific considerations for local public health units based on the model of care, eligibility criteria, and services to be provided regarding expanded dental health benefits. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The model of care would likely rely on most of the care being done in private dental offices on a fee-for-service (FFS) basis with claims administration done by a private company. Public Health would be involved in program promotion and navigation services to assist clients to access program. Public Health may be further involved if the expanded program has a screening process to assess eligibility for an emergency stream as is done with the Children’s Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO). • If the expanded program included Public Health providing screening and/or treatment services, Public Health would require a significant number of new staff (dental hygienists and dental assistants, and possibly clinical dentists and denturists) or funding where there it is possible to contract out these functions. • The private practice FFS model of care relies heavily on private dentists accepting the terms of the program. Given that the fees for the expanded adult program will likely be as low as the fees for the Children’s HSO program, there is a risk that private offices will stop accepting HSO clients or limit the number they accept. Thus, Public Health could become the primary provider of treatment services. If this occurred, it would not be possible for the current number of clinics to accommodate the volume of care, especially if the expanded HSO included OW and ODSP adults. <p>Further, to maintain services that adequately reflect and meet local need, facilitation of public health services is best positioned within the continuum of human services that municipalities provide.</p>
<p>5.3 Review the Assistive Devices Program (ADP) to ensure the program is maximizing its reach to low-income people, both in terms of the list of devices that are covered and the maximum coverage.</p>	<p>The Region strongly supports this measure. Currently some ADP costs are topped-up through OW discretionary benefits and current OW policy is time-consuming for both case workers and clients to manage. Reviewing the program is timely. Consider engaging OW Administrators to ensure program is reflective of community needs and actual costs.</p>

Recommendation 6: Access to Justice

Procedural fairness should be embedded in all aspects of the income security system through adequate policies, procedures, practices and timely appeal mechanisms.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>6.1 Request a research body such as the Law Commission of Ontario or an academic institution review the existing appeal process for tax-delivered benefits and develop recommendations for enhanced or new mechanisms that support fair, transparent and efficient access to those benefits and appeal processes.</p>	<p>York Region supports this recommendation.</p> <p>The Social Benefits Tribunal is a good model; however, it relies heavily on legal clinics to provide support to multi-barriered or high conflict residents, putting a strain on that system. Further, judicial or quasi-judicial processes can be difficult to navigate even for healthy, non-barriered individuals. Fair access to justice requires easily and readily accessible advocacy and system navigation for those who cannot afford legal representation. Consideration should be given to preventative and early resolution models to move from court or tribunal centric services to a client-centered approach.</p> <p>Municipalities should be consulted as part of the review because of their long history and experience appearing before the Social Benefits Tribunal to settle appeal disputes.</p> <p>An increase in income-tested benefits is likely to cause more requests to case workers for support or information on how to appeal through the Canada Revenue Agency. It is important that the province considers how this role can be integrated as part of collaborative case management.</p>

OBJECTIVE: TRANSFORMING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**Recommendation 7: Legislative Framework**

Fundamentally change the legislative framework for social assistance programs to set the foundation for a culture of trust, collaboration and problem-solving.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>7.1 Develop and introduce new legislation to govern and rebrand the current Ontario Works program. As a starting point for legislative change, draft and publicly consult on a new purpose statement in the first year of reform that explicitly recognizes and supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual choice and well-being • Diverse needs and a goal of social and economic inclusion for all 	<p>York Region supports this recommendation as it recognizes that OW needs to address the realities of many who have complex needs - where employment is likely a longer term goal. Supporting life, community and housing stability and better health are the critical first steps to employment or accessing more appropriate income support programs. While OW Administrators have worked within the current Act to help support these goals and the Province has worked to reduce some of the rules which can hold clients back, legislative change is needed to create a more supportive framework to guide program delivery. The Act remains the major stumbling block by re-enforcing a compliance mind-set and the administrative load this has required.</p> <p>This is a significant change in direction of OW toward a more “rights” based approach that will move OW away from being largely compliance driven program, and re-shape the program to be more effective in helping people who must take a longer route to employment and community stability.</p> <p><i>(Continued)</i></p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
	<p><i>(Continued)</i></p> <p>This measure implies that there will be a shift away from “conditionality” – a principle that holds that access to certain benefits and services should be dependent on an individual meeting specified obligations or patterns of behavior. Clarifying the expectations of conditionality within a more supportive approach in OW and how these will be applied is a critical part of any legislative change. This will require unpacking the concepts of economic and social inclusion and identifying how these apply in defining specific expectations, outcomes or accountability under the OW program. A shift from more to less condition-based benefits challenges deeply held public perceptions about the need to meet specific conditions in exchange for benefits. The Basic Income pilot may provide insight and evidence on how less conditional approaches to providing income assistance to working age adults is working and perceived.</p> <p>Consult with municipalities. They understand the various systems of support, gaps and interactions with other stakeholders that are critical in helping residents receiving OW in moving forward. The revamped OW program will need even greater coordination, local planning and advocacy to address issues such as access to critical services and supports (mental health and addictions services, housing.). Defining new provincial-wide expectations for OW needs to be grounded in local knowledge in how federal, provincial and municipal programs sometimes work together -- and sometimes do not work together -- to address resident needs. Opening the OW Act is an opportunity to address the lack of this local human services system perspective, with the exception of OW employment services, that has challenged OW Administrators in supporting better outcomes for residents.</p> <p>Ensure the municipal role as OW Administrator is contiguous with municipal boundaries to ensure the broader municipal responsibility for other human services is consistent, and can be better coordinated.</p> <p>The fundamental shift to client centric services should not be viewed as a cost neutral or cost reduction strategy. OW Administrators will need resources to establish enhanced services internally and externally through local partnerships and collaborations to provide the best solutions for our population. Cost will be even greater during the transition period as the existing program is delivered and implementation of the new program begins.</p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>7.2 Identify and amend regulations under both the Ontario Works Act and the Ontario Disability Support Program Act, before new Ontario Works legislation is introduced, in order to jump-start and reinforce a positive culture of trust, collaboration and problem-solving.</p>	<p>The Region agrees that these are fundamental changes that need to be made especially those regulations that are more easily changed and implemented.</p> <p>Currently, OW program delivery is heavily weighted to verification and ongoing eligibility review. The reduction of rules will provide caseworkers and clients more time and less stress to focus on improving circumstances rather than focusing on ensuring or demonstrating compliance. This will also increase opportunity for caseworkers to collaborate in providing client-centered wraparound services with a focus on outcomes while fostering a culture of trust.</p> <p>Under a more supportive model, caseworker discretion can be applied to service delivery and outcome planning rather than administrative and punitive compliance rules which can often result in ineligibility and a negative working relationship between the caseworker and client.</p> <p>Understanding how both regulatory and legislative change will impact on current compliance heavy functions is critical to municipal budget and service planning.</p>
<p>7.3 Provide First Nations with the opportunity to develop and implement their own community-based models of Income Assistance under provincial legislation.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>

