

Vision 2026

TOWARDS THE VISION:

First Annual Report on

Indicators of Progress

For the Year
2002

2026 Vision
Vision



Regional Municipality of York
Spring 2003

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Translations available on our website.

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"ਸਾਡੀ ਵੱਬਸਾਈਟ ਤੇ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ"

Переводы Вы можете найти на нашем вебсайте.

ترجمه مطالب در وبسایت ما موجود است



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Bill Fisch



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Tim Jones
Town of Aurora



Mayor
James Young
Town of East Gwillimbury



Mayor
Jeffrey Holec
Town of Georgina



Regional Councillor
Danny Wheeler
Town of Georgina



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Margaret Black
Township of King



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Mayor
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City of Vaughan



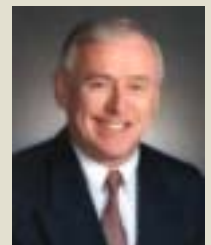
Regional Councillor
Joyce Frustaglio
City of Vaughan



Regional Councillor
Gino Rosati
City of Vaughan



Mayor
Wayne Emmerson
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville



Regional Councillor
Bill O'Donnell
Town of Markham

Message from York Regional Council

Thank you for turning to our *Towards the Vision: First Annual Report on Indicators of Progress*, which details the Regional Municipality of York's inaugural report on our progress, and successes to date, in implementing *Vision 2026*.

Vision 2026 is York Region's strategic plan for the next quarter century. It is important to look ahead and decide what we have to do to enhance our quality of life.

Approved by York Regional Council in 2002, *Vision 2026* outlines key focus areas for our Region and our partners. Including a vision statement, eight primary goals and action areas within each goal, *Vision 2026* is a dynamic, forward-thinking document. Although York Region currently addresses many of these goals, we remain committed to continually improving our plans. And that means measuring our progress.

These long-range plans promote quality of life in many ways: increased efforts in transit, protecting our natural environment; a greater emphasis on affordable housing; and a commitment to continue to improve supply and deliver high quality drinking water for everyone across our Region.

A number of success stories and initiatives have already emerged in response to *Vision 2026*, including:

- The Transportation Master Plan
- The York Region Rapid Transit Plan
- The Oak Ridges Moraine: Proposals for the Protection and Management of a Unique Landscape
- The York Region Accessibility Framework
- The Business Planning process

As we continue our drive forward, York Region will be working to make certain all strategic planning initiatives, including the Official Plan, York Region Transit and the York Region Rapid Transit Plan, the Human Services Strategy and the Region's Greening Strategy, continually align measuring, monitoring and reporting with *Vision 2026*. As elected officials, *Vision 2026* will also assist us with program decisions and budget concerns on a daily basis.

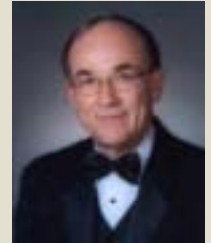
The Regional Municipality of York is pleased to present *Towards the Vision: First Annual Report on Indicators of Progress* and we encourage you to continue your efforts to work with us. Together, we will continue to create strong, caring and safe communities.



Mayor
Donald Cousens
Town of Markham



Regional Councillor
Frank Scarpitti
Town of Markham



Regional Councillor
Gordon Landon
Town of Markham



Regional Councillor
Tony Wong
Town of Markham

MESSAGE FROM THE Chief Administrative Officer



Towards the Vision: First Annual Report on Indicators of Progress meets the promise of York Regional Council to our citizens and business owners to report regularly on our implementation of *Vision 2026*, the Region's ambitious 25-year strategic plan.

Vision 2026 is integrated into all our strategic initiatives, our business planning, and our individual performance processes. In addition, it establishes the overall vision and direction for York Regional Council and our employees.

Towards the Vision shows where we have been successful in achieving our goals, and where we must work harder in the days and months ahead.

Indicators used in this report are primarily community wide. They will help us determine if we are achieving the desired outcomes of Regional activities.

To illustrate, York Region has established a target of achieving a 25 per cent total forest cover across our Region by the year 2026. Our current forest cover is 18 per cent. In 2002, we planted 3,800 trees and secured 200 acres of greenland. Measuring progress each year will help us evaluate the success and value of our programs and initiatives.

I thank you for taking the time to review *Towards the Vision: First Annual Report on Indicators of Progress*. We welcome your feedback on our first vision report. By working together, we will ensure the future prosperity of our Region.

Michael Garrett
Chief Administrative Officer

Creating Strong, Caring and Safe Communities

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OVERVIEW OF Vision 2026 Annual Progress Report

*Creating Strong,
Caring and
Safe Communities*

Regional Trends:

In order to assess our progress over time, it is important to consider how rapidly changing trends are shaping the Region and how our services and programs must grow to meet the needs of a changing Region.

Continued High Population Growth

York Region is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Canada. By 2026 our population is anticipated to grow to 1.28 million residents from around 826,000 at the end of 2002. York's rapid growth rate is due in part to its close proximity to the City of Toronto, as well as its excellent transportation network and high quality of life.

Strong Economic and Employment Growth

During the past year York Region continued to demonstrate robust economic growth, increased employment and a growing assessment base. Recruitment and retention of trained human service professionals is crucial in maintaining the Region's economic vitality.

Increased Interest in Congestion and Growth Management

Rapid growth has created considerable public interest in congestion and the pace of growth. The Region's physical landscape is undergoing considerable change as new infrastructure is built to support additional people. The additional demand on existing services also presents distinct challenges for future human services delivery.

Increased Ethnic and Cultural Diversity

York Region will continue to be more ethnically and culturally diverse, particularly as the Region's economic performance continues to attract new residents.

Aging Population

As the Baby Boom generation ages and retires there will be pressures to recruit replacement workers with necessary skills. These demographic trends are and will continue to have significant implications and challenges for the provision of health care, education, housing and community services.

Dramatically Changing Households

Household types are changing as well. Over the next 25 years, the growth of "non-family" households including lone parent and singles are expected to grow at a faster rate than family households.

Widening Income Distribution Gap

York Region has historically been one of high to middle income households, however, there has been a gradual increase in low-income households, a trend that is expected to grow over the next 25 years.

Evolving Citizen Expectations

As the Region grows and diversifies, demand for services will grow and diversify, with an expectation that the current high quality standard for services will continue to be delivered, particularly in the area of human services.

For more information on York Region's
population and demographic profile, please see our website
at www.region.york.on.ca



OVERVIEW OF Vision 2026 Annual Progress Report

What is a Community Indicator?

Community Indicators measure the state of our Region. They are also indicators of progress and tell us whether we've been successful in achieving our goals, or perhaps, where we need to improve our performance in future.

