

VISION

Strong, Caring, Safe Communities





Chairman & CEO
Wayne Emmerson



Mayor
Frank Scarpitti
Markham



Regional Councillor
Don Hamilton
Markham



Regional Councillor
Jack Heath
Markham



Regional Councillor
Joe Li
Markham



Regional Councillor
Jim Jones
Markham



Mayor
John Taylor
Newmarket



Regional Councillor
Tom Vegh
Newmarket



Acting Mayor
Joe DiPaola
Richmond Hill



Regional Councillor
Carmine Perrelli
Richmond Hill



Acting Regional Councillor
Godwin Chan
Richmond Hill



Mayor
Maurizio Bevilacqua
Vaughan



Regional Councillor
Mario Ferri
Vaughan



Regional Councillor
Gino Rosati
Vaughan



Regional Councillor
Linda Jackson
Vaughan



Mayor
Margaret Quirk
Georgina



Regional Councillor
Robert Grossi
Georgina



Mayor
Tom Mrakas
Aurora



Mayor
Virginia Hackson
East Gwillimbury



Mayor
Steve Pellegrini
King



Mayor
Iain Lovatt
Whitchurch-Stouffville

Message from York Region Chairman and CEO and Members of Regional Council

York Regional Council is committed to
strong, caring, safe communities.

Vision documents our commitment to York Region. It is the outcome of more than two years of outreach and engagement with residents, partners and staff, listening closely to ensure we truly understood and captured what residents wanted and needed, today and tomorrow.

Vision is also a recognition of our accountability to the community. It is the north star that aligns the work we do and guides the practices of our ambitious and productive workforce. From Vision flows the actions and measurements captured in our Corporate Strategic Plan, departmental plans and, ultimately, the performance plans of each of our staff members.

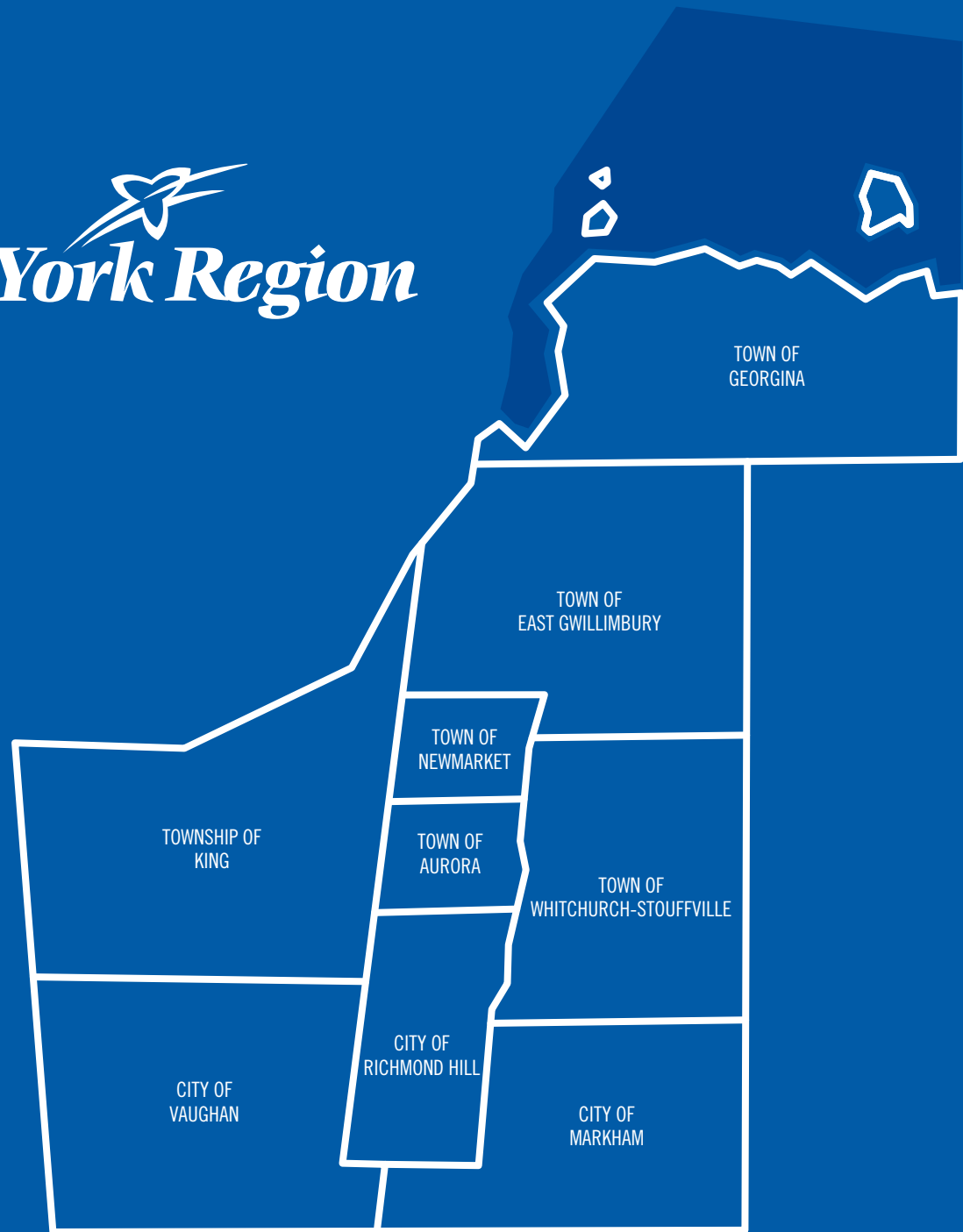
We acknowledge York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples such as the Huron-Wendat First Nation, the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe peoples and the treaty territories

