

2019 INCLUSION CHARTER FOR YORK REGION PROGRESS REPORT

Milestones and Partnerships

Our journey

The Inclusion Charter for York Region is a community initiative that brings together businesses, community organizations, municipalities, police services, hospitals, school boards, conservation authorities and agencies with a common commitment to create an inclusive environment. The organizations that have endorsed the Inclusion Charter share the vision of York Region as a welcoming and inclusive community where diversity is celebrated and where everyone can develop to their full potential, participate freely in society and live with respect, dignity and freedom from discrimination.

The impact of the Inclusion Charter can be felt through the day-to-day lives of our residents. Picture a family that lives in York Region. Now imagine how that family could use the services of the Inclusion Charter's many community partners. Perhaps the family has children in elementary school, enjoys the recreation programs at their local municipality, lives in a neighbourhood protected by police services, has had to

access the emergency room at their local hospital, visits the parkland of the conservation authority or uses the services of a local community agency.

Endorsing the Inclusion Charter for York Region shows the common commitment of these organizations to inclusion in their programs and services so that every member of that family, and the community, feels valued and included.

Endorsement highlights

The Inclusion Charter has achieved an important milestone. As of June 2019, all 20 members of the Municipal Diversity and Inclusion Group (MDIG) have endorsed the Inclusion Charter.

Endorsement of the Inclusion Charter continues to expand. An invitation to endorse the Inclusion Charter has been extended to other Region-led councils and boards including the Community Partnership Council and the Human Services Planning Board of York Region.

All members of MDIG have endorsed the Inclusion Charter:



Community partners take action to foster an inclusive community

To advance the vision of the Inclusion Charter in the community, MDIG is collectively developing a community education and awareness strategy.

MDIG has identified two priority areas to focus on: increasing the sense of community belonging among York Region residents and decreasing the incidence of hate crimes. Baselines for both priority areas have been established to measure the impact that the strategy will have over time. The actions taken and results achieved will be reported in future progress reports.



Partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is the training arm of the United Nations. York Region's partnership with UNITAR began in 2017 when they endorsed the Inclusion Charter as a leading practice model that communities around the world could use to become more inclusive. The Inclusion Charter bears their logo to recognize this support. The partnership has continued to strengthen since then.



York Region and York Regional Police were invited to visit UN headquarters in New York during World Interfaith Harmony Week.

UNITAR, York Region, York Regional Police and York University have signed a three year partnership agreement to work together on initiatives that promote inclusive communities.

York University and UNITAR plan to establish an International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders within York University – the first in Canada – with the intent to include a future presence in York Region. These centres provide an international platform for knowledge exchange.



A representative from UNITAR presents Regional Council with the United Nations flag.

Follow our journey

For updates about the Inclusion Charter and to view the 2018 Inclusion Charter Progress Report visit york.ca/inclusiveyr. You can also join the conversation on social media using the hashtag #InclusiveYR. For more information about the Inclusion Charter please contact inclusion@york.ca

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request. Contact the Accessibility Unit at aoda@york.ca or call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72149