For example, over the next few years, the Region is aiming to divert 40% of waste from landfill using three diversion approaches - recycling, composting, and residual waste. However, there are other players involved in the success of meeting this target by 2005. York Region residents will help us meet this goal by ensuring that household garbage is properly sorted at the curb. The Provincial government oversees a number of regulations and requirements for waste management and may be involved in funding programs such as waste management increasing the program's success rate. The Federal government regulates the transportation of waste. We also need to work with our area municipal partners who are responsible for garbage pick up to ensure waste is being handled and diverted according to plan.

The following list gives you an idea of the services the Region provides, as well as the services the area municipalities provide:

REGION

- Police
- Emergency Medical Services
- Public Health Services
- Long-Term Care and Senior's Services
- Social Assistance
- Social Housing
- Family and Children's Services
- Regional Planning/Growth Management
- Regional Economic Development and Tourism
- Arterial Roads
- Public Transit
- Water Treatment
- Trunk Sewage
- Waste Disposal
- Long-Term Borrowing
- Regional Emergency Planning

AREA MUNICIPALITIES

- Fire Protection
- Local Planning
- Local Economic Development
- Building and Plumbing
- By-Law Enforcement
- Licensing
- Local Roads
- Waste Collection
- Water Distribution
- Local Sewage
- Tax Collection
- Parks, Recreation and Heritage
- Libraries
- Local Emergency Planning

CONSULTATION ON VISION 2026 PERFORMANCE MEASURES WORKBOOK -

What Was Heard:

The Vision 2026 Performance Measures Workbook was developed as a communication and consultation tool. Using the 8 Goals and Action Areas of Vision 2026, the Workbook suggested some ways in which the Region could report regularly on progress and asked residents and Regional staff to provide feedback on this approach.

Consultation on the Performance Measures Workbook took place over a three-month period from November 2002 through to February 2003. During that time, Vision 2026 staff met with the public, special interest groups, with Regional staff, and area local municipalities. The Performance Measures Workbook was also posted on the Region's website in an interactive format that allowed interested individuals to fill out a survey on-line or print it out and mail it in. The on-line Workbook was also translated into 6 languages including French, Italian, Russian, Chinese, Farsi and Punjabi. Over 400 individual hits were received on the workbook's site. The Vision 2026 toll-free information line and e-mail address also allowed the public and staff to obtain information as well as provide feedback on the workbook.

We heard hundreds of good ideas. In this first edition, we have only been able to include a handful of the indicators suggested.

Tell us what you think in the survey provided on the back page of this report, we've also included a list of indicators we didn't use (page 26), mostly because the data wasn't available to report out on them, but we'd like to know if you think it's worth reconsidering these.

The Region can't do it all
but we can focus our
efforts and work with our citizens
to create a
BETTER YORK REGION.

VISION STATEMENT:

York Region:

Creating
**Strong
Caring
Safe**
Communities

- Quality Communities for a Diverse Population
- Enhanced Environment, Heritage and Culture
- A Vibrant Economy
- Responding to the Needs of Our Residents
- Housing Choices for Our Residents
- Managed and Balanced Growth
- Infrastructure For a Growing Region
- Engaged Communities and a Responsive Region



Goal 1

Quality Communities for a Diverse Population

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

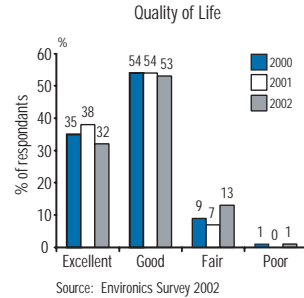
In 2026, York Region residents will live, work, play and learn in healthy, accessible and safe neighbourhoods that are vibrant, exciting and people-friendly. Residents will continue to enjoy the high quality of life that attracted them to York and will have a strong sense of belonging and commitment to their communities.

VISION 2026 INDICATORS

Ensuring Quality of Life

- Quality of life as rated by residents: 53% rated good, 32% rated excellent (2002).
- % Of residents who live and work in York Region: 49% of residents live and work in York Region.

One of the quality of life considerations we've heard a lot about is the amount of time people spend in their cars commuting. Factors which affect commute time include good job matches within the Region, availability of housing, improved transit and more job development in the Region. The live/work indicator will be one way of monitoring this trend and how well we're doing in the next few years.



COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2002

- Regional Official Plan Five Year Review.
- York Region is the first Regional municipality in Canada to declare itself a Character Community.
- Community Funding and Investment Strategy.
- Developed Community Plan to address homelessness.
- Regional Council is preparing a Regional Emergency Management Program Policy to help provide safe, disaster-resilient communities throughout York Region.

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2002

- Child Care Service Plan.
- York Region Arts & Culture Tourism Program.
- Childcare Language Line Information available in 6 languages.
- No smoking by-law program (ongoing).
- Launched Chinese and Italian tobacco awareness campaign.
- Expansion of Outreach Van Program.

Character Communities

On Jan. 24, York Regional Council approved a resolution declaring York Region a Character Community - the first regional municipality to do so in Canada. A Character Community is one in which elected officials, community leaders in the education, business, faith community, law enforcement and media sectors, and citizens-at-large recognize and promote the importance of good character. Character Communities work together to ensure that families are strong, homes and streets are safe, education is effective, business is productive, neighbours care about one another and citizens are free to make wise choices for their lives and families.

Working For Youth:

Work is underway to develop a centre to provide a range of services and activities for at-risk youth. The project may also include an emergency shelter for homeless youth.

"One vision...one goal...to Save-A-Life"

The Region of York adopted a "Traffic Safety Strategy", developed by York Regional Police in conjunction with the Transportation and Works Operations Branch, Emergency Medical Services and the Public Health Branch, Health Services Department. With goals to Save-A-Life and enhance the overall quality of life in the Region, the strategy seeks to identify critical traffic issues and combat the high number of motor vehicle collisions, injuries and deaths on the 3,454 kilometres of roads patrolled by police. Based on the principles of Education, Enforcement, and Engineering, the strategy is designed to raise the profile of traffic safety within our communities.

Creating Strong, Caring and Safe Communities

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Celebrating Our Diversity

- Recognizing our multicultural population
- Responding to our diversity with innovative service delivery options
- Being responsive to the needs of vulnerable residents
- Planning for the current and future needs of seniors, including their accessibility needs
- Benefiting from the knowledge and experience of seniors
- Responding to children in need
- Involving and investing in our youth

Creating Vibrant Urban and Rural Communities

- Fostering a strong sense of community, identity and place
- Encouraging the development of a range of activities, recreational opportunities and exciting community places
- Promoting liveable, sustainable and safe communities
- Revitalizing and promoting compact community cores
- Promoting high-quality urban design
- Encouraging pedestrian-friendly and transit-oriented neighbourhoods
- Valuing our countryside and rural lifestyle as well as the distinctiveness of our towns and villages
- Addressing the challenge of demands for urban service levels in rural communities

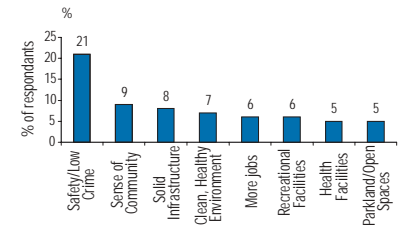
"Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in York Region?"