of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. York Region falls under Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Williams Treaties with the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama First Nations and the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Scugog Island First Nations. There are also other land claims and treaty rights involving portions of York Region that have not been definitively resolved. The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation is the closest First Nation community to York Region. We thank these and other Indigenous peoples for sharing their land with us.

With great mindfulness of the past and great hope for the future, we are proud to share our Vision with you and invite you to join us in achieving this Vision for the future.



York Region



VISION

We envision

**strong,
caring,
safe communities**

through our mission of

**working together to serve our thriving
communities— today and tomorrow**

by relying on our values of

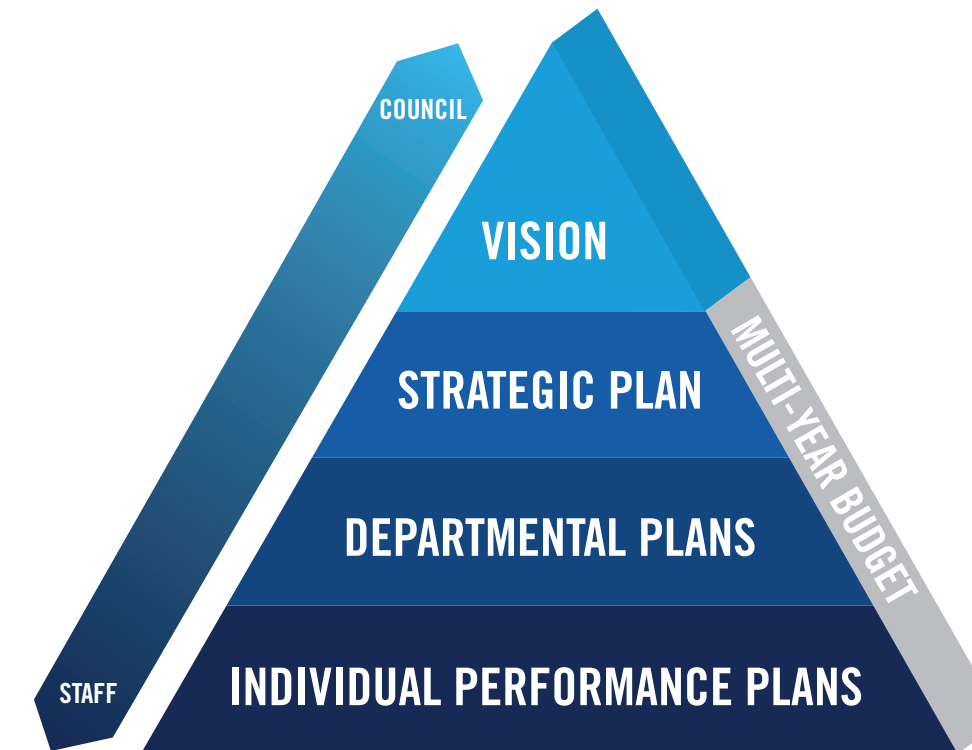
**Integrity
Commitment
Accountability
Respect
Excellence**