Recommendation 8: Culture of Trust, Collaboration and Problem-Solving

Introduce an approach to serving people receiving Ontario Works and ODSP that promotes a culture of trust, collaboration and problem-solving as a priority, and supports good quality of life outcomes for people in all communities, including Indigenous peoples.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>8.1 Position front-line workers as case collaborators whose primary role is to act as supportive problem-solvers and human services navigators in a way that allows people to share information without fear of reprisals. This includes working with individuals in both individual and group settings.</p>	<p>York Region supports this recommendation. While many case workers adopt this it might be inconsistently applied. The Province will need to incorporate appropriate funding to municipalities in support of this change.</p> <p>Shifting to a new culture is significant undertaking that will need to address or clarify key steps in program delivery and client journey (erole of verification, outcome plans.). Recommendation 7 and 8 are dependent on each other and their success and legitimacy among staff could be reliant on there being a fluid implementation process between both. These recommendations are among the most important and should be prioritized accordingly.</p> <p>A co-design with OW Administrators is recommended here, so that all efforts are aligned and best practices can be piloted and shared.</p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>8.2 Introduce a comprehensive assessment tool to identify needs for, and barriers to, social and economic inclusion that uses an equity- and trauma-informed approach to connect people to appropriate supports.</p>	<p>The Region supports the recommendation to provide OW Administrators with tools and training to undertake more holistic assessments of client needs early in the case management process. Depending on how it is applied, earlier and more productive conversations with clients to assess barriers will help develop more realistic outcome plans and identify the steps needed to move forward on immediate needs (housing, treatments.) in addition to intermediate and longer term change (employability, access ODSP or other disability supports). Any assessment tool should be a collaborative process with residents so they feel engaged and not part of an intrusive process.</p> <p>Clarity on how the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development initiated common assessment tool interacts with this recommendation is needed. OW Administrator experience is no singular tool will adequately identify all the barriers people face to long term sustainable jobs. As a result, multiple tools and deeper and sometimes more clinical assessments (Psych-Vocational) will still be required. Funding of an early assessment tool must not crowd out support for deeper assessments.</p> <p>The Province, through MCSS and MAESD, is requested to continue using the Provincial-Municipal Social Assistance and Employment Committee to engage municipalities in the co-design of a common assessment tool - understanding the importance of other types of assessment throughout the OW case management process.</p> <p>The concept of trauma informed approaches has not been a key pillar to OW case management. Any assessment tool for barriers to social and economic inclusion will require enhanced training for OW caseworkers in diversity, inclusion and social determinants of health.</p> <p>Other suggested considerations include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use tools or cultural awareness training to address barriers impacting newcomer integration, as well in diversity, inclusion and social determinants of health • Ensure the assessment tool accounts for the needs of those with mental health issues (diagnosed/undiagnosed) so they are able to access appropriate supports for long-term social and economic success
<p>8.3 Use pilots to test the comprehensive assessment tool and the collaborator role with an initial focus on people seeking to access ODSP through Ontario Works, long-term social assistance recipients, youth and persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>Overall the Region agrees with moving carefully through pilots given the extent of change being proposed so unintended impacts on residents and staff, on costs and effectiveness can be understood and approaches re-adjusted. An effective pilot location would include focusing on specific groups that usually face the greatest barriers or risks to employability is a reasonable approach to assess the benefits/challenges of the collaborator role and comprehensive assessment.</p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>8.4 Eliminate financial penalties related to employment efforts and rigid reporting requirements to support a new person-centred approach, promote trust and respect between front-line workers and people accessing help, and place a firm emphasis on problem-solving and addressing urgent needs first (e.g., risk of homelessness). This includes revising policies that create barriers to safety and well-being (e.g., fleeing an unsafe home).</p>	<p>workers motivate client progress on outcomes and will require training, cultural change and change management support from the Province to ensure consistency.</p> <p>The Province will need to determine the extent to which condition-based benefits will be expected and how to support residents who are unable or unwilling to take action to address life stability and employability goals.</p> <p>This is one reason why co-designing and implementing pilots with municipalities is critical. The extent of change being proposed in the Roadmap is significant. It will impact on every step of the client journey and will require clarification on the purpose and content of the verification process, outcome plans, case management meetings (and their frequency), literacy screening, content of employment information sessions.</p> <p>Clarification is required on what defines a home as unsafe.</p>
<p>8.5 Ensure front-line workers have the necessary skills and knowledge to act as case collaborators through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory professional development and learning, including skills in social work (i.e., anti-racism, contemporary professional development and anti-oppressive practice), and Indigenous cultural safety and awareness training • Provincially set and governed quality standards and controls tied to staff performance plans 	<p>The Region supports the need for training, but will require additional resources from the Province to support different learning styles.</p> <p>There is a need for consistent quality standards across Ontario. OW Administrators already have experience implementing innovative supportive case management models within OW employment services, other specialized OW caseloads, social work supports to OW and other programs and in homelessness prevention/housing stability programs that often support residents accessing OW. This experience will be important to draw upon in developing new provincial service standards and training models.</p> <p>Overall, the scope of recommended change is big given current OW practices. Clarification is requested on whether the proposed new quality standards, controls and performance plans will replace current standards, and the degree of local flexibility in how these are implemented.</p> <p>As part of the co-design process with OW Administrators, the Province is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify how provincial standards will be incorporated into the MCSS risk and accountability frameworks • Clarify professional development requirements. This fundamental change in role will require substantial Administrator resources to plan, analyze and integrate learning programs • Understand contemporary learning modalities to address the spectrum of learning styles in our workforce; Careful consideration and consultation must be taken to determine which modality best suited to develop "social work" skills or "trauma informed counselling" <p><i>(Continued)</i></p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
	<p><i>(Continued)</i></p> <p>Clients can expect a more positive interaction with case workers. Given the shift in culture proposed, the Province and OW Administrators will need to engage and communicate extensively with clients to shift perceptions on the case worker role and overall expectations in accessing OW.</p> <p>Wherever possible, OW Administrators would like an opportunity to understand the specific goals or details of professional development streams (cultural awareness, diversity, mental health) to align with Corporate standards and initiatives.</p>
<p>8.6 Regularly situate Ontario Works and ODSP case collaborators in Indigenous service delivery offices to improve cultural awareness and understanding and support better inter-agency relationships.</p>	<p>This requires a degree of training and support to ensure there is improved cultural awareness and understanding.</p>
<p>8.7 Clearly recognize Indigenous peoples' right to choose service in their preferred location.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>8.8 Ensure staffing at all levels reflects the diversity of Ontario, and model truly inclusive offices that are welcoming spaces and reflect the multitude of cultures and communities served across the province, including the diversity within and across Indigenous communities.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>8.9 Continuously review and adjust the service approach, professional development, and tools and resources based on feedback from partners and people accessing programs.</p>	<p>The Region supports this measure. As highlighted above, OW Administrators should continue to be key partners in co-designing, implementing and evaluating supportive case management given their front-line experience in developing these models within current OW legislation and other program areas.</p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>8.10 Establish a First Nations–developed and implemented program based on self-identification, self-worth and true reconciliation leading to life stabilization.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>8.11 Conduct analyses on current and proposed policies and services to ensure they do not increase vulnerability or undermine safety of those receiving support. This should include a culture- and gender-based analysis to ensure the safety of Indigenous women.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p> <p>The Province is requested to leverage municipal expertise as they often fill gaps in support, plan how human services can better work together to reduce vulnerability and assess the impact of social policy and programs from a front-line and “whole government” perspective on the ground.</p> <p>Clarification is needed as this may only apply to Provincial programs. Otherwise this may have an impact on the Region’s policy development process and flexibility to set local rules as defined under the Housing Services Act (Service Manager local rules under the Housing Services Act).</p>

Recommendation 9: Supporting People with Disabilities

Maintain and strengthen ODSP as a distinct program for people with disabilities. Ensure that both ODSP and Ontario Works are well equipped to support people with disabilities with meeting individual goals for social and economic inclusion.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>9.1 Recognize the continued need for a distinct income support program for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>York Region supports this measure as many residents with disabilities accessing OW are better served in ODSP.</p> <p>Clarification is needed on whether dependent adults in ODSP benefit units will still be required to access OW for support to employment.</p> <p>As indicated in Recommendation 5.1, ODSP clients are accessing OW discretionary benefits due to the limitations of some health benefits through ODSP. The need for alignment ensures ODSP clients are not facing administrative hurdles to obtain the support they need by having to access supports through two programs.</p>
<p>9.2 Retain the current ODSP definition of disability.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>9.3 Continue work with the Disability Adjudication Working Group to streamline and improve the ODSP application and adjudication process.</p>	<p>The Region supports this measure.</p> <p>It is important that the Disability Adjudication Unit (DAU) processes are improved to reduce the need for the Social Benefits Tribunal appeals, which often overturn the DAU decisions. This will free up more time for OW case workers to focus on improving life stability with ODSP pending applicants through appropriate referrals to community supports. For our clients, reduced appeals will mean more efficiently processed applications and timely distribution of benefits.</p>
<p>9.4 Provide provincial-level assistance and accommodation for people who need help with the ODSP application process, building on lessons learned from community groups.</p>	<p>The Region supports this measure.</p> <p>Province-wide consistent assistance will ensure residents have appropriate and timely support.</p> <p>Current support in York Region is limited to one tax levy funded Applicant Support Worker at the community level, and it is likely that few other communities provide this type of service.</p> <p>Despite the fact that the tax base is a funding resource in York Region, community legal aid services have raised concern over its capacity to support ODSP appeals that could be better served through an administrative or case work support rather than legal support.</p>
<p>9.5 Include specific review with First Nations and urban Indigenous service delivery partners to ensure that the assistance and accommodation reflect the unique experience of Indigenous peoples.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>9.6 Ensure that both ODSP and Ontario Works accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities as part of the person-centred, collaborative approach to support individual goals and aspirations.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation. Not all residents accessing OW with disabilities will be able to access ODSP. Residents accessing OW should expect more support in accommodating disability in service delivery and how to address barriers in moving forward in outcome plan. It is important to recognize that persons with disabilities, particularly mental health and addictions, make up a significant part residents accessing OW and benefit from supportive relationships with OW case workers. There is also a need to expand co-locations across the province.</p>