When York Region residents were asked to rate the quality of life in York Region, a large proportion (53%) rated the quality of life as good and an additional 32% rated it as excellent. Only 13% of polled residents rated quality of life in York Region as fair.

As part of Vision 2026 outreach, the Region asked residents what they think are the top factors that contribute to quality of life in the Region. The top 3 rated responses were safety and a low rate of crime (21%) followed by a sense of community (9%) and solid infrastructure (8%).

Safety and crime rates are discussed further in Goal 4.

Factors That Make for a Good Quality of Life in York Region (First Mention)



You Told Us...

Residents attending Vision 2026's public meetings told us that volunteerism was an important aspect of quality of life and character communities. Volunteering in your community is a great way to improve other's lives in your community.

Did you know...

York Region has a population of 826,000 (Dec 2002) The Region has grown by 40,000 residents in each of the last 4 years, the fastest rate in the GTA. The Region is the 6th largest municipality in Canada. York Region has become increasingly ethnically diverse, with 38% of residents indicating their mother tongue is other than English or French.

Goal 2

Enhanced Environment, Heritage and Culture

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region residents will continue to value and embrace the Region's unique natural heritage (land, air, water) and cultural heritage (sites and buildings important to our history, faiths and cultures).

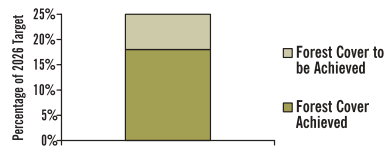
VISION 2026 INDICATORS

Clean, Green Region

- York Region has 18% forest cover. The Regional Official Plan target is: 25% in 2026.
- In 2002, York Region had 9 air quality advisories of 18 days in duration during the summer season.
- % Agricultural land in the Region: 175,965 acres which is 19% of the Regional Area

These indicators represent just some of the ways we're monitoring our environmental quality and protection efforts.

Forest Cover - Achieved and Remaining



Source: York Region Planning Department

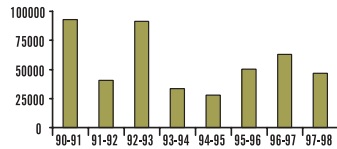
COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2002

- Oak Ridges Moraine Tri-Region Strategy.
- Greening of York Annual Report.
- Pesticides Reduction Guidelines for Regional Lands.
- Corporate Model for Clean Air Initiative.
- Allocated \$3.5 million in funds to secure greenlands.

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2002

- Regional Streetscaping Program.
- Regional partnership with Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust.
- 3,800 street trees planted in 2002, 10,000 planted since 1999.
- Children's Water Festival.
- Earth Week Celebration.
- Groundwater Celebration.
- Safe Water Program.

Annual Total Phosphorus loads (kg/yr) to Lake Simcoe (1990-1998)



Source: Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority

Water Quality

Phosphorus levels in Lake Simcoe have fluctuated since 1985 when the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy was put in place. Sources of phosphorus which impact on the Lake's ecological integrity include, urban stormwater runoff, soil erosion from crops, streambanks and shorelines, agricultural practices, drainage from Holland Marsh dikes, sewage treatment plants, faulty septic systems and natural inputs. Since 1995 every sewage treatment plant in the Lake Simcoe Watershed has been using the best available technology for phosphorus reduction and in 1997 reduced their combined loads to 6.2 tonnes from 12.5 in 1988. (Excerpted from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Annual Report 2001). York Region is a member of the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy.

Water for tomorrow...

The Water for Tomorrow program is one of the largest and most comprehensive programs in North America. In its fifth year of a six year program, Water for Tomorrow has saved an estimated 13.5 million litres of water per day, by identifying pipeline cracks, retrofitting toilet and showerheads, and community education. Taxpayer savings to date amount to \$7.89 million.

Working For You:

Tourism is an important component of the Region's economic engine that in turn generates tourist traffic and revenues into many York businesses. The Region's arts, heritage and cultural communities contribute significantly to the quality of life we enjoy throughout the Region. York Region Tourism continues to work towards building a healthy and vibrant tourism economy through implementation of industry supported, market driven and research based initiatives.

Creating Strong, Caring and Safe Communities

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Securing a Green York Region

- Protecting sensitive features such as forests, watersheds, the Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Simcoe
- Promoting a permanent linked greenlands system
- Continuing to develop and build on strategies for a green region, such as the York Region Forest and Land Securement Strategy

Ensuring Clean Water and Air

- Protecting the quality and quantity of groundwater, surface water and streams
- Enhancing awareness of the importance of groundwater
- Complying with and maintaining high standards for drinking-water quality
- Promoting clean air policies and initiatives
- Promoting alternative transportation methods that improve air quality, such as public transit and cycling

Promoting Conservation

- Encouraging water conservation
- Using energy more efficiently in operations of the regional government
- Investigating and promoting alternative energy sources
- Living and encouraging the three Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle
- Anticipating and responding to climate change

Building Pride in Our Heritage and Culture

- Celebrating historic towns and village cores
- Appreciating our unique cultural sites
- Encouraging and promoting our arts and culture
- Encouraging the preservation of historic buildings, heritage homes and significant historic areas
- Embracing our evolving cultural and faith communities

Sustaining Our Agricultural Base

- Recognizing the role of the agricultural industry and landscape in our heritage and economy
- Protecting high-quality agricultural land, including local food sources such as the Holland Marsh
- Protecting agricultural areas from incompatible or potentially harmful uses

What is the York Region Greening Strategy?

The York Region Greening Strategy has 35 actions to help ensure that York Region's natural heritage is maintained for future generations. Successes include:

- Water for Tomorrow
- Pesticide Reduction Guidelines
- Streetscaping Initiative
- Natural Partnership Tree Planting Program with Conservation Authorities
- Official Plan amendments to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine and natural environment
- Take a Hike Guide
- Securement Strategy

As citizens, each one of us has a responsibility to "think locally, act globally". There are a lot of small things we can do in our everyday lives to achieve this, like lowering our water consumption, using transit more often, and reducing the use of chemicals and pesticides around our homes and businesses. For more information, please see the Greening Strategy online at: www.region.york.on.ca

Working for You:

At the 2002 Smog Summit, York Region signed the 2002 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air. Among the initiatives York Region committed to:

- Moving forward on the York Rapid Transit Plan and promoting reduced car use.
- Developing a Local Action Plan for Greenhouse Gas Reduction.
- Developing consistent, planned responses to smog alerts.
- Implementing the Pesticides Reduction Guidelines.
- Promoting the Forest Awareness and Education Campaign.
- Undertaking growth management and community building initiatives.

Did you know...

