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For Immediate Release

## Growth, Infrastructure, Debt and Development Charges

### Why growth?

- York Region is a thriving municipality, boasting a population of more than 1,060,000 people and 501,000 jobs
- York Region is expected to grow to more than 1.5 million people by 2031 due in part to Ontario's *Places to Grow* legislation, which sets out a comprehensive growth strategy for the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and Golden Horseshoe
- People want to live and move here to enjoy safe and liveable communities, high quality of life and close proximity to major shopping and employment
- The GTA is a destination of choice for many immigrants and new Canadians
- The Regional Municipality of York has implemented a series of master plans to accommodate this growth while preserving our natural and green spaces

### What is needed before growth can happen?

- York Region cannot grow without putting in place the critical infrastructure such as water and sewage servicing and treatment, arterial roads and public transportation networks
- As York Region grows, this necessitates expanding our capacity and treatment of both drinking water and sewage
- Water and sewers are the most expensive of all infrastructure and need to be constructed well in advance of any building activity
- Infrastructure is typically planned over 10-year periods

### How much do we owe?

- In 2011, York Region will owe approximately \$2.21 billion to support our capital program

### Who pays?

- The debt (principal plus interest) are paid by developers through Development Charges (DCs) once a property is developed
- DCs are one-time fees charged to developers for developing a property
- DCs are passed on to new home and property buyers, **not existing taxpayers**
- The Regional Municipality of York pays upfront the cost of most infrastructure
- This means York Region incurs temporary debt to pay for these costs and also recovers financing costs from development charges

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

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