York Region's Vision

STRONG CARING SAFE COMMUNITIES

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This diagram illustrates York Region's accountability framework and shows how Vision guides all corporate plans.

York Region's Vision expresses Council's commitment to *strong, caring, safe communities*. It is ambitious, optimistic and aspirational.

Vision serves as the guiding star for the Region's corporate planning activities. It ensures all York Region staff are working in the same direction, regardless of their role or function within the organization. It guides Regional Council's decision making towards achieving the kinds of communities York Region residents envision now for the future.

Vision has a long-term outlook well beyond the time frames of the Region's more time-bound documents, such as the four-year Corporate Strategic Plan and Multi-Year Budgets, and the Region's statutory obligations to plan for population and employment growth with a 30-year outlook. In contrast to these documents and plans, Vision looks well into the future to set the direction today for the kinds of communities in which we aspire to create, work and live.

We Listen

York Regional Council and staff are committed to listening to our community and our partners.

We listened closely to create this Vision, including nearly 4,000 direct engagements with stakeholders.

Community members came together in person to enjoy walk and talks with the Chief Planner

York Region's social agencies and police service came together for consultations

Futurist and planning sessions were held with Council and senior management by renowned experts in the field

Outreach was conducted with every household in York Region through the Region's print publication, York Region Matters

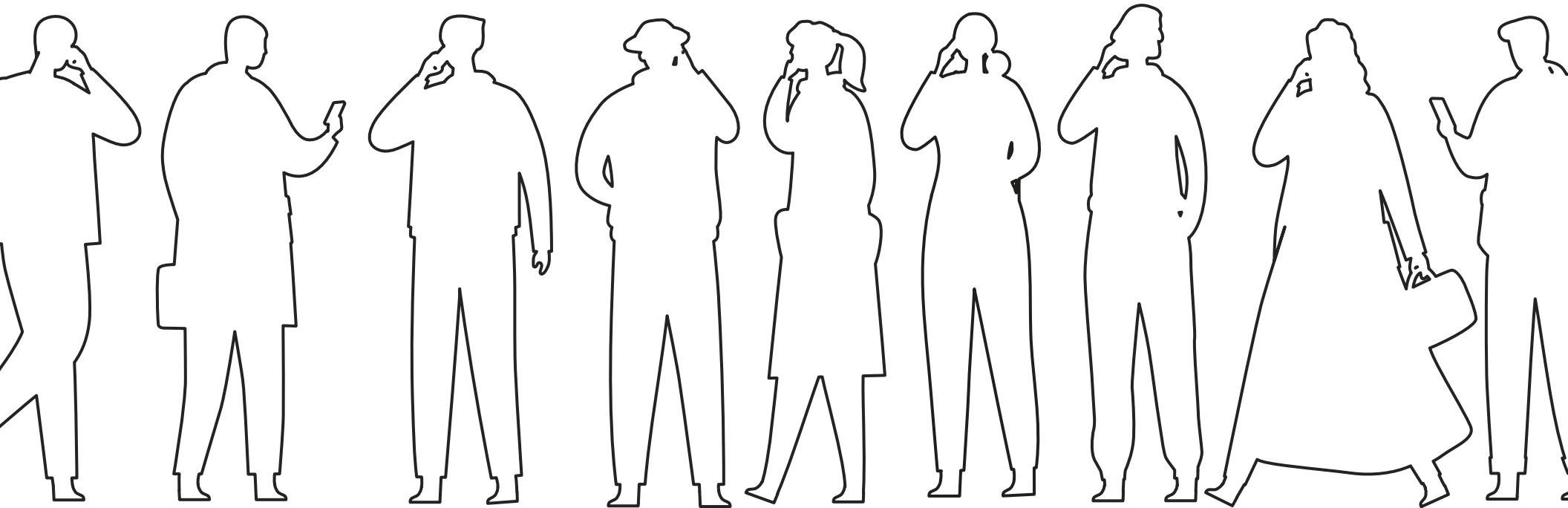
We Survey Residents

York Region has a long history of surveying residents, which is a testament to Council's commitment to understanding resident preferences, needs, opinions and satisfaction levels.

Annual community surveys are statistically representative of the make up of York Region's population, all the way from age, gender and education to diversity.

We surveyed residents and learned that residents felt we are living up to our Vision statement of *Strong, Caring, Safe Communities*, and most residents felt the quality of life here in York Region was very high and safe.