Recommendation 10: An Assured Income Approach for People with Disabilities

Co-design an “assured income” approach for people with disabilities.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>10.1 Co-design an assured income mechanism for delivering financial support to people who meet the ODSP definition of disability. Consultation with First Nations people is essential.</p>	<p>York Region supports moving to an assured income and the features recommended. This will require considering how an assured income will impact OW as there are several intersecting areas between the two programs</p>
<p>10.2 Include the following features in the assured income mechanism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income-tested only (i.e., no asset test) • Stacking of income benefits to reach adequacy • Tax-based definition of income (i.e., does not include financial help (gifts) from family or friends) • Continued responsibility of the provincial government to determine disability, with the right of appeal to the Ontario Social Benefits Tribunal • Flexibility to adjust to in-year income changes • Safe to move into employment and back to the program 	<p>The Region supports moving to an assured income and the features recommended. This will require considering how an assured income will impact on OW as there are several intersecting areas between the two programs (many ODSP applicants access OW prior to applying for ODSP). Given an assured income is a fundamentally different approach to determining financial eligibility; the Province would need to re-think how OW and ODSP interact (access to OW discretionary benefits; or ODSP dependent adults accessing OW for employment support). As a result, OW interaction must be considered in the design and municipalities should be part of any co-design.</p>
<p>10.3 Provide an initial assured income at least as high as the ODSP Standard Flat Rate – Disability at the time of transition, and provide continued increases until the Minimum Income Standard is achieved in combination with other income security components.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>10.4 Ensure that people receiving the assured income have full access to ODSP caseworker services and support.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>10.5 Provide First Nations with the ability to administer and deliver ODSP in their own communities in the same manner as Ontario Works.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>

OBJECTIVE: A TRANSFORMED SOCIAL ASSISTANCE STRUCTURE

Recommendation 11: Rate Structure

Redesign the social assistance rate structure so that all adults have access to a consistent level of support regardless of living situation (i.e., rental, ownership, board and lodge, no fixed address, rent-geared-to-income housing, government-funded facility).

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>11.1 Transform the social assistance rate structure so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single adults receive a Standard Flat Rate that does not distinguish between basic needs and shelter • Couples receive a Standard Couple Flat Rate equal to 1.5 of the Standard Flat Rate • In recognition of the additional cost of living with a disability, single adults with a disability receive a higher Standard Flat Rate – Disability and couples receive a Standard Couple Rate - Disability of 1.5 of the Standard Flat Rate – Disability. • Adult children aged 18 to 24 (without a disability) who live with their parent(s) on social assistance receive a Dependent Rate (75% of the Standard Flat Rate for the first dependent and 35% for each subsequent dependent). <p><i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>York Region supports this recommendation.</p> <p>This recommendation, if implemented, would permit OW case worker time to be used to help residents address issues, instead of on monitoring family and household arrangements.</p> <p>This is a major change and the Province is requested to confirm that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new standard flat rate for adults will adjust for family size, to be equivalent to the adult basic need rate plus shelter allowance for family size living in household • Clients residing in emergency housing or other collective house situations will have a net benefit from the flat rate as they currently do not qualify for shelter benefits since housing is provided • The couple flat rate of 1.5 is the appropriate equivalency scale to use – same for dependent children • There will continue to be a mechanism to issue a Personal Needs Allowance outside of the flat rate

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>(Continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult children over age 24 (without a disability) who live with their parent(s) receive the full Standard Flat Rate. People with disabilities will continue to qualify in their own right for ODSP at the age of 18 	
<p>11.2 Align the definition of spouse under social assistance with the Family Law Act (i.e., deemed a spouse after three years).</p>	<p>Family and spousal support obligations for those receiving social assistance should be consistent with family law regulations.</p> <p>The CRA definition of spouse is different both from current OW rules and family law. Inconsistencies create policy and program challenges. In a client-centered program, neither the caseworker nor client should need to understand three different definitions or applications of "spouse". Wherever possible, all legislation (including the Income Tax Act and program specific legislation) should align definitions of spouse. If more benefits/income will be administered through the income tax system, then complications will arise when CRA continues to use a one year definition for spousal.</p>
<p>11.3 In moving to a Standard Flat Rate structure, eliminate the rent scales currently used for those receiving social assistance. Require municipal housing services managers to invest the increased revenues resulting from the elimination of rent geared-to-income rent scales (due to the transformed rate structure) into local housing and homelessness priorities.</p>	<p>The Region supports this measure on the basis that it will provide a net benefit to people receiving OW living in RGI housing. This would create greater "fairness" between private market and RGI tenants receiving OW and potentially improve mobility to find new housing closer to work and/or supports.</p> <p>Eliminating rent scales will reduce subsidy costs for RGI, but it will increase subsidy costs for other Regional housing programs (Regional Rent Assistance Program). How tax levy funded savings are reinvested should not be mandated by the Province (for example, the Region uses funds saved to invest in local housing and homelessness priorities, such as Regionally-funded rent subsidy programs).</p> <p>Municipalities require flexibility to determine their own discretionary spending for residents so that tax levy funded savings are reinvested to meet locally determined need and is not mandated by the Province.</p>

Recommendation 12: Supporting Employment Goals

Improve social assistance rules and redesign benefits to make it easier for people to pursue their employment goals and realize the benefits of working.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>12.1 Redesign, using a co-design process, existing employment-related benefits (except the ODSP Work-Related Benefit) into one benefit, with consideration given to whether the new benefit should be mandatory or discretionary, the level of prescription in the activities the benefit can support, and the level of support that is provided to meet a broad range of needs. Test the new benefit before province-wide roll out.</p>	<p>York Region supports this recommendation.</p> <p>This is a welcomed opportunity to co-design given OW employment services expertise and knowledge of resident needs. Pursuing “employment” for many residents requires support for pre-employment, employability, training (financial literacy) and direct employment costs that often vary based on individual need and aspirations. This is important given varied caseloads (newcomers, older unemployed workers, people exiting correctional facilities and youth.) The current mix of mandatory and discretionary benefits has worked fairly well in providing flexibility to meet client need. However, there is concern whether the trade-off for more flexibility would be capped or reduced funding. Maximizing flexibility and adequate funding are key design considerations.</p> <p>Clarification is requested on the future role of OW employment services and the extent employment benefits will be managed through OW Administrators.</p> <p>OW Administrators have been working for quite a while under a level of uncertainty about how OW fits within an integrated employment and training system that could impact on planning for a revamped OW program. OW Administrators have developed employment service expertise and networks within our communities, including with Employment Ontario providers and regional MAESD staff that are critical in developing services that can meet the needs and build on the strengths of residents who face barriers to sustainable employment.</p> <p>As part of a broader municipal organization, OW Administrators are also able to leverage workforce development, early years services, housing and municipal procurement and community partnerships to develop integrated pathways for people who face challenges in moving into good jobs in the local economy.</p> <p>The Province is requested to clarify the future state of the integrated employment and training system in Ontario and how OW expertise will be deployed in the system.</p>
<p>12.2 Reduce the wait period for exempting employment earnings to one month (from three months) in Ontario Works.</p>	<p>This goal is supported by the Region particularly for its importance for people accessing OW who are facing immediate life issues but are in the position re-connect to jobs quickly. They should not be penalized financially in trying to regain stability as soon as possible.</p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>12.3 Designate First Nations Ontario Works delivery agents to deliver and administer the Employment Ontario employment assistance program to better assist their community members in becoming employable through the array of programming and benefits that are not available to them for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to vast distances from municipalities or urban centres where Employment Ontario programs are placed, lack of services focused on developing employability skills available through the Ontario Works program, and the recent removal of assisting programs (e.g., First Nations Job Fund).</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>12.4 Support case collaboration in both individual and group settings.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>