York Region has 5200 acres of Regionally owned forest in 18 tracts. In 2000, the York Regional Forest was the first public woodland in Canada to be designated "sustainable" in accordance with demanding international standards set by the Forest Stewardship Council. The Region's Forest Management Plan also won a Wildlife Habitat of Canada's 2001 Award of Excellence that recognizes leadership in the protection and enhancement of woodlands in Canada.

Goal 3

A Vibrant Economy

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region will be renowned for its advanced technology, innovative businesses, supportive business infrastructure and highly skilled resident workforce.

VISION 2026 INDICATORS

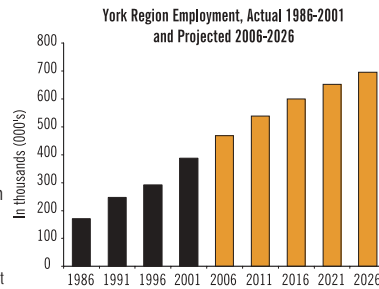
Attracting and Supporting Businesses:

- The number of businesses in York Region has increased by 1000 in each of the last 3 years.
- 95.5% of York Region's labour force is employed.
- Annual job creation: 15,000 - 20,000 per year for past 5 years.
- Tourism: increased 24% over the past 3 years to 2.1 million visitors.
- There are 30 private sector firms over 500 employees in the Region, up from 18 in 1997.

Employment in York Region

York Region's efforts contribute both directly and indirectly to employment growth. The number of jobs created is a key indicator of investor confidence and the economic vitality of York Region, and also serves as a good measure of the success of the Region's economic development efforts.

Annual job creation in York Region for the last five years has ranged from 15,000 to 20,000 per year with an unemployment rate at 5.5%, which is 1- 2% below that of the GTA. The Region had approximately 410,000 jobs at year-end 2002.



Source: Statistics Canada (1986 - 2001 actuals); York Region Planning & Development Services Department (2006 - 2026 forecasts)

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2002

- York Region Tourism Strategy.
- Economic & Development Review Report.
- York Region Business Directory.

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2002

- Human Services Employment Project - cross-sectoral partnership to recruit human services workers to York Region.
- Assisted over 400 companies through export planning, export readiness assessments and export seminars.
- Increased tourism industry partnerships and revenues.
- Facilitated tourism signage, in partnership with the Farm Fresh Association.
- Discover York Region 2003 Visitors Guide.

Working For You

The Learning, Earning and Parenting Program (LEAP) started in 1999 in York Region. LEAP is designed to encourage young parents (aged 16 to 21) to complete their high school education, learn about child development, acquire parenting skills and develop employment skills.

Did you know...

York Region employers have indicated that affordable housing and accessible transit are two key issues for employee recruitment and retention.

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Attracting and Supporting Businesses

- Supporting business start-ups, and the incubation, expansion and diversification of business
- Encouraging the revitalization of established business areas
- Partnering with area municipalities and our neighbours in the GTA to seek and promote economic development opportunities
- Promoting our tourism strengths, including forests, historic villages, parks and artistic and cultural activities
- Fostering networking between businesses, both regionally and locally, and between business and other major sectors (such as health, education and government)
- Increasing businesses' awareness of the Region's services
- Supporting the efficient movement of people and goods in the Region through transportation enhancements
- Building more global awareness of our strengths as a destination to live, work, play and learn

Encouraging Continual Learning

- Encouraging the development of lifelong learning opportunities and a broad range of learning options for residents
- Encouraging the development of more accessible post-secondary educational opportunities for residents
- Identifying workforce and educational needs together with key business and education partners
- Developing more public awareness programs, such as "Water for Tomorrow"

Promoting and Supporting Innovation

- Promoting enhanced technology infrastructure
- Facilitating job creation in designated employment areas, through targeted expansion of services such as transit
- Encouraging access to technology at community sites such as libraries, hospitals and schools business and education partners

Award Winning Tourism and Economic Development

In 2001, York Region welcomed 2.1 million visitors who spent \$126 million. The economic benefits to the Region include 2,500 jobs representing \$58.3 million in wages and \$2.9 million in direct municipal tax dollars.

Recently, the Economic Developers Council of Ontario awarded York Region with a total of 4 awards for the Region's "Tourism News", the 2002 York Region Visitors Guide, the Take a Hike Trail Guide and the Region's Economic Development Review 2001 Report.

Did you know...

York Region Ontario Works which helps find work for social assistance recipients exceeded Provincial Community Placement targets from 1999 to 2001, earning a total of \$1.7 million in incentive funding. These funds have been reinvested in York's human service programs in the areas of Ontario Works, vulnerable children, homelessness and/or childcare.

Did you know...

The number of jobs in York Region almost equals the number of employed people living in the Region.

In 2001, there were 387,725 people in York Region's employed labour force, which closely matches the 380,440 jobs in the Region.

Creating Strong, Caring and Safe Communities

Goal 4

Responding to the Needs of Our Residents

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region's human services will support a safe, caring and healthy community and maintain and promote a high quality of life. A broad range of organizations will work and plan together, including police forces, schools, businesses, housing providers, hospitals, social service providers, public health agencies, recreation facilities and non-profit, voluntary and business groups.

Creating Strong,
Caring and
Safe Communities

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Meeting People's Basic Needs

- Addressing the need for shelter
- Facilitating access to job opportunities
- Supporting access to safe and ample food
- Enabling access to services that aid in early child development
- Informing people about available services
- Ensuring mobility through accessible and affordable transportation

Supporting Safe and Secure Communities

- Providing superior-quality policing
- Addressing the safety needs of vulnerable groups
- Building strong alliances between police and communities
- Continuing to provide and support high-quality, co-ordinated emergency services

Promoting Wellness

- Supporting health care needs at all stages of life
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles through information, education and prevention
- Promoting social and emotional well-being

Enhancing Our Human Resources and Partnerships

- Attracting trained health, education and social service professionals
- Recruiting and training volunteers to enhance service delivery
- Partnering with community agencies to provide more and better services
- Building relationships with public-sector and private-sector partners to provide services
- Empowering our community to assume shared responsibility

Community Safety: It's Everyone's Responsibility

Crime Prevention Officers are located in every police district, working with communities to prevent crime through efforts including education, development of safety programs, conducting safety audits, and crime prevention through environmental design consultations.

You can help too. Contact the York Regional Police Community Services Bureau at 1-866-8POLICE to learn more about how to become a community participant in programs like Neighbourhood Watch. For crime prevention and police contact information, visit the York Regional Police website at www.police.york.on.ca.

What are Human Services?

York Region's Human Services Strategy is one of the first in Canada. The service sectors that support a safe, healthy community and maintain and promote its quality of life. Among others they include the police, schools, housing providers, hospitals, social services, public health municipal recreation departments, non-profit, voluntary and commercial organizations.

For more information on York Region's Human Services Strategy, please see www.region.york.on.ca

Working for you:

York Region Transit is acquiring low floor and/or lift equipped buses to ensure transit is accessible to all our citizens. The 5-year goal of YRT is that 100% of the transit fleet and bus stops will be accessible.