We commit to continuing our surveying of residents, asking questions to ensure Vision resonates with all members of the community and no part of the community is left behind.



84% of residents feel York Region is living up to its **Vision of STRONG, CARING, SAFE COMMUNITIES**

Source: Community Opinion Polling, 2020





We learn about the type of life residents envision now for a better future.

Residents shared their Vision of York Region. In this Vision...

York Region has a knowledge-based economy. It has smart cities, interesting and exciting places to live, work and play, robust services and infrastructure, and a seamless network for mobility of goods, services and people. It is a place of abundant economic opportunity for all.

York Region is renowned for healthy living. It is a place where vulnerable populations can live and thrive as much as others and all have equal access to social services and support for health. York Region is safe and welcoming with accessible opportunities for recreation and affordable housing.

York Region protects its natural environment with a focus on sustainable building and living to reduce our ecological impact.

York Region is renowned for its openness and engagement of community in decision making. It is a place of social inclusion and support that promotes and protects social cohesion for all.

We will continually strive to make this Vision a reality and commit to continuously learning about the type of life residents envision now for a better future.



YOUR **community**
YOUR **ideas**
YOUR **future**



We Evolve

The Vision you hold in your hands is the next step in a long history of visioning by York Region.

Like the Visions that came before, this Vision was developed with a great mindfulness of the past along with a great deal of conversation with the community.

Though York Region's Vision has evolved and matured over time, the overall goals of the Region have remained consistent. These goals align with the Region's areas of focus identified in the following pages – the four overarching conditions of well-being for our communities: Economic Vitality, Healthy Communities, Sustainable Environment and Good Government.

These areas of aspirational focus are at the heart and soul of our work and cascade through our entire organization. They are captured and reported on in the Corporate Strategic Plan and supported by the Region's Multi-Year Budget.



