



Tuesday, December 21, 2010

For Immediate Release

## York Regional Council – December 16, 2010

### *York Region 2011 budget process*

York Region Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Macgregor provided York Regional Council with an update of the 2011 budget process. The business plan and budget timelines for 2011 are as follows:

Budget to be tabled at York Regional Council:	January 27, 9:30 a.m.
Regional committee reviews:	February
Final review by Finance and Administration:	March 3, 9 a.m.
Expected approval by York Regional Council:	March 24, 9:30 a.m.

The business plan includes both Operating and Capital budgets. The Operating budget includes a range of costs that can be categorized as follows:

- Base budget - costs, such as salaries and utilities, to maintain existing services
- Legislative - costs required by the province and other bodies, such as conservation authorities
- Annualization - costs to pay for program commitments made in prior years
- Growth - costs required to maintain existing service levels for added population
- Enhancements - new services or enhanced service levels for residents and businesses

In 2011, York Region's GTA pooling contribution to the province will be reduced by \$13.2 million.

The Operating budget is primarily funded by property taxes, provincial and federal government funding and user fees.

The Capital budget takes into consideration York Region's growth-related capital infrastructure and replacement needs for roads, transit/rapid transit and water/wastewater projects as identified in York Region's 10-year capital and regional master plans.

The Capital budget is funded primarily through a combination of provincial and federal government support as well as Development Charges, which are one-time fees charged for developing a property.

### *York Region Treasurer Lloyd Russell announces retirement*

York Region Treasurer and Commissioner of Finance Lloyd Russell announced his retirement at York Regional Council today, effective May 2011. Mr. Russell joined York Region in February 2006 following the retirement of York Region's former Commissioner of Finance, Sandra Cartwright.

York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch praised Mr. Russell's commitment to public service and the Region's residents, citing his 36-year career with the Government of Ontario, Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, City of Nepean and York Region.

Mr. Russell thanked members of York Regional Council for their ongoing support throughout the years, adding he was looking forward to a new chapter in his life and spending more time with his family.

Mr. Russell will oversee the Region's 2011 Business Plan and Budget, which is anticipated to go for Council approval in the spring.

### ***York Region economic overview***

York Regional Council today received a presentation from Director of Economic Strategy and Tourism Doug Lindeblom that provided an overview of the York Region economy along with a high level summary of several economic indicators. Following are highlights from the presentation:

- In 2008, York Region generated about \$43 billion of output, more than any of the Atlantic provinces.
- While manufacturing makes up the largest share of employment at 17 per cent, York Region's economy is almost as strong in business services and personal services and has strength in areas such as retail trade, finance, wholesale trade, construction and health services.
- York Region's economy is diverse with strengths in information technology, advanced manufacturing, financial and business services and construction. Life sciences and biotechnology companies are also prevalent in York Region.
- The largest employers are household names. However, the vast majority of companies in York Region have fewer than 50 employees.
- Small business accounts for more than 80 per cent of the Region's employment growth.

The balance and diversity of our Regional economy will continue to help the Region weather economic downturns and take advantage of business growth opportunities.

### ***York Regional Council receives update on sustainable waste management***

York Regional Council today was provided an update from Erin Mahoney, Commissioner of Environmental Services, on the Region's long-term waste strategy framework, including the role of the recently approved Durham-York Energy from Waste facility.

York Region's long-term waste management strategy is focused on ensuring sustainability in waste management. This includes maintaining a sustainable natural environment, healthy communities and economic vitality.

The Region has shown continuous improvement in waste diversion and remains committed to an integrated waste management system to drive diversion success. Internationally, Energy from Waste technology is widely accepted in achieving waste diversion goals.

Covanta Energy Corporation, the largest provider of Energy from Waste services in North America, has been selected to design, permit, build, commission and operate the 140,000-tonne-per-year Energy from Waste facility for the Regional Municipalities of York and Durham.

The facility will generate 14 megawatts of renewable energy – enough to power 10,000 homes.

### ***York Region meets Ontario emergency management requirements***

The Regional Municipality of York has completed all necessary requirements under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and *Ontario Regulation 380/04* in 2010.

The Act and Regulation require all Ontario Municipalities to have a comprehensive Emergency Management program in place.

York Region's Emergency Management program includes holding an annual exercise as well as regular staff training, public education and outreach.

This year's exercise, Operation: Strike Three, tested York Region's response to a cargo plane crash, power outage and damage to a York Region water pumping station. The exercise involved several York Region departments, York Regional Police, York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the City of Vaughan Fire and Rescue Services.

York Region's Emergency Management branch publishes an emergency preparedness guide and *Seniors to GO!*, an emergency preparedness guide geared for York Region's seniors. Both guides can be found on York Region's website at [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

### ***York Region Infrastructure Stimulus Fund project update***

York Regional Council received a status update of York Region's 17 infrastructure projects approved through the Government of Canada's Infrastructure Stimulus Fund program.

Twelve of York Region's Infrastructure Stimulus Fund projects are now completed and one is nearing completion.

Four substantially-completed projects are expected to be finished by the original March 31 deadline. A seven-month extension, recently announced by Infrastructure Canada, will provide flexibility, if required, for any unforeseen or weather-related delays and allow additional time for finishing touches.

The \$79-million cost of the 17 projects will be divided equally between the federal government, the province and York Region.

### ***York Regional Council authorizes enhancements of food safety initiatives in York Region***

York Regional Council has authorized additional expenditures of \$208,418 to augment York Region's capacity to deliver the Food Safety Program. The expenditure will be offset 100 per cent by provincial funding and will have no impact on the tax levy.

The Province requires expenditures to occur before March 31, 2011, prior to approval of the Regional budget.

York Region Public Health will use the funding to augment human resources, public education, web-based food safety disclosure, food handler training, staff training and to purchase equipment for activities mandated under the Food Safety Program Standards.

### ***Next regular meeting of York Regional Council***

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, January 27 at 9:30 a.m. at the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

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**Compiled by:** *Tim Paleczny, Corporate Communications Specialist, York Region*  
*Phone: 905-830-4444, Ext. 1238, 416-297-9696 or Toll free 1-877-464-9675*  
*Cell: 905-251-6413 Email: [tim.paleczny@york.ca](mailto:tim.paleczny@york.ca)*