January 9, 2015

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Region of York Branch 1311 Yonge Street, Unit 204 Richmond Hill, ON, L4E 3L6 Canada T: 905-830-9565 F: 905-773-7587 redcross ca

Regional Chair Wayne Emmerson The Regional Municipality of York 17250 Yonge Street, Box 147 Newmarket, ON, L3Y 6Z1

Dear Regional Chair Wayne Emmerson,

When a community is in crisis at home or around the world, providing for the immediate needs of the most vulnerable is the number one priority – and the Red Cross is always there to help. Each year, the Red Cross celebrates "March is Red Cross Month", and we would like to invite the Regional Municipality of York to join us in raising public awareness about the work of the Red Cross in our community. This year marks 115 years of service that the Red Cross has given to the communities in York Region.

To acknowledge March is Red Cross Month, we would again appreciate you making a proclamation recognizing March as Red Cross Month, in conjunction with a flag-raising ceremony. Please contact me with the best date for us to join you in a flag-raising ceremony in March.

Every four minutes, the Canadian Red Cross responds to a disaster in Canada. Last year, several communities across Ontario were affected by large-scale disasters, including the December ice storm in Toronto and York Region. The Red Cross also responded to personal emergencies including house fires and evacuations in York Region and other areas in Ontario.

Thanks to the generosity of Canadians, Red Cross volunteers respond to all of these disasters by providing support such as shelter, clothing, food and water, personal items (such as hygiene and baby items), and helping to reunite loved ones who were affected.

In addition to our work in disaster management, the Region of York branch also provides first aid training, violence and abuse prevention workshops and a variety of community support services including health equipment loans.

For 115 years, the Red Cross in York Region has provided help and hope to those in need at home and around the world. We will continue with our mission for many more years to come thanks to your continued support. I would be pleased to provide you with more information or discuss the proclamation or flag-raising ceremony with you in person. I can be reached at <u>beverly.verwey@redcross.ca</u>

Beverly Verwey Branch Council Chair Region of York Branch

Encl.