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For Immediate Release

York Region wants to hear what you envision for the future

Discussions to yield today's sustainable priorities

NEWMARKET – What are your wishes for the future of our communities? What must we do today to get to where we want to be in 40 years? Throughout 2011, The Regional Municipality of York will ask residents and stakeholders about their ideas to update *Vision 2026* and create a new vision for York Region for 2051.

“York Region faces significant growth and an escalating need for sustainable actions,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “It is vital that residents and stakeholders become more aware of the choices that need to be made now and in the coming years if we hope to achieve the kind of communities residents want to live in by 2051.”

A significant part of the consultation, which will be primarily web-based, is devoted to identifying the vision for York Region in 2051 and what we must do now to arrive at the outcomes we want for the future. Social media tools will potentially reach a wider range of residents. Traditional print and advertising will support the Vision 2051 website and social media sites.

“We are excited about this opportunity to speak with residents and engage our audiences in a new way, using the channels people are active in,” said Town of Newmarket Regional Councillor John Taylor, Chair of the Region’s Planning and Economic Development Committee. “Our online consultation provides a much-needed channel to engage more young people.”

Community design, climate change, energy, transportation, waste management, water management, demographic changes, economic vitality, housing demands, human services and the safety needs of our population are among the issues we will face over the coming years.

The process to develop Vision 2051 is comprised of four steps:

- Examining the continued relevancy of the goal and action areas of Vision 2026
- Analysing key trends, issues and forecasts
- Incorporating recently approved and emerging Regional strategies
- Discussion to obtain a desired vision for 2051 and the steps we need to take to arrive there

A fifth step, defining action, will identify strategic actions to achieve the Vision. This step will be co-ordinated with the development of a corporate strategic plan, which will provide York Region with priorities for the next four years.

While Vision 2051 will define the desired future state for York Region, the strategic plan will define the critical path and the measures York Region will take during 2011 to 2015, the four-year term of the current Council. The strategic plan will be updated every four years to coincide with the terms of Regional Council.

It is anticipated that a draft of Vision 2051 will be brought forward for consideration to Regional Council in the Fall of 2011 and be circulated for review and comment before it is presented to Regional Council for finalization in early 2012.

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

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