Recommendation 13: Income and Assets

Modernize income and asset rules so people can maximize the income sources available to them and save for the future.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>13.1 Exempt as assets funds held in Tax-Free Savings Accounts and all forms of Registered Retirement Savings Plans so people do not have to deplete resources meant for their senior years.</p>	<p>York Region supports the concept that people should not be forced to deplete resources meant for their senior years or in times of crisis, however, an asset level should be established that balances the goals of providing necessary supports and future planning.</p> <p>Tax Free Savings Accounts offer people with lower income an effective savings vehicle to build assets that can be used to support re-training, major purchases, finance retirement or provide an emergency “pot” of money. Compelling people to exhaust these savings before accessing OW is counter-intuitive in helping people build resiliency. However, we also recognize long-standing perceptions among the public of OW as a “last resort” safety net. The Roadmap recognizes the need to shift these perceptions as a central pillar of reform since for many clients OW is either a “first resort” program or a longer-term interaction to address barriers. Both of these groups require assets to succeed.</p> <p><i>(Continued)</i></p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
	<p><i>(Continued)</i></p> <p>The challenge is providing evidence that higher asset levels lead to positive outcomes and does not necessarily result in very large increases in caseloads under current circumstances or any potential economic slowdown (a potential concern often raised). As a result, the Province should model, where feasible, potential impacts on caseload size of recent asset rule changes prior to moving forward on further enhancements.</p> <p>Other suggested considerations include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OW, ODSP, and RGI/subsidized housing wait lists may have different asset limits/types of excluded assets. It is recommended that rules relating to assets complement each other, while retaining local flexibility and discretion for municipalities to set program asset limits for locally-funded/administered programs such as subsidized housing. • There are questions about how to approach certain exemptions. For example, in municipal housing services, an exemption of TFSAs from asset limits may pose a future risk in instances where older clients have greater TFSA contribution room, as they could transfer funds from an included asset to an excluded TFSA.
<p>13.2 Initially exempt 25% of Canada Pension Plan - Disability, Employment Insurance and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board payments from social assistance (i.e., social assistance would be reduced by 75 cents for every dollar of income from these sources rather than dollar for dollar).</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>13.3 Increase the income exemption for Canada Pension Plan - Disability, Employment Insurance and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board payments to the same level as the existing earnings exemption by 2022–23.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>

Recommendation 14: Allowances and Benefits

Ensure ongoing access to targeted allowances and benefits until such time as adequacy is achieved. Determine which extraordinary costs remain beyond the means of individuals even when adequacy is achieved and maintain those benefits.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>14.1 Retain the following special purpose allowances/benefits and review as progress towards adequacy is made and people's outcomes are better understood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Diet Allowance • Mandatory Special Necessities/Medical Transportation • Pregnancy and Breast-Feeding Nutritional Allowance • ODSP Work-Related Benefit 	<p>York Region supports this recommendation as these benefits are important income supplements as they can often add hundreds of extra dollars into the hands of a client. The inadequacy of social assistance rates, compounded by income rules that don't support the "stacking" of income from multiple sources, means that people have difficulty finding extra income to support additional costs.</p>
<p>14.2 Revise medical transportation rules to include and support improved access to traditional healers.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>14.3 Review and introduce expanded eligibility criteria for the Remote Communities Allowance to better address the needs of northern and remote communities.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>14.4 Redesign Ontario Works discretionary benefits as other recommendations are implemented (e.g., making core health benefits and help with funeral and burial costs mandatory) and consider making them available to the broader low-income population.</p>	<p>It is important municipalities are a partner in the redesign of OW discretionary benefits and how they could be extended to low income residents. Some municipalities already provide OW discretionary items to low income residents through municipally funded programs as a last resort safety net or emergency fund and top-up benefits to residents receiving OW with municipal funding above provincial cost sharing. The redesign will need to identify if intent is to continue current approach of delivering through OW Administrators and if so would local flexibility be retained to meet varying individual and community needs (municipal top-up benefits).</p>

OBJECTIVE: HELPING THOSE IN DEEPEST POVERTY**Recommendation 15: The Need for Urgent Action**

Help those in deepest poverty by immediately increasing the income support available through social assistance as a readily available means for early and absolutely critical progress towards adequacy.

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>15.1 Implement changes that make meaningful progress in improving the incomes of those furthest from the Minimum Income Standard through social assistance as the most readily available and easily adjusted means by (in Fall 2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the Standard Flat Rate at \$794/month (a 10% increase over Fall 2017 Ontario Works maximum basic needs and shelter rates) • Setting the Standard Flat Rate – Disability at \$1,209/month (a 5% increase over Fall 2017 ODSP maximum basic needs and shelter rates) 	<p>York Region agrees with the analysis of the Roadmap and many other previous reports that the current income security system for working age adults is not responding well to the changing labour market, job instability and the barriers a growing number of residents face in stabilizing their lives and moving towards some level of income adequacy through work, benefit programs or some combination of both. This has left OW with most of the heavy lifting – something as a temporary program of last resort it is unable or designed to do.</p> <p>As a result, the Region supports the initial priority to address OW rates as a first step while making initial advances in creating housing benefits to all low income residents. These are immediate gaps that even modest progress to address will make real differences in people’s lives.</p> <p>The Region supports the long term strategy of building the capacity of Ontario’s income security system to help residents sustain themselves in work or a better disability income program so a revamped OW can focus on providing support to people who have aspirations to improve their lives and re-engage in work, but who also need support to stabilize and resolve barriers. To support this role for OW, a broader policy framework is required to address systemic issues that often create additional barriers, such as discrimination, unstable jobs and availability of key support services (mental health and addictions, access to housing with supports). The Roadmap clearly articulates how policy needs to work together rather than in isolation to tackle income security and identifying where progress has been made and how we can build on these to move forward.</p>
<p>15.2 Implement increases to the Standard Flat Rate and Standard Flat Rate Disability in Fall 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the Standard Flat Rate to \$850/month (7% increase over Year 1) • Increase the Standard Flat Rate – Disability to \$1,270/month (5% increase over Year 1) 	<p>As the Roadmap lays out, progress will require additional resources over time, and a realistic provincial plan is needed to achieve this.</p> <p>Although the Roadmap is intended as an interconnected plan and not a menu of options, the Province may have to prioritize further when and how to make investments. In developing these priorities, we encourage the Province to engage municipalities as partners. Income security touches on many municipal responsibilities that span social and community services to economic strategies and the infrastructure that supports public health, safety and job creation. Provincial decisions on where to prioritize investments in income security can directly and indirectly impact on municipal decisions in supporting the economic wellbeing and health of residents and communities.</p>
<p>15.3 Implement further increases to the Standard Flat Rate and Standard Flat Rate – Disability in Fall 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the Standard Flat Rate to \$893/month (5% increase over Year 2) • Increase the Standard Flat Rate – Disability to \$1,334/month (5% increase over Year 2) 	<p>(Continued)</p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>15.4 Continue to raise the level of income support available through a (rebranded) Ontario Works program until the Minimum Income Standard is achieved in combination with other income security components by 2027–28.</p>	<p><i>(Continued)</i></p> <p>As a result, the Roadmap highlights a fairly ambitious but reasonable strategy in how to move forward which will require testing, pilots and modeling to identify fiscal risks, unforeseen interactions with other programs and unintended consequences for residents. This analytical work must be part of developing the provincial response to the Roadmap and any implementation plan.</p>

OBJECTIVE: IMPLEMENTING AND MEASURING CHANGE

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>19 Income security reform must be accompanied by a robust change management and implementation plan.</p>	<p>York Region supports this recommendation.</p> <p>The change management and implementation plans will benefit from including municipalities as service managers and service delivery partners in co-design, pilots, evaluation and refinements. This is particularly important for municipalities who are planning or implementing changes to improve client service and experience within OW and how these connect with other human services.</p> <p>Recognizing the good work accomplished through PMSAEC and other provincial-municipal tables related to social assistance reform, the Province is encouraged to work through municipalities as the Roadmap moves forward. This includes clear and transparent communication, support for skills development and technical training, business process changes and development of new or revised tools, and appropriate feedback loops across programs and partners.</p> <p>Shift from a long time, rules based system to a client centric collaborative one will be difficult for all involved. The change management component is a critical piece that must be well thought out prior to implementation. The plan must recognize differences across municipalities and not take a one size fits all approach.</p>
<p>20.1 Implementation of this Roadmap should be accompanied by a transparent report on associated outcomes and indicators, to be updated annually and made publicly available by the Province.</p>	<p>The Region supports developing outcomes and indicators with municipalities as part of a transformational approach to OW change and broader income security.</p> <p>Many municipalities have developed outcomes and indicator framework already that connect quality of life and well-being outcomes with program indicators. These approaches should be leveraged, especially as a revamped OW moves to life stability, equity-based and supportive case management model.</p> <p>It will be challenging to develop new outcomes for OW that better reflect life stability and employability milestones, as well as how to measure effectiveness in new case worker roles (support to navigation, transparency in dealing with residents, equity) These are significant if not transformational changes in accountability for OW Administrators.</p>

