

Thursday, July 13, 2023

The Regional Municipality of York to consolidate Provincial Offences Act Court

What are the reasons behind merging the Provincial Offences Act (POA) court facility located at 50 High Tech Road, Richmond Hill, into one facility at 17150 Yonge Street, Newmarket?

Our commitment to streamlining operations and enhancing service delivery drives the decision to merge court services into one facility. The factors supporting the recommendation to consolidate facilities include:

- The 78% decrease in in-person services over the past five years reflects the changing nature of service delivery, and the reduced need for physical courtrooms suggests consolidating facilities is a strategic response to this trend
- The immediate need for investments at 50 High Tech to meet hybrid meeting requirements contrasts with existing investments in courtrooms at 17150 Yonge Street, making consolidation a practical choice for efficiency and consistency
- The upcoming expiration of the lease at 50 High Tech in 2031 prompted a proactive review of alternative accommodation solutions

By consolidating our resources, we can improve efficiency and optimize our ability to meet the evolving needs of our community.

How will the consolidation impact service delivery to residents?

The consolidation of the facilities will have a positive impact on service delivery to residents. Centralizing our operations will improve overall efficiency in serving our community. While some services may require residents to visit our Newmarket location, we are also committed to providing a robust virtual option to ensure convenient access for those who prefer or require remote assistance. This blended approach allows us to meet the diverse needs of our residents, offering a seamless and responsive service experience that combines the benefits of in-person interactions and the convenience of virtual engagement.

What is the expected cost saving resulting from the consolidation?

Consolidating the facilities is expected to generate significant cost savings of approximately \$600,000 annually or roughly \$4 million, factoring in the lease agreement at 50 High Tech Road, Richmond Hill, which is set to expire in 2031. By eliminating duplication of resources and optimizing our operations, we can allocate our budget more efficiently, allowing us to invest in enhancing our services and supporting the needs of the community.

How will the consolidation affect York Region staff?

The consolidation will not negatively impact job security for our dedicated staff. A key priority is supporting our workforce during the transition, ensuring the staff's well-being.

What steps will be taken to ensure a smooth transition and minimize potential disruptions during consolidation?

We recognize the importance of a smooth transition and will implement a comprehensive plan to minimize disruptions to court services. This includes careful planning and coordination with stakeholders. We are committed to ensuring our services remain accessible and reliable throughout the consolidation process.

The Regional Municipality of York consists of nine local cities and towns and provides a variety of programs and services to more than 1.2 million residents and 55,600 businesses with more than 615,000 employees. More information about the Region's key service areas is available at york.ca/regionalservices

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