Working for You

York Region EMS responded to over 77,000 calls for assistance in 2002. EMS has a total of 56 fulltime and 14 casual staff trained as Advanced Care Paramedics. Health Services Department's Health Connection information line received over 50,000 calls from residents on health related topics and questions.

Safety

- The 5 year trend for crime rates in York Region have shown a decrease of 2.8% (1997-2001), the second lowest in the GTA based on 2000 figures.
- York Regional Police received approximately 200,000 requests for service in 2002, with only 93 complaints.

These indicators give us an overview of how safe and how healthy our communities are. The health indicators tell us a bit about how well we are delivering preventative and educational health and wellness programs, and the crime rate and police satisfaction rates help us to understand how well our proactive efforts at community policing, safety and education are helping to keep our communities safe.

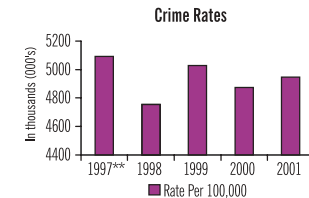
Health Fact:

93% of York Region residents ages 18+ reported their health as being excellent, very good or good. 7% reported their health as fair/poor.

Source: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2001/2002

Health:

- Life Expectancy: 81.8 years, the highest in the GTA and Ontario (1999).
- 23% of York Region Residents are current smokers.
- Low birth weights: 3.9% compared to 4.5% for Ontario (1999).
- Disability-free years of living: 71.1 years, the highest in Ontario, tied with Halton.



Source: York Regional Police Annual Statistical Report 2001

(1) ** figures have not been adjusted (based on revised population estimates) and caution must be used when making 5 year comparisons
(2) Rates per 100,000 are based on mid-year population figures supplied by York Region Planning Department.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2002

- Programs to attract trained human services workers.
- Region's Character Community Initiative.
- Establishment of an Interim Accessibility Advisory Committee to assist the Region in implementing the Ontarians with Disabilities Act.
- Pilot residential summer camp for youth living in York Region Housing.
- York Region's Emergency Medical Service with 300 paramedics and support staff to serve the Region.
- Replacement and additional Paramedic Response Statics Capital Plan.

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2002

- Save a Life Campaign - Traffic Safety Strategy.
- Heart Alive - public access to defibrillation program.
- InForum York -public forums on human service issues/trends.
- Child Care Matters - York Region's Child Care Service Plan.
- First Steps - York Region's Early Years Plan.
- Early Intervention Program for children with special needs.
- York Regional Police Safety Village.
- Summer camp program for children of social assistance recipients.
- West Nile Virus Contingency Plan.
- EMS received funding to purchase land ambulance vehicles and equipment for response time improvements.
- Completed an Assessment to Identify Community Nutrition Program Needs related to Preschool Children.

Working For You:

The York Regional Police in partnership with local fire and Emergency Medical Services have developed the Children's Safety Village at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area. The Safety Village will open in September of 2003 and is part of a 20 year plan to provide children in Grades 1, 2 and 3 with hands-on instruction on safety topics like bike safety, seatbelt use, CPR, 911, and fire safety in the home. Look for future information on our web site at www.region.york.on.ca.

Goal 5

Housing Choices for Our Residents

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region residents will have access to a variety of housing options that are safe, affordable and responsive to their diverse and changing needs.

VISION 2026 INDICATORS

Providing Appropriate Housing Mix and Supply:

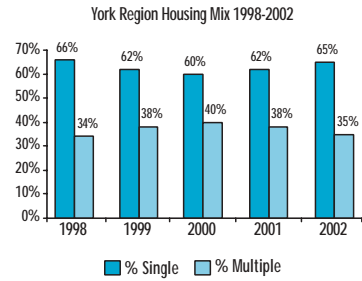
- 74% of York Region's housing is single detached units and 26% is multiple units. York Region has set a long-term target of achieving a 40% multiple unit supply.
- In 2002 there were 11,941 residential housing starts in York Region.

Waiting Lists

- In July 2002, there were 4,800 on the Region's subsidized housing waiting list.
- Long Term Care and Seniors Program's Alternative Community Living Program housing waiting list - 224 clients (Dec 2002).

One of York Region's key goals is to provide a range of housing types to address housing affordability for residents. Offering a diverse mix of housing choices for people with different income levels provides access to the housing market. The completion of multiple units (semis, rows and apartments) has increased while the supply of single detached homes has fallen.

Housing affordability and availability are issues for York Region. In the first half of 2002, the average resale house price was \$344,936. No new social housing units have been built since 1995, and in 1998/99 only 0.1% of all dwellings built in the Region were rental properties with a vacancy rate of 0.7%.



Source: York Region Planning Department

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2002

- Region's Housing Supply Strategy.
- Approval of additional funding for the Homelessness Prevention Program in partnership with the Salvation Army.
- Council's adoption of a policy to offset development charges for non-profit housing through the social housing reserve.

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2002

- Adoption of the Municipal Housing Facilities By-Law to help create more affordable housing.
- Construction of a 58-unit seniors/disabled supportive housing project on the grounds of the Newmarket Health Centre.
- Community Plan to address homelessness.
- Renovations to Alternative Community Living apartments to ensure removal or prevention of barriers to accessibility are ongoing.

Working For You

The *Housing Supply Strategy* focuses on practical steps that can be taken together with our community partners to create affordable housing choices for low and moderate-income households in our community.

As a Consolidated Municipal Service Manager, the Region is now responsible for Social Housing including the administration of 6,131 housing units. The public, area municipalities and other stakeholders have identified the need for affordable housing. The business community has also expressed the need for appropriate housing for a growing and diversifying work force.

Our most vulnerable households will continue to need rent subsidies in order to afford suitable housing. Collaboration and innovation are required between the Region, Area Municipalities, Provincial and Federal Governments, Non-Profit Providers, Building Industry, Employers and the Community.

For more information on affordable housing, please see the York Region Housing Strategy at www.region.york.on.ca

Creating Strong, Caring and Safe Communities

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Providing Appropriate Housing Mix and Supply

- Encouraging a wide variety of housing types, to increase the choices available to residents
- Encouraging the production of housing that residents can afford to rent or buy
- Responding to the need for specialized housing, such as housing for people with physical disabilities and seniors living on their own

Planning for Strong Live, Work, Play and Learn Connections

- Achieving better connections between where residents live, work, play and learn
- Working to match the needs of employees with housing options
- Encouraging the development of public and private services close to where people live

Creating Well-Designed and Liveable Communities

- Encouraging quality urban planning and design that emphasizes the needs of people
- Enhancing residential streetscapes
- Encouraging the development of compact communities where people can walk to services
- Encouraging the integration of nature into development
- Encouraging and implementing architectural design controls in new developments

Addressing Key Housing Needs

- Addressing homelessness and developing homelessness prevention programs
- Developing policies and programs to meet a variety of housing needs, including shelter for vulnerable residents and affordable ownership options
- Encouraging productive partnerships with the private and non-profit sectors, as well as other governments, to produce mixed-income communities
- Advocating for increased funding for housing from senior levels of government

Affordable Housing Outlook:

York Region has identified the need for an increased supply of rental, subsidized and affordable housing for many years. With the transfer of Social Housing responsibilities, the Region is more directly accountable for addressing this need than ever before. The Region is completing a ten-year Capital Plan for Housing Programs.

Council has also directed staff to implement the Housing Supply Strategy to increase housing choices and options for low and moderate-income households across the Region including new rental housing and affordable home ownership with an emphasis on partnerships with senior levels of government, non-profit housing providers and the private sector.

These goals will be met through an overall target of 200 units per year of new housing opportunities, with 2,000 new rental units over a 10-year period and a long term target of 40% multiple unit supply.

Did you know...

That York Region's total housing mix is diversifying. In 1981, 80% of homes in the Region were single family homes. In 2002 this dropped to 74%. In 2002, 35% of new units were multiple unit housing, this includes semi-detached, row houses, and apartments. This increasing mix of housing types provides more housing choice to York Region residents. By 2026 we'll need 250,000 new residential units of which the Region would like to see 40% being multiple units.

Goal 6

Managed and Balanced Growth

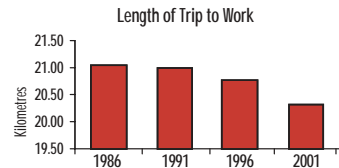
VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region will have grown at a pace that supports healthy communities, economic vitality, sustainable natural environment and effective human services.

VISION 2026 INDICATORS

Managed and Balanced Growth:

- The Average length of trip to work in York Region: 20.31 km.
- # Acres of greenlands secured: 200.
- 49% of residents live and work in the Region.
- York Region's labour force of 387,725 closely matches the 380,440 jobs available in the Region.



Source: York Region Transportation and Works Department

GROWTH IN YORK REGION

York Region has been growing at a rate of 40,000 people per year for the past 4 years. Managing and balancing the needs of a growing population for housing, transit, and services like health care must be balanced with the need to protect the environment in which we live. York Region's Official Plan and Growth Management Strategy provide direction to help ensure this balance by setting boundaries for where growth can occur. In the past 10 years, growth has occurred at twice the density it did before and is limited to areas designated for this growth.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2002

- Regional Official Plan five-year review.
- Adopted Regional Growth Management Strategy.
- Launched YorkExplorer Internet site of YorkAtlas, YorkMaps, YorkAerial and YorkLocator, York Region's web-based interactive mapping applications.
- Fair is Fair Report - prepared through the Human Services Planning Coalition.
- Rapid Transit Corridor & Hwy. 7 Vision.

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2002

- Five-year review of the Official Plan including changes to the natural environment, transportation, human services and housing policies.
- Refined Regional Growth Management Strategy including a GTA Wide "Refocusing on Growth Management" Report.
- Hosted GTA wide Nodes, Corridors and Transit Symposium.
- Received funding from Human Resources Canada to address growing shortage of trained human services workers.
- Vision for Hwy. 7.

Did you know...

The Region has set a target of 50% diversion of waste from landfill with the implementation of the new 3-stream waste collection and processing system. The three streams are blue box material, household organics and residual waste.

Creating Strong, Caring and Safe Communities

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Taking a Strategic Approach to Growth Management

- Co-ordinating the location of job growth and population growth
- Using land, infrastructure and services efficiently in urban areas
- Co-ordinating the timing of infrastructure and service development (such as schools, community facilities, all utilities and roads) with the development of new growth areas

Balancing Growth with the Environment

- Taking a leadership role in environmental strategies and conservation

Financing Growth

- Securing adequate funding for future needs
- Focusing attention on long-term capital plans
- Co-ordinating efforts with local municipalities
- Partnering with federal and provincial governments and the private sector to develop innovative funding methods

Planning for Human Services

- Anticipating and responding to the human service needs of a growing and changing population
- Supporting cross-sectoral human services planning and programming through groups, such as the Human Services Planning Coalition

York Region has a number of long term strategies in place to ensure strategic growth management is balanced with environment, job creation, infrastructure, human services and financing of growth.

These strategies include:

The Region's Official Plan

The Region of York Official Plan (ROP) is a broad based strategic plan which provides a set of policies, land use designations and establishes criteria to guide economic, environmental and community-building decisions affecting the use of land. Other initiatives must comply with the intent of the ROP. The ROP is based on the three themes of Sustainable Natural Environment, Healthy Communities and Economic Vitality. The ROP undergoes review every 5 years according to provincial legislation, with the last review just completed.

The Region's Centres and Corridors Strategy

The goal of this recently adopted Strategy is to create an urban structure that includes compact development, mixed residential and commercial use centres in Newmarket, Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan, connected by transportation corridors along Yonge Street and Highway 7.

In addition, the following documents support Vision 2026 Goal of Managed and Balanced Growth:

- Human Services Strategy
- Greening Strategy
- Transportation Master Plan
- Oak Ridges Moraine Tri-Region Strategy

Goal 7

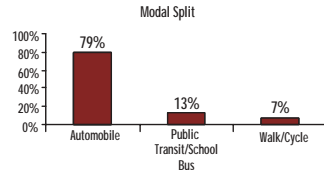
Infrastructure for a Growing Region

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region will have effective, efficient and environmentally sensitive transportation, waste management and water systems.

- There were 8.4 million transit trips in 2002.
- Modal split: 79% automobile, 8% public transit, 7% walking and cycling and 5% school bus.
- Transit vehicle revenue hours have increased by 58% over the past 5 years.
- The Region has saved 2.7 million litres per day per year (total of 13.5 million litres/day over 5 years) through the Water for Tomorrow program.
- The percentage of waste diverted by the Region in 2001 was 25% in 2001, 26% in 2002 with projected rates at 26% in 2003, 30% in 2004 and 40% in 2005.

York Region continues to look for ways to improve infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population, this includes innovative programs for waste reduction, like three-stream recycling, efficient water use programs like Water for Tomorrow, and the amalgamation of transit services to provide better service across the Region.



Source: York Region Transportation and Works Department



Source: York Region Transportation and Works Department

COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2002

- Transportation Master Plan.
- York Region Transit amalgamation and Mobility Plus.
- Long Range Sewer and Water Strategy.
- Approval of the York Region Transit Five Year Service Plan that included more than \$5 million in service improvements and upgrades to the regional public transit system in 2002.

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2002

- Water for Tomorrow.
- Waste Diversion- Three Stream Recycling Program.
- Completion of the York-Peel Water Supply Agreement to meet the Region's current and future water needs.
- ISO 14001 water and sewer systems in most of the Region.
- Approval of York Consortium Partnership as the successful private partner for the York Region Rapid Transit Plan.