Recommendation	Response to Province
<p>20.2 Establish an annual, publicly available report that will outline progress on the Roadmap recommendations, including progress against outcomes.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>20.3 Establish a third-party body to review and comment on the annual progress report and provide comments to the Cabinet.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>
<p>20.4 Require that both the annual report and the third-party comments be tabled in the Legislature.</p>	<p>The Region supports this recommendation.</p>



January 26, 2018

Ms. Lisa Lyons
Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive, P.O. Box 328
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES		
INCOMING MAIL	REFD TO	COPY TO
FEB 01 2018		

Dear Ms. Lyons:

Re: Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

Regional Council, at its meeting held on January 25, 2018, adopted the following recommendations regarding "Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update":

1. The Regional Clerk circulate a copy of this report to the local municipalities; the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury; Simcoe County; the Building Industry and Land Development Association; the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation; the Premier of Ontario; the Ministers of the Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources and Forestry, Health and Long-Term Care, and Municipal Affairs; and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.
2. That the Regional Municipality of York and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change jointly develop and implement a Specific Emergency Response Plan to prevent risks to public health and the environment in the Towns of Newmarket, Aurora and East Gwillimbury in the event of a sanitary sewage spill into the environment due to any failure of the York Durham Sewage System forcemain in the Town of Newmarket until such time as the forcemain has been twinned and has been commissioned.
3. That any costs incurred due to preparation of the Plan and such an event, be recovered from the Province of Ontario.

A copy of Clause 8 of Committee of the Whole Report No. 1 is enclosed for your information.

Please contact Mike Rabeau, Director, Capital Planning and Delivery at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75157 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CR', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Christopher Raynor
Regional Clerk

/C. Clark
Attachment

Clause 8 in Report No. 1 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, as amended, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on January 25, 2018.

8

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

1. The Regional Clerk circulate a copy of this report to the local municipalities; the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury; Simcoe County; the Building Industry and Land Development Association; the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation; the Premier of Ontario; the Ministers of the Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources and Forestry, Health and Long-Term Care, and Municipal Affairs; and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.
2. That the Regional Municipality of York and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change jointly develop and implement a Specific Emergency Response Plan to prevent risks to public health and the environment in the Towns of Newmarket, Aurora and East Gwillimbury in the event of a sanitary sewage spill into the environment due to any failure of the York Durham Sewage System forcemain in the Town of Newmarket until such time as the forcemain has been twinned and has been commissioned.
3. That any costs incurred due to preparation of the Plan and such an event, be recovered from the Province of Ontario.

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations, as amended, contained in the report dated December 8, 2017 from the Commissioner of Environmental Services:

1. The Regional Clerk circulate a copy of this report to the local municipalities; the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury; Simcoe County; the Building Industry and Land Development Association; the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation; the Premier of Ontario; the Ministers of the Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources and Forestry, Health and Long-Term Care, and Municipal Affairs; and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

2. That the Regional Municipality of York and the Ministry of the Environment develop and implement a Specific Emergency Response Plan to prevent risks to public health and the environment in the Towns of Newmarket, Aurora and East Gwillimbury in the event of a sanitary sewage forcemain failure; sewage spillage or surcharge in the local collection system in the Town of Newmarket due to either a forcemain break or high-flow conditions, resulting from the delay in the York Durham Sewage System forcemain twinning.

AND that the costs be recovered from the Province of Ontario.

Report dated December 8, 2017 from the Commissioner of Environmental Services now follows:

1. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Clerk circulate a copy of this report to the Towns of Aurora, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury and Georgina; the Building Industry and Land Development Association; the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation; the Premier of Ontario; the Ministers of the Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources and Forestry, Health and Long-Term Care, and Municipal Affairs; and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

2. Purpose

This report provides information on the status of the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change's approval of the Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment along with significant impacts on the Region's ability to accommodate planned growth due to extraordinary approval delay.

The continued delay in implementing this infrastructure is creating financial impacts to the Region in addition to risks to public health and the environment in the event of a sewage spillage or surcharge in local collection systems due to either a forcemain break or high-flow conditions.

This report also summarizes the status of design for the Upper York Sewage Solutions project including application of permits, property acquisition process and, the Region's efforts to advance the project and mitigate risks due to approval delay.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

3. Background and Previous Council Direction

Upper York Sewage Solutions project will provide sewage servicing for planned growth in Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury

The purpose of the Upper York Sewage Solutions project is to provide sewage servicing to accommodate planned employment and community growth totalling approximately 153,000 residents and employees in the Towns of Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury. All of these communities are located within the Lake Simcoe watershed.

The Region is awaiting *Environmental Assessment Act* approval from the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change to implement the proposed undertaking consisting of the following three integrated components:

- A new 40 megalitre-per-day (MLD) water reclamation centre to produce clean treated water for discharge to the East Holland River and reclaimed water for re-use applications.
- A project-specific total phosphorus offsetting program.
- Modifications to the existing York Durham Sewage System with twinning of the sewage forcemain through the Town of Newmarket.

Upper York Sewage Solutions project will enhance the Region's sustainability initiatives by producing high-quality treated water and making use of reclaimed water

The Upper York Sewage Solutions project will enable the Region to provide timely wastewater services now and through to the year 2031 while contributing significant environmental benefits:

- The Water Reclamation Centre will use advanced treatment technologies including microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet disinfection to produce high-quality treated water and use green design approach to reduce the Region's carbon footprint and enhance sustainability.
- Treated water will be released into the East Holland River creating a positive impact on the natural environment and generating opportunities for the Region to make use of reclaimed water for non-potable uses thereby reducing demand on the Regional drinking water system.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

- The project-specific total phosphorus offsetting program will reduce the overall amount of phosphorus in the Lake Simcoe watershed by retrofitting stormwater management facilities.

Final Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Report submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for approval in July 2014

The Upper York Sewage Solutions project followed the planning process established under the *Environmental Assessment Act* for Individual Environmental Assessments. The project was initiated in 2009 and conducted in two parts – a Terms of Reference (essentially a road map of the proposed content of the environmental assessment) and the Environmental Assessment itself.

In March 2010, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change approved the Terms of Reference with an amendment requiring the Region to consider innovative wastewater treatment technologies as one of the Alternatives to the Undertaking.

After more than five years of extensive scientific study and consultation with Indigenous peoples and stakeholders, the final Individual Environmental Assessment report was formally submitted to the Ministry for approval on July 25, 2014.

It is worth noting that the proposed Water Reclamation Centre was developed through extensive consultation with the Ministry during the time it took to complete the Environmental Assessment.

Minister's decision was initially anticipated in February 2015 according to the legislated timelines set out in the *Environmental Assessment Act* for Individual Environmental Assessments

According to the legislated timelines set out in the *Environmental Assessment Act* for Individual Environmental Assessments, the Minister's decision was initially anticipated in February 2015 given the Region's submission in July 2014.

After submission, the report was then made available by the Ministry for stakeholder, review agency and Indigenous peoples' review and comment for a specified period that expired on September 12, 2014. With the Region providing responses to all comments received during the statutory review period and subsequent extensions initiated by the Ministry, the Ministry did not file a Notice of Completion of Ministry Review until January 21, 2016. This was followed by a review and comment period by stakeholders, review agencies and Indigenous peoples ending on February 26, 2016. At this point, the Minister's decision was

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

expected in May 2016, which was over one year past the anticipated statutory timeline for approval.

