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For Immediate Release

York Region Chief Administrative Officer Michael Garrett announces plans to retire early 2007

Retiring CAO boasts distinguished municipal career, numerous achievements

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York Chief Administrative Officer Michael Garrett today announced his intention to retire at the end of April 2007.



Mr. Garrett, who is in his fifth year as the Region's CAO, said leaving at the beginning of the newly elected Regional Council's mandate allows the new Council to hire the next CAO to implement Council's new policy direction over a full four-year term and beyond.

Mr. Garrett, 59, intends to spend more time with his wife, family and his grandchildren and engage in some side projects.

"I feel very fortunate to have had an opportunity to work in York Region," said Mr. Garrett. "We have great front-line staff, constructive unions and a wonderful management team which, collectively, can do anything. Designation as a top 100 employer in Canada is an indication of the fine corporation that York Region has become."

"This was a difficult decision for me to make. However, I leave thinking and hoping that I have contributed in some small measure to York Region's continued successes," added Mr. Garrett.

"I am saddened by Mike's decision to retire as the Region's CAO, but support him fully," said Bill Fisch, York Regional Chair and CEO. "Mike has made an indelible mark on The Regional Municipality of York, its residents and businesses. He has been a true champion of our corporate mission of ensuring that we provide cost effective, quality services that respond to the needs of our rapidly growing communities. On behalf of York Regional Council and the citizens of York Region, I would like to wish Mike the very best."

Mr. Garrett was named Chief Administrative Officer for the Regional Municipality of York in May 2002. During his tenure, he helped oversee numerous initiatives, including the launch of the Viva Rapid Transit service and improved integration of planning approvals with the timely delivery of important and necessary infrastructure.

Until 2001, Mr. Garrett was the Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Toronto where he led the amalgamation of the seven former municipal governments into one city administration. He also served as CAO for the Regional Municipality of Peel and held a succession of postings with the Ministry of Natural Resources, including serving as Assistant Deputy Minister.

The Region will begin a search for a successor to Mr. Garrett as CAO.

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For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

Media Contact: Patrick Casey, Director, Corporate Communications, York Region
Phone: (905) 830-4444 / Toll Free: 1-877-464-9675, ext. 1235
Cell (905) 715-8211
Email: patrick.casey@york.ca