



HUMAN SERVICES
PLANNING COALITION | YORK REGION

Media Release

June 29, 2005

Human Services Planning Coalition launches Stakeholder Resolution of Support Campaign

NEWMARKET – The Human Services Planning Coalition (HSPC) today invited all human service providers in York Region to participate in a new advocacy endeavour – the Stakeholder Resolution of Support Campaign – to speak with an even stronger voice to all levels of government.

The Stakeholder Resolution of Support Campaign calls on human service stakeholders in York Region to sign a resolution in support of three necessary and significant changes:

- The implementation of modern funding models for social services based on the needs of a population calculated on a per capita or per user basis, not on historic allocations
- The immediate inclusion in funding allotments of the costs to provide social services to a growing population, and the recognition going forward that social services funding formulae need to be considered in the context of growth management in order to address the financial impacts of immigration and population growth on human services
- The repatriation of York Region property tax dollars that fund social services in Toronto in an outdated arrangement known as “pooling”

“It’s time to bring social service funding models into the modern world,” said City of Vaughan Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio, Co-Chair of the HSPC. “The funding allocations in use today for social services are not fair to the taxpayers of York Region who, by the end of 2005, will have sent more than \$650-million in pooling dollars to the City of Toronto.”

The HSPC wants all levels of government to recognize that social service providers in York Region, in too many instances, are under-funded especially at a time when York Region continues to grow in both population and diversity.

“A fair and equitable social services system levels the playing field so that every family and every individual has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential,” said HSPC Co-Chair Bill Hogarth. “Every person should have access to the same level of social services, on balance, no matter where they live. That is simply not the case in York Region.”

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During the past decade, 300,000 people moved into York Region and 600,000 more will arrive over the next 25 years. York Region will continue to experience very rapid growth for some time into the future.

The resolution is a follow up to the December 2003 report, *Towards a New Model for Social Services Funding in York Region* (2003). The HSPC believes a solution exists in new funding models based on the principles of adequacy, affordability, equity, stability, flexibility and accountability.

From a cost-benefit perspective, properly-funded social services:

- Attract a vibrant and healthy labour force whose members contribute to economic growth
- Minimize the need to make more expensive investments in crisis services in the future because prevention and early intervention help families through troubled times
- Help new residents and their families to become fully integrated as productive members of their local labour markets and communities
- Help to keep residents from moving away to other areas where a wider range of quality services might be available

The Human Services Planning Coalition (HSPC) was established in 2001 to find solutions to long-term, sustainable, integrated planning and funding of human services in York Region. The HSPC partners include representatives of government, service provider agencies and corporations, the non-profit sector, and consumers of human services. The HSPC proactively responds to rapid growth and diversity in York Region by sharing resources, knowledge and best practices.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the Stakeholder Resolution of Support Campaign package or to become involved is encouraged to contact Susan Taylor, Director of Human Services Planning Branch, York Region, at (905) 830-4444 or 1-877-464-9675, Ext. 1514.

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