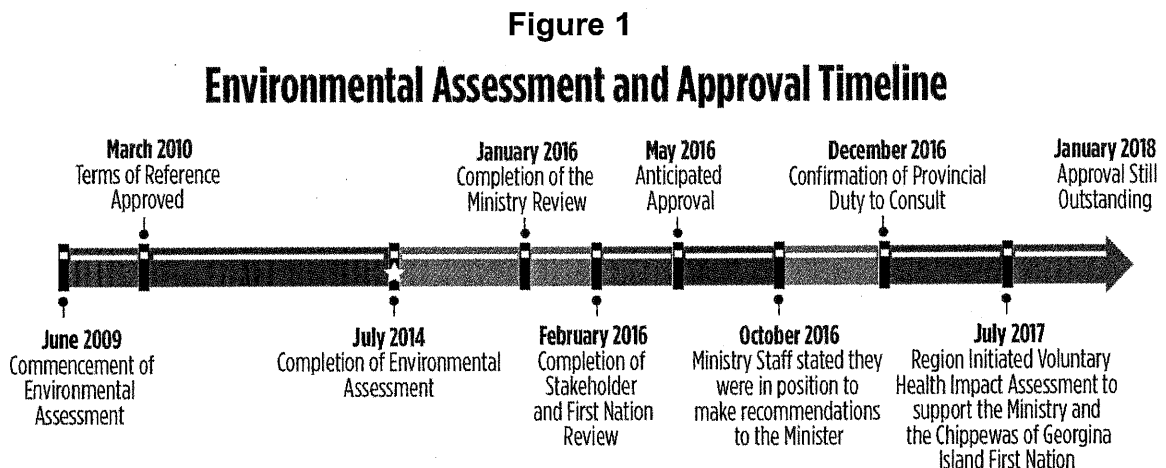
Ministry indicated that the Region properly completed the environmental assessment process

The official Ministry Review stated that Ministry staff is satisfied that the Region properly completed the Environmental Assessment process and complied with the *Environmental Assessment Act*. In October 2016, Ministry staff advised they were in the position to make recommendations to the Minister. The Minister's decision is still required in addition to approval by Provincial Cabinet.

Over two years after filing the Environmental Assessment, the Ministry concluded that it needed to complete the province's duty to consult with Indigenous peoples

In December 2016, the Ministry's internal legal review concluded that the province's legislated duty to consult with Indigenous peoples was the outstanding requirement before a decision could be made by the Minister. In March 2017, the Ministry asked the Region to assist with completing a Health Impact Assessment incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge from the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, which the Region initiated in July 2017 as a voluntary effort to support the province and the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, independent from its environmental assessment obligations.

Figure 1 provides a chronological graphic of the provincial environmental assessment and approval processes from commencement to date.



Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update**Detailed design and property acquisition work continues on the Upper York Sewage Solutions project while awaiting approval**

At its meeting of June 26, 2014, Council approved advancing the detailed design while waiting for Individual Environmental Assessment approval and awarded the consultant assignment for detailed design, contract administration and site inspection services for the Upper York Sewage Solutions project. This award moved the project forward with anticipation of formal approval of the Individual Environmental Assessment by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change a year after submission of the Environmental Assessment.

Key design elements of the proposed work have been advancing through various stages of detailed design. The Water Reclamation Centre design is approaching its 100 per cent completion while the York Durham Sewage System forcemain twinning design is in the construction tender preparation stage. Applications of all environmental approvals and permits required for implementation of the work are being prepared for formal submission to various regulatory agencies upon environmental assessment approval. The performance demonstration of the pre-selected GE membrane filtration system for the future Water Reclamation Centre is progressing as planned at Keswick Water Resource Recovery Facility.

To date, the Region has secured property required for the proposed Water Reclamation Centre along with various other properties required for the project through amicable negotiation. Staff continues to pursue remaining properties through amicable negotiation to minimize property expropriation.

Project Specific Phosphorus Offsetting Program enhanced through a partnership with Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

At its meeting of November 16, 2017, Council authorized a partnership with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to undertake a performance demonstration project for phosphorus removal by retrofitting two existing stormwater management facilities to better prepare the Region for implementation of the project-specific total phosphorus offsetting program upon approval. Despite the challenges caused by delay of approval and potential approval conditions, implementation of the phosphorus offsetting program is still on schedule prior to commissioning of the Water Reclamation Centre.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

4. Analysis and Implications

The Region completed the environmental assessment in full compliance with the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*

Following implementation of the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008*, and subsequent *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, 2009*, staff agreed that the option of a Lake Simcoe-based servicing option for Upper York was significantly diminished as the plan stated that:

“No new municipal sewage treatment plant shall be established in the Lake Simcoe Watershed.”

Subsequently, on March 11, 2010, the Minister amended the Terms of Reference of the Individual Environmental Assessment to include:

“Consideration of innovative wastewater treatment technologies will be considered in the UYSS EA. At a minimum, this will include but not limited to consideration of the development and use of wastewater purification system and water recycling facilities to be located in the Regional Municipality of York.”

After this development, the Region worked very closely with Ministry staff from 2010 through 2014 to establish that a Lake Simcoe-based solution was indeed feasible and compliant with the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* as a replacement for the Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons, including a one-year proof-of-concept pilot of the proposed treatment technologies, before finalizing the Individual Environmental Assessment report in July 2014.

The Region has fulfilled its obligations in Indigenous consultation under the *Environmental Assessment Act*

The Region established the Protocol for First Nations Consultation together with First Nations at the initial stage of the environmental assessment that served as the guiding principles for the consultation. As a unique component of First Nations consultation in the project, the Region and the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation jointly agreed that the Region would provide \$50,000 for the First Nation to retain its own technical review consultant. In doing so, both parties developed a Technical Review Communications Protocol to facilitate the review process. Comments received from the First Nation’s review consultant as part of this process were fully addressed by the Region.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

In addition to numerous meetings and correspondence with Indigenous peoples, including focused meetings with the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation prior to submitting the Environmental Assessment Report, the Region, along with the Ministry, has been meeting and corresponding with the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation on a regular basis since submitting the Environmental Assessment Report. These efforts responded to issues raised by the First Nation in relation to potential impacts of the project.

In the fall of 2016, after a thorough review of the Region's consultation efforts with Indigenous peoples, Ministry staff confirmed that the Region had addressed all comments on this file and met all its requirements for the Individual Environmental Assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act* and that the Ministry was in a position to finalize its recommendation for the Minister's decision and Cabinet approval.

Provincial duty to consult with the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation still ongoing

In late December 2016, the Ministry communicated that the Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment file was being reviewed by provincial legal counsel to fulfill the province's duty to consult requirements with Indigenous peoples. This element of consultation is strictly a provincial duty and requirement, independent from the Region's consultation requirements under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Ministry initially estimated that this duty to consult process would take six months to complete, which would have concluded in July 2017.

While continuing to review the requirements and fulfillment of their duty to consult, the Ministry has forewarned the Region that the provincial duty to consult process could delay future approval of the Individual Environmental Assessment.

The Region is making voluntary efforts to support the Ministry and the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation

In March 2017, the Ministry asked the Region to assist with a Health Impact Assessment that includes Traditional Ecological Knowledge obtained through further consultation with the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. A Health Impact Assessment is a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population. Traditional Ecological Knowledge describes a cumulative Indigenous body of knowledge, belief, and practice regarding sustainability of local resources that is handed down through generations by way of traditional songs, stories and beliefs.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

The Health Impact Assessment and Traditional Ecological Knowledge work is not required in the Terms of Reference for the Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment that was amended and approved by the Ministry. For this reason, the Region has expressed that this study and consultation is strictly a voluntary effort to support the province and the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and does not form part of the Region's Individual Environmental Assessment obligation or the Ministry's duty to consult. The assessment will assist the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation to understand how the project impacts them specifically.

Since initiating the Health Impact Assessment and Traditional Ecological Knowledge work in July 2017, the Region has been actively engaging the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation to coordinate the work and provide updates on its progress. In late September, the Regional Chairman met with the Chief of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and engaged in constructive dialogue.

The protracted timeline for approval has put the Region in jeopardy of fulfilling its mandate under the *Provincial Growth Plan*

Over three years have passed since submission of the final Environmental Assessment Report; the Region is now concerned with the potential for further delay. The timeline for approval has put the Region in jeopardy of fulfilling its mandate as set out in the *Places to Grow Act, 2005, Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006* and the provincially approved *York Regional Official Plan, 2010*.

The 2017 budget submission projected completion of the York Durham Sewage System forcemain twinning by the end of 2019 and commissioning of the Water Reclamation Centre by 2024. This timing was based on information provided by the Ministry that an approval could be expected in early 2017, which has subsequently been delayed due to provincial "duty to consult".