ACTION

WITHOUT **vision** IS
ONLY PASSING **time**,

VISION

WITHOUT **action** IS
MERELY DAY DREAMING,

but VISION **with** ACTION

CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

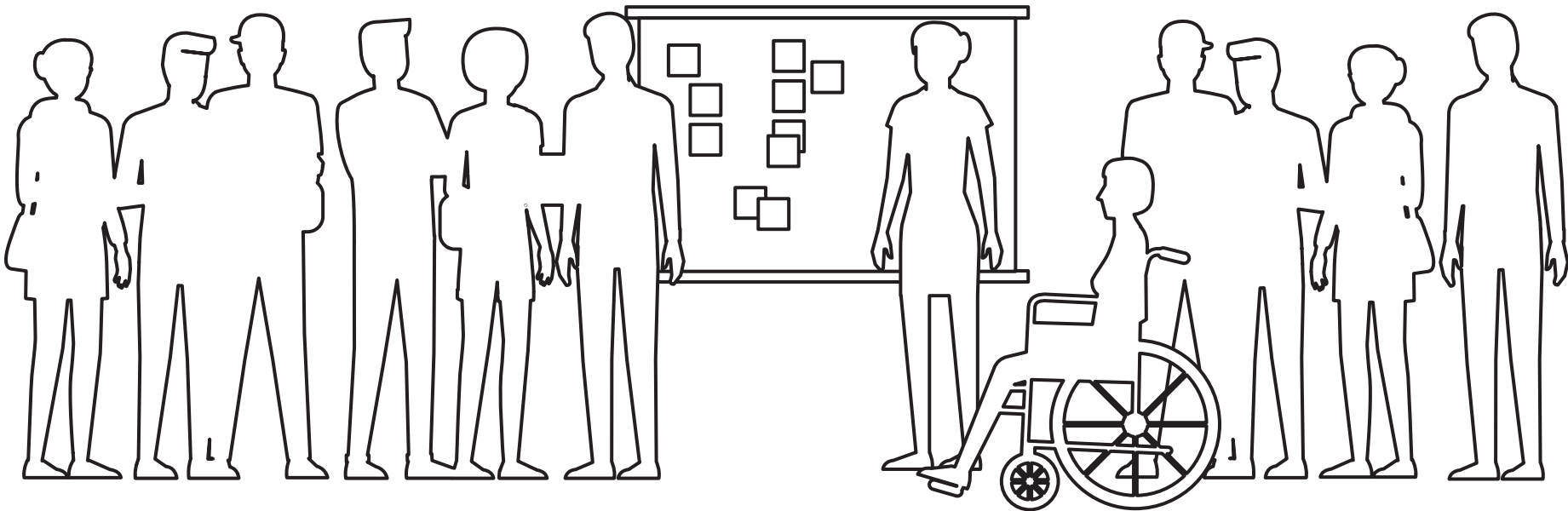
Nelson Mandela

We Aspire

York Region’s action towards Vision occurs through the corporate strategic planning and multi-year budget process.





Community indicators will also be reported to each term of Council to show how we are doing in achieving *strong, caring, safe communities*. These indicators are important to provide integrity to Vision. They are the final steps towards making Vision credible and tangible.

In 2020, more than 80 per cent of residents agreed that York Region was living up to its Vision. It is our goal to improve this belief, along with the results of the rest of the community indicators in this document, as we continue our journey towards achieving Vision.



York Region
is a place of ...
Economic
VITALITY
Healthy
COMMUNITIES
Sustainable
ENVIRONMENT
Good
GOVERNMENT
... **now** and in
the **future**.

Core Components of Vision

VISION STATEMENT: STRONG, CARING, SAFE COMMUNITIES	
AREAS OF FOCUS for the wellbeing of our communities	COMMUNITY INDICATORS show how we are doing in achieving our Vision. Community indicators represent the entire York Region population. Multiple partners are involved in improving results of community indicators towards realizing Vision.
 ECONOMIC VITALITY focuses on what is needed to encourage and sustain economic growth and vitality of the Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Median Household Income• % of York Region residents living in persistent low-income (6 years or longer)• Labour Force Participation Rate• % of population with access to Internet service• # of businesses per 100,000 population
 HEALTHY COMMUNITIES focuses on the livability, health, safety and social well-being of our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• % of population that rates their mental health as very good or excellent• % of households spending 30 per cent or more of income on housing cost• % of population that rates their overall health as very good or excellent• Total crime rate per 100,000 population• Immunization rate for elementary school aged children
 SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT focuses on the need to protect and sustain the natural and built environment and reduce our ecological impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• % of commuters using a travel mode to work other than a personal vehicle• Greenhouse gas emissions measured in tonnes per capita• Average residential water demand (litres/capita/day)• Hectares of green space per 100,000 population• % solid waste diverted from landfill (including energy-from-waste)
 GOOD GOVERNMENT focuses on a sense of community as one that is democratic, accessible, equitable and reliable, where civic engagement and participation is welcomed from all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• % of York Region residents that participate or invest in their community• % of the population aged 12 and older who reported “very strong” or “somewhat strong” sense of community belonging• % of York Region residents who would recommend York Region as a place to live• % of York Region residents who feel York Region is living up to its Vision• Voter participation in last municipal election (as a percentage of eligible voters)

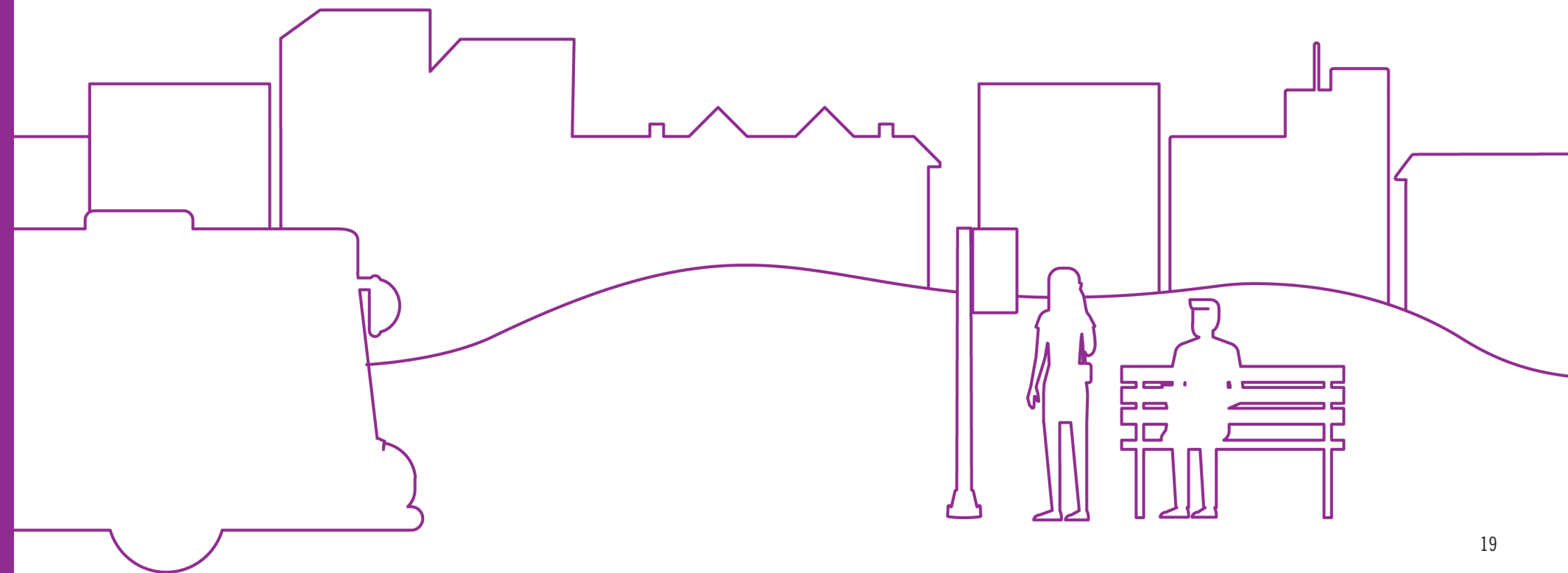


Economic VITALITY

Focuses on what is
needed to encourage
and sustain economic
growth and vitality of
the Region.

HOW IS IT measured?

- Median Household Income
- % of York Region residents living in persistent low-income (6 years or longer)
- Labour Force Participation Rate
- % of population with access to Internet service
- # of businesses per 100,000 population





Healthy COMMUNITIES

Focuses on the livability, health, safety and social well-being of our communities.

HOW IS IT measured?

- % of population that rates their mental health as very good or excellent
- % of households spending 30 per cent or more of income on housing cost
- % of population that rates their overall health as very good or excellent
- Total crime rate per 100,000 population
- Immunization rate for elementary school aged children