The Road Ahead - Transit

By 2026 the Region's population is expected to grow to 1.28 million people and 625,000 jobs.

Growth in traffic on the Region's road system is outpacing population with 25% of the road network currently operating at or near capacity. Seventy percent of the Region's households have access to 2 or more vehicles. Sixty-four percent of the daily trips made in York Region have origins and destinations in the Region.

However, York transit ridership is increasing and is the only transit service in the GTA to increase ridership. Over the past year, YRT has seen an 11% increase in conventional transit ridership to 8.4 million passenger trips with similar increases in specialized transit ridership.

YRT's 5-year targets include increase in transit service hours, and increase in transit market share from 8% to 12% and increase transit ridership by 10% per year.

In a recent poll, York Region residents were asked....

"What would make you use public transit services more often than you do now?"

To promote a greater use of public transit, 25% of York residents responded that transit use would increase with more frequent service/shorter wait times. Transit ridership would also increase with more stops/increased coverage (20%), reduced car availability (12%), reduced transit fares (8%) and the provision of faster service/express buses (7%).

It is interesting to note that 25% of all respondents indicated that no incentive would encourage them to use public transit more than they do now.

Creating Strong, Caring and Safe Communities

VISION 2026 ACTION AREAS:

Celebrating Our Diversity

- Developing an Integrated Transportation Network
- Exploring and implementing innovations and technologies to reduce congestion
- Planning our road system to work efficiently with provincial and interregional infrastructure
- Ensuring that our transportation network co-ordinates with development
- Providing for alternative forms of transportation such as walking and cycling
- Promoting safety on York Region roads through effective policing, education and sensitive design

Making Transit Accessible

- Continuing to improve service and infrastructure for successfully integrated transit service
- Enhancing the provision of specialized transit service
- Developing an optimal mix of transit service types
- Promoting transit usage as a practical and wise alternative to private vehicle use
- Planning for high-level transit services to employment areas in the Region
- Investigating alternative fuel technologies to reduce emissions

Managing and Minimizing Waste

- Encouraging continued diversion of waste from landfill, including recycling
- Enhancing public awareness programs about recycling
- Pursuing new technologies to reduce and handle waste
- Being a leader in waste reduction

Ensuring Water for Our Future

- Ensuring a long-term water source for York Region
- Providing safe and dependable water supply to systems and facilities in area municipalities
- Ensuring stable, cost-effective waste-water treatment
- Building new systems that anticipate growth
- Upgrading water systems to incorporate environmentally sensitive methods

Award Winning Work:

The Regional Municipality of York has been named co-winner of the prestigious Transportation Association of Canada's 2001 Sustainable Urban Transportation Award. The award recognizes the Region's commitment to sustainable transportation efforts through the development of its Transportation Master Plan, a 30-year strategy approved by York Regional Council in June 2002.

Did you know...

The inter-regional network proposed in York Region's Transportation Master Plan consists of extensive GO rail improvements and four rapid transit corridors: Yonge Street from Finch subway station to Newmarket; Highway 7 from the Peel Region boundary to the Durham Region boundary; a north-south connection from the Vaughan Corporate Centre through York University to the Spadina subway line; and a north-south connection from the Markham Centre to the TTC's new Sheppard subway.

Goal 8

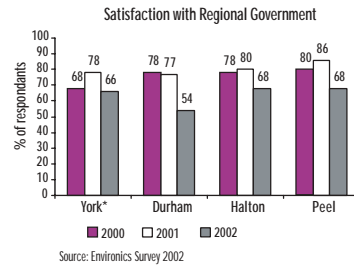
Engaged Communities and a Responsive Region

VISION GOAL STATEMENT:

In 2026, York Region will be known for its citizen involvement and will set high standards for transparent policy making and decision making, effective communication, strong partnerships, clear accountability and best-quality service.

- 66% of citizens are satisfied with Regional Government.
- Citizen Rating of Government Effectiveness levels ranged from the highest (85%) for providing safety to a low of (50%) for providing a range of affordable housing opportunities.
- York Region achieved the highest possible credit rating (AAA) for 4th year in a row.

Typical customer satisfaction rates across all levels of government in Canada last year was 59%. York Region's rate in 2002 was 66%.



COUNCIL INITIATIVES - 2002

- Multi-Year Corporate Planning.
- York Link Community Services Directory.
- Developed a Terms of Reference to establish a permanent Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- Launched YorkExplorer Internet site of web-based interactive mapping.
- Established the Youth Advisory Committee.
- Opened South Services Centre to provide residents with better access to a broad range of York Region programs and services.

SUCCESSES/INNOVATIONS - 2002

- Customer Service Strategy.
- Released the Employee Guide to Customer Service to re-inforce and accompanying training of 80% of staff to date.
- Business Planning Process.
- Achieved highest credit rating (AAA) for 4th year in a row.
- Received Canadian Award for Financial Reporting for 4th year in a row for the Region's Annual Report.
- Redesign of corporate web site to provide better, faster access to information/services for all citizens, including those with disabilities.

Our Customer Service Strategy

York Region's Customer Service Strategy, adopted by Regional Council in 2001, provides staff with standards and tools to help maintain and improve customer service to the public and each other. The strategy is viewed as a "best practice" and has served as a model for other municipalities. The Region also participates in "Citizens First" a national program that looks at ways that governments can improve service delivery to its citizens. We are also working to improve our telephone system and website to improve our ability to deliver timely and efficient customer service to you.

Get to know York Region with YorkExplorer maps!

YorkMaps are published maps that show the whole region.

- Locate an address or place of interest with [YorkLocator](#).
- With [YorkAtlas](#) you can manipulate and query a map on a topic of interest.
- [YorkAerial](#) lets you see York Region from the air.
- You can also [purchase data and services](#) from York Region's [Geomatics Division](#).

Creating Strong, Caring and Safe Communities

VISION 2026

ACTION AREAS:

Proactively Meeting the Needs of Our Customers

- Setting a high standard for customer service
- Delivering services to our multilingual population
- Meeting service needs at the right time, place and price

Building High-Performance Teams

- Attracting and retaining effective staff
- Encouraging continual learning in our organization

Partnering in Service Delivery

- Working with federal and provincial government partners
- Enhancing service by co-ordinating governments in area municipalities and neighbouring municipalities
- Fostering effective working relationships with community agencies and organizations
- Engaging the private sector in alternative service delivery strategies

Being a Region That Involves Its Citizens

- Engaging our residents in decisions that affect their lives
- Enhancing two-way communication with citizens, including the use of technology to exchange information
- Using meaningful consultation to develop effective solutions together with citizens and neighbourhood groups
- Proactively involving York Region businesses

Being Fiscally Responsible

- Investigating service delivery options and funding for them
- Providing cost-effective service
- Pursuing alternative sources of funding

Being Accountable

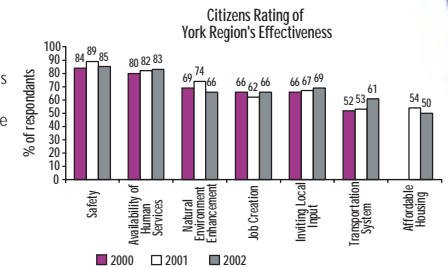
- Evaluating and reporting on our performance
- Seeking feedback from our citizens

"Would you say that you are satisfied with your regional government?"

Overall satisfaction rates with government across Canada has fallen recently. In 2002, 66% of citizens polled rated York Regional government and "very effective" or "somewhat effective". Overall satisfaction with regional government over the last 5 years has increased. Effectiveness levels ranged from the highest (85%) for providing safety to a low of (50%) for providing a range of affordable housing opportunities.

Citizens polled ranked invitations for local input as high (average of 67%) over the past 3 years.

We will continue to improve the way we provide services to the citizens of York Region.



The Next Year

In the months ahead, the Region will be working to further ensure that all strategic planning initiatives (Official Plan, Transit, Human Services Strategy, Greening Strategy, etc.) continue to align measuring, monitoring and reporting with Vision 2026 Annual Progress Report.

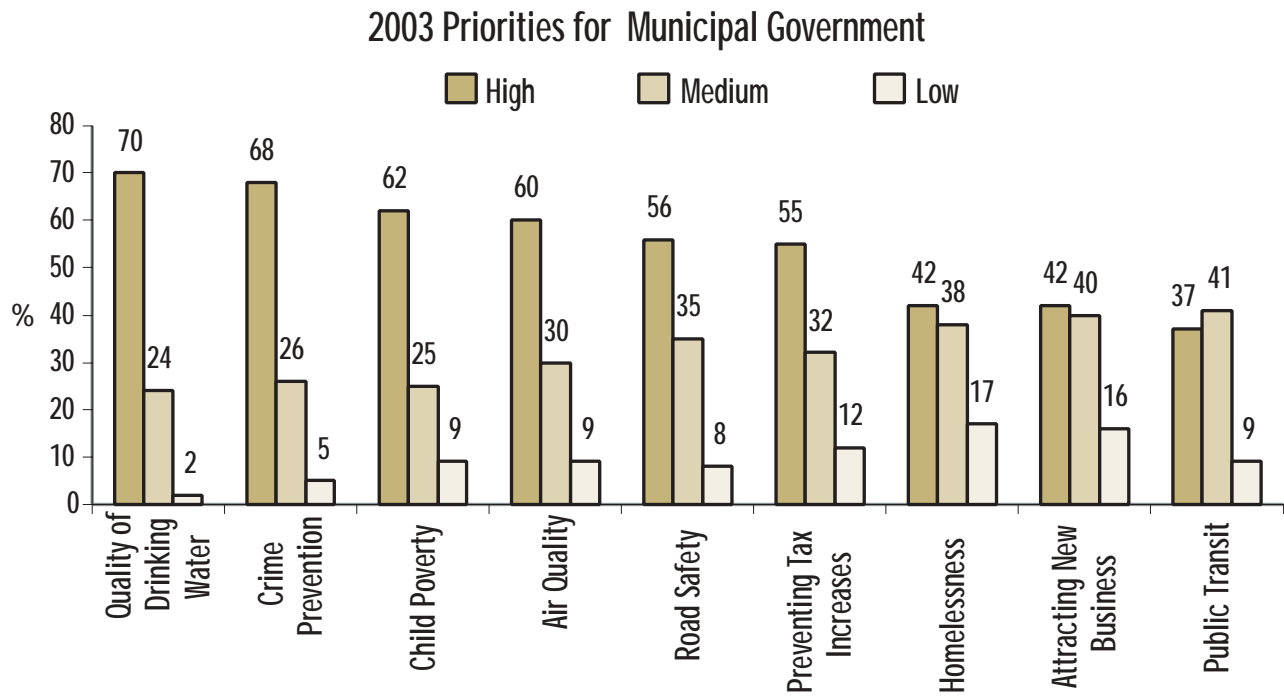
We would like to hear back from you on this first Vision 2026 Progress Report. Please fill out the survey at the back of this report, or fill out the survey online at www.region.york.on.ca under "Vision 2026 Annual Progress Report".

In 2003/04, York Region has an ambitious program to deliver effective and timely services to our citizens. Key initiatives include increased diversion of waste away from landfill, increased access to public transit across the

Region, safer communities and roads, more affordable housing options, and a greener and healthier Region.

Residents were asked to rate what level of priority should be given to specific issues that their local municipal government must deal with in 2003. Improving the quality of drinking water was the highest priority (70%) followed by crime prevention (68%). Residents also felt child poverty (62%), improving air quality (60%), improving road safety (56%) and preventing tax increases (55%) should all be rated as a high priority for their municipal government in 2003.

We look forward to reporting back to you on our progress in 2003.



Source: Environics Survey, 2002

THE "B" LIST:

The following is a list of indicators which were suggested but we weren't able to include in this report. Please tell us what you think of them or list indicators you feel would be more useful in the survey on page 27:

- % Of Regional initiatives involving citizen input/participation.
- % Intensification/ densities in urban cores.
- # Of adverse water quality reports.
- Amount of time to travel to work.
- Walking distance to closest convenience store.
- Residents within 500 meters walking distance to transit.
- # Of volunteers across York Region.
- # Of households that receive drinking water from Regional facilities.
- Smart growth - growth rate compared to land consumption.
- % Gap between income levels.
- Long term care beds available as a % of population.
- Job match - skills of Region's labour force compared to available jobs.
- % Of agricultural land in production.
- % Of population enrolled in continuous learning.
- Hours work lost to illness/disability.
- Police and ambulance response times.
- # Of business assisted through Export Development Initiative.
- # Of adult learning opportunities.
- Business bankruptcy rates.
- # Of human services delivery partnerships.
- Federal and provincial funding levels for various programs.
- Kilometres of streets streetscaped.
- % Of residential and commercial areas served by transit.
- % Of budget invested in environment.
- # Of municipalities with tree planting by-laws.
- # Of municipalities with an environmental advisory committee.
- # Of dams per watershed.
- # Or acreage of publicly accessible parks, forest, publicly owned lands, shorelines/beaches.
- # Of endangered species.

Vision 2026 Annual Progress Report Survey

1. In general, did the Vision 2026 Annual Progress Report provide enough information on how the Region is progressing on each of Vision 2026 eight goal areas?

2. What specifically did you find helpful or informative about the Progress Report?

3. What did you find the least informative?

4. What additional information would you like to see provided in future reports?

5. What indicators from our "B" list on page 26 should we consider using in following years?

6. Are there other indicators you think we should consider using in future reports?

Please tear out and mail this survey to:

Planning and Development Services
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1

Or contact us at:

Phone: (905) 830-4444 x1588
Toll-free: 1-866-258-2026
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2026



2026 Vision
Vision