The Region is facing a two-year delay in implementing the Upper York Sewage Solutions project

Timing of completing the work is now dependent on approval of the Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment. Given it is now Q1 2018 and other environmental permits and approvals are required to proceed, construction completion dates and the 2018 approved 10 Year Capital Plan for the forcemain component have been revised to 2021 based on the expectation that approval will be received early in 2019.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

The Region is concerned with further delay in receiving approval for this key infrastructure project as it has exhausted all schedule contingency in response to the approval delay. This schedule contingency was planned to manage other anticipated approval delays and other potential project risks in areas of property acquisition, construction and commissioning.

Delays in implementing the sewage forcemain twinning through Newmarket are of particular concern

One particular risk that the Region is faced with is the delay in implementing the proposed modifications to the existing York Durham Sewage System (twinning of the sewage forcemain through the Town of Newmarket). This required infrastructure will not only help service planned growth but will also alleviate inherent system risks of sewage overflow and surcharge during high flow conditions in the Town of Newmarket. In case of sewage spillage or surcharge in local collection systems due to either a forcemain break or high flow conditions, untreated sewage would either enter into natural water courses or potentially cause sewage back-up in residential homes, creating environmental and public health concerns.

Region advised the Ministry in writing of the risks associated with this single forcemain system on December 7, 2016, January 25, March 2 and June 27, 2017

This is the only pumping station of its size in York Region with a single forcemain discharging from the facility. In the December 7, 2016 and January 25, 2017 letters to the Ministry, the Region expressed the urgency of completing the forcemain twinning work given its criticality for the Region to manage inherited system risk and accommodate planned growth.

The Regional Chairman along with the Mayors of Newmarket, Aurora and East Gwillimbury also advised the Ministry in writing of the risks associated with this single forcemain system in their March 2, 2017 letter to the Minister.

These risks materialized during the prolonged and high-intensity storm event on June 23, 2017 that resulted in sewage spillage and surcharge in local collection systems. The Region reported the spill event in the June 27, 2017 letter to the Ministry following notification to the Ministry's Spills Action Centre.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

Timeline for decommissioning the Holland Landing Lagoons is contingent upon approval of the Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment

As the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008*, and subsequent *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, 2009*, stipulate no new wastewater treatment facilities in the Lake Simcoe watershed, the Water Reclamation Centre was proposed to replace the existing Holland Landing Sewage Lagoons as committed through the Individual Environmental Assessment. As such, the Environmental Compliance Approval for the lagoons, including the total phosphorus loading cap, needs to be transferred to the Water Reclamation Centre after the facility is commissioned. The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change confirmed that the transfer of the Environmental Compliance Approval could only be allowed if the lagoons were in operation, with an active Environmental Compliance Approval, at the time of the Water Reclamation Centre commissioning.

Decommissioning of the lagoons will follow commissioning of the Water Reclamation Centre and continues to rest on Ministry approval of the Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment.

The Region is actively exploring interim service solutions to mitigate growth impacts and bridge capacity gaps in the Towns of Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury

With further delay in the approval and given the current pace of growth in the Towns of Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury, the Region has been actively exploring interim service solutions to mitigate growth impacts and bridge capacity gaps. Staff will report back to Council in 2018 with proposed mitigation measures.

The Region is making every effort to mitigate the impacts of approval delay and potential approval conditions

The protracted timeline for approval, along with potential conditions, presents risks for the Region in delivering service solutions in a timely and cost-effective manner. The Region has been taking action to diligently monitor any advancements in the provincial approval process and making every effort to adjust the course of the project delivery to mitigate impacts. Despite the delay in receiving Environmental Assessment approval, the Region has continued to move the project forward and positively progress in various areas, including design.

Initiatives in Table 1 below illustrate the Region's efforts to advance the project and mitigate risks due to approval delay.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

**Table 1
Region's Initiatives to Advance the Project
and Mitigate Risks due to Approval Delay**

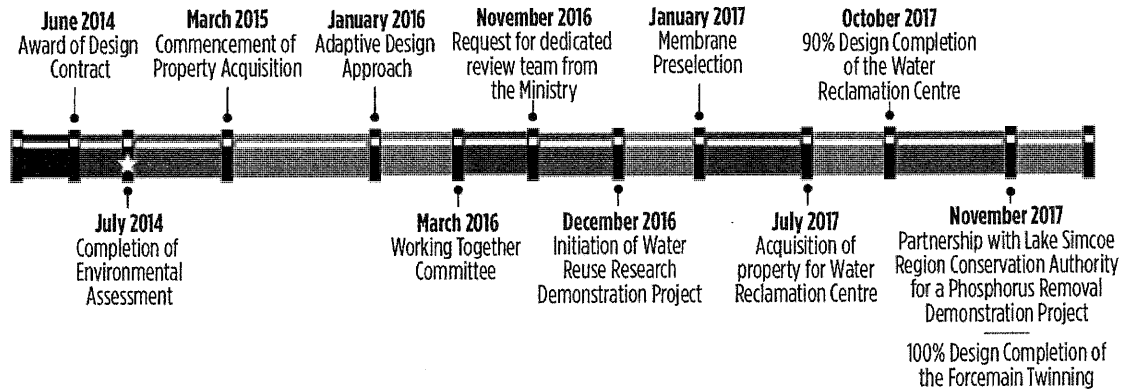
Initiative	Description
Collaboration with the Ministry	Actively following up with the Ministry through various stages of the review and approval process. Assisting the Ministry by sharing information and delivering the voluntary Health Impact Assessment and Traditional Ecological Knowledge work, along with continuous engagement with Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation.
Adaptive Engineering Design	Taking a highly adaptive design approach for critical process areas such as membrane filtration system, odour control facility and ultraviolet disinfection system to allow latest technologies to be incorporated into the construction.
Working together with Local Municipalities and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority	Established "Working Together" Committees with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and the Towns of Newmarket and East Gwillimbury to ensure timely and transparent communication, and to deliver various aspects of the project in a collaborative and consistent manner.
Permits and Approvals	Preparing Environmental Compliance Approval application packages for submission following approval. This initiative will help the Region obtain required permits and approvals in a timely manner.
Water Reuse Research Demonstration Project	Initiated the project to demonstrate and monitor use of reclaimed water from one of the Region's water resource recovery facilities to irrigate sod for two growing seasons, which will better inform the Region and province on policy, regulatory and environmental implications of using reclaimed water.
Pre-selection of membrane filtration system for the Water Reclamation Centre	Pre-selected membrane filtration system for the Water Reclamation Centre to ensure that the system is performance tested through a demonstration project before construction to minimize membrane performance risk at commissioning of the Water Reclamation Centre.
Property Acquisition	Secured the Water Reclamation Centre property through amicable negotiation to allow the Region to complete geotechnical testing work and optimize construction staging to minimize schedule impact due to approval delay.
Innovative approach to delivering the project-specific total phosphorus offsetting program	Collaborating with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and local municipalities to initiate a performance demonstration project to prepare to deliver the project-specific total phosphorus offsetting program upon approval. In November 2017, Council authorized a partnership with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to deliver the demonstration project.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

The timeline in Figure 2 also demonstrates the Region's continuous efforts to move the project forward while awaiting environmental assessment approval.

Figure 2

Region's Efforts to Advance Project Work and Mitigate Risks due to Approval Delay



Further approval delays are possible due to potential judicial review of the Minister's decision

It is important to note that the Minister's decision may be challenged by other parties through potential judicial review. This is another lengthy and complex legal process that would come to an end with conditions or more severe consequences to the Region.

5. Financial Considerations

Continued delay of the Individual Environmental Assessment approval presents financial uncertainty to the Region

After close consultation with Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change over the last eight years, an expenditure of over \$25 million on the Individual Environmental Assessment and a total expenditure of approximately \$65 million, the Region is still awaiting approval and facing consequences of the delay.

Funding for the Upper York Sewage Solutions project is included in the approved 2018 10 Year Capital Plan under Project 74270 Upper York Sewage Solutions with a total project cost of \$714,575,000, a 10 Year Budget of \$586,769,000 and Capital Spending Authority of \$70,629,000.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

Continued delay of the Individual Environmental Assessment approval is not only jeopardizing the Region's ability to accommodate planned growth, but also creates financial risk for the Region. In the absence of approval conditions, the Region's project team is managing a number of financial implications caused by the delay:

- In the absence of approval, the Region is unable to complete consultation with regulatory agencies to confirm the design and complete permit application packages. Continued delay of approval is also forcing the team to revisit procurement strategies and construction sequence on an ongoing basis.
- While pre-purchasing specialized equipment is required for the Region to complete the design, too much lead time between pre-purchasing and construction presents risks for both the Region and industry due to evolution of technologies. Staff is taking an adaptive design approach to incorporate the latest technologies into construction. Similarly, general equipment selection for the Water Reclamation Centre is based on today's technology and practice; therefore, continued delay in approval will increase likelihood to need to update the design prior to construction.
- New regulations and changes of industry standards during prolonged project duration caused by delay of approval may require the Region to amend design and implementation, such as *Ontario Building Code* and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*.
- The Region has been continuing pre-construction environmental monitoring efforts since submission of the Environmental Assessment Report and, to date, has fulfilled the commitments of various environmental monitoring requirements. However, in the absence of approval, the Region is continuing many areas of monitoring to maintain the required baseline data.
- Given that design is approaching 100 per cent completion, any unforeseen approval conditions at this late stage of design and project preparation mean that the Region will miss opportunities to address approval conditions in earlier stages of the design and at a lower cost.
- The proposed total phosphorus offsetting program requires extensive efforts in consulting with regulatory agencies and local municipalities in terms of the availability of stormwater management facilities, treatment technologies, and monitoring and maintenance requirements. Significant uncertainty created by the approval delay has prevented the Region from advancing the design and initiating pre-construction monitoring.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

- The Region has been diligently acquiring properties for the entire project through amicable negotiation since submission of the Environmental Assessment Report. As a result of the protracted approval delay, the Region has been incurring additional costs from maintaining the temporary easement agreements and maintaining the properties that have been acquired.
- Given the extraordinary approval delay, Consumer Price Index becomes one of the financial risk factors that may impact the overall project budget, depending on the extent of inflation during the project.

Staff has been actively monitoring and managing these financial risks as the project advances by taking an adaptive design approach, making provisions and exercising their best professional judgement. Where the cost of risk can be estimated, staff has addressed some of the above-mentioned risks through the approved 2018 budget. Staff will complete an updated financial impact assessment shortly after approval to assess any additional impacts to the total project cost.

Staff are actively working with the Ministry to seek approval. Once approval is granted, staff will report back to Council with a status update including: Environmental Assessment approval conditions, detailed design and permits, property acquisition, procurement and construction planning, and overall project schedule, as well as financial implications.

6. Local Municipal Impact

Continued delay of the Upper York Sewage Solutions approval impacts local municipalities' ability to accommodate planned growth and economic development

The Upper York Sewage Solutions project is a critical component of the Region's future wastewater infrastructure, accommodating employment and community growth within the approved urban boundary of the Towns of Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury.

Continued delay in approval will impact the local municipalities' ability to fulfill their respective community plan objectives and commitments to accommodate growth as set out in their official plans. Delay in approval is also jeopardizing the Region's ability to address operational concerns with the existing system, mainly the system performance risk associated with a large single sewage forcemain through the Town of Newmarket.

Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval Status Update

Local municipal economic development strategies have also considered opportunities presented by implementation of the leading-edge Upper York Sewage Solutions into consideration. Certain economic development initiatives could leverage the Water Reclamation Centre and its leading-edge technology to help attract environmental companies and other industries that might benefit from proximity to such a facility. Further delay in approval of the project will affect implementation of these project-related municipal initiatives.

Continued delay of approval could stall intensification that is planned through transit improvements in Aurora and Newmarket

The Region has been investing along Yonge Street to enhance the public transit system to attract planned intensification in Aurora and Newmarket. Continued delay of the environmental assessment approval could potentially impact the local municipalities' ability to accommodate intensification and consequently minimize opportunities raised by the transit investment.

7. Conclusion

As of July 2014, the Region has fulfilled its obligations through the Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, including consultation with Indigenous peoples. The project team is continuing to advance work on the project including detailed design and property acquisition.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's outstanding issues with regard to the provincial duty to consult with First Nations has significantly delayed approval of the Individual Environmental Assessment.

Continuous delay of approval has put the Region in jeopardy of fulfilling its mandate under the *Provincial Growth Plan* and managing system risks due to the existing single forcemain. Delay of approval also creates additional financial burdens to the Region and potential risks to public health and the environment. Staff continues to follow up with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in anticipation of approval.

For more information on this report, please contact Mike Rabeau, Director, Capital Planning and Delivery at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75157.

**Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental Assessment Approval
Status Update**

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

December 8, 2017

#8121269

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request



Building Farmland Viability in Ontario

Thursday, April 5th, 2018

Wellington & District Community Centre, Prince Edward County

Co-hosts: Prince Edward County, Prince Edward Federation of Agriculture, Prince Edward Chamber of Commerce, and the Prince Edward County Winegrowers Association



Program

8:30 am

Registration

(Refreshments and light breakfast provided)

9:00 am

Welcome, Opening Remarks

Kathryn Enders, Executive Director, Ontario Farmland Trust
Bill Roberts, Chair, Community Economic Development Commission
Robert Quaiff, Mayor, Prince Edward County

9:30 am

Keynote Speaker – British Columbia's Experience in Farmland Protection and Viability: Perspectives and Experiences from the Agricultural Land Commission

Kim Grout, RPP, CEO, Agricultural Land Commission

The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is a provincial zone within British Columbia where agriculture is recognized as the priority use. Through the ALR, 4.6 million hectares of agriculturally suitable land is protected across the Province. We will hear from the Agricultural Land Commission, an independent administrative tribunal that administers the ALR, about their experience protecting agricultural land and preserving its viability. This session will provide a valuable opportunity for Ontario land use planners and policy makers to learn more about this unique agricultural land protection model used in British Columbia.

- 10:30 am** **Panel – Planning Strategies and Tools to Preserve and Support Agricultural Viability**
LEAR – A Method for Determining Prime Agricultural Designations in Prince Edward County, *Paul Walsh, RPP, Manager of Planning, Prince Edward County*
Harvesting the Benefits of Agricultural Advisory Committees: Perspectives from Halton Region, *Anna Demarchi-Meyers, Agricultural Liaison Officer, Halton Region*
Community Improvement Plans: Aligning fiscal tools, land use regulations, and processes to support rural business and tourism in Haldimand County, *Craig Manley, RPP, General Manager Planning & Economic Development, Haldimand County*

Facilitator: Margaret Walton, RPP, Ontario Farmland Trust Board Member

- 11:30 am** **Lunch and Networking**

- 12:30 pm** **PLENARY: Provincial Policy Perspectives: How the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs is Promoting Integration of Farmland Protection and Viability**
Helma Geerts, RPP, Policy Advisor, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
 OMAFRA will present on how provincial land use policy supports agricultural viability in Ontario. In particular, Helma will discuss how provincial policy and Guidelines on Permitted Uses in Prime Agricultural Areas help to maintain the agricultural land base and support a viable agriculture industry and rural economy. Examples will be provided of how farms are diversifying, particularly in Eastern Ontario. New Agricultural System policies for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and OMAFRA implementation procedures will also be touched on, as a new way of supporting a thriving agri-food sector.

- 1:20 pm** **PLENARY: Success Stories from the Field – How has planning positively influenced these Prince Edward County agricultural businesses?**
The Grange of Prince Edward Estate Vineyard & Winery, *Caroline Granger*
The Campbell's Orchards, *Colin Campbell*
Sunset Farms & Cabins, *Matt Rabbie*

Facilitator: Former Minister of Agriculture Hon. Lyle Vanclief

- 2:05 pm** **Networking and Health Break**

- 2:30 pm** **PLENARY: Viable Farmland: Ontario's Past, Present, and Future**
Sara Epp, PhD Candidate and Sessional Lecturer, University of Guelph

Ontario farmland viability has morphed and evolved over time. Together, we will travel through the province's history to determine how agriculture viability was supported during Ontario's past and present, as well as its future directions. Examples of current initiatives in support of agriculture from both southern and northern Ontario will be presented.

- 3:15 pm** **Wrap up & Concluding Remarks**
 Bernard Pope, Chair, Ontario Farmland Trust
 Kathryn Enders, Executive Director, Ontario Farmland Trust

A special thanks to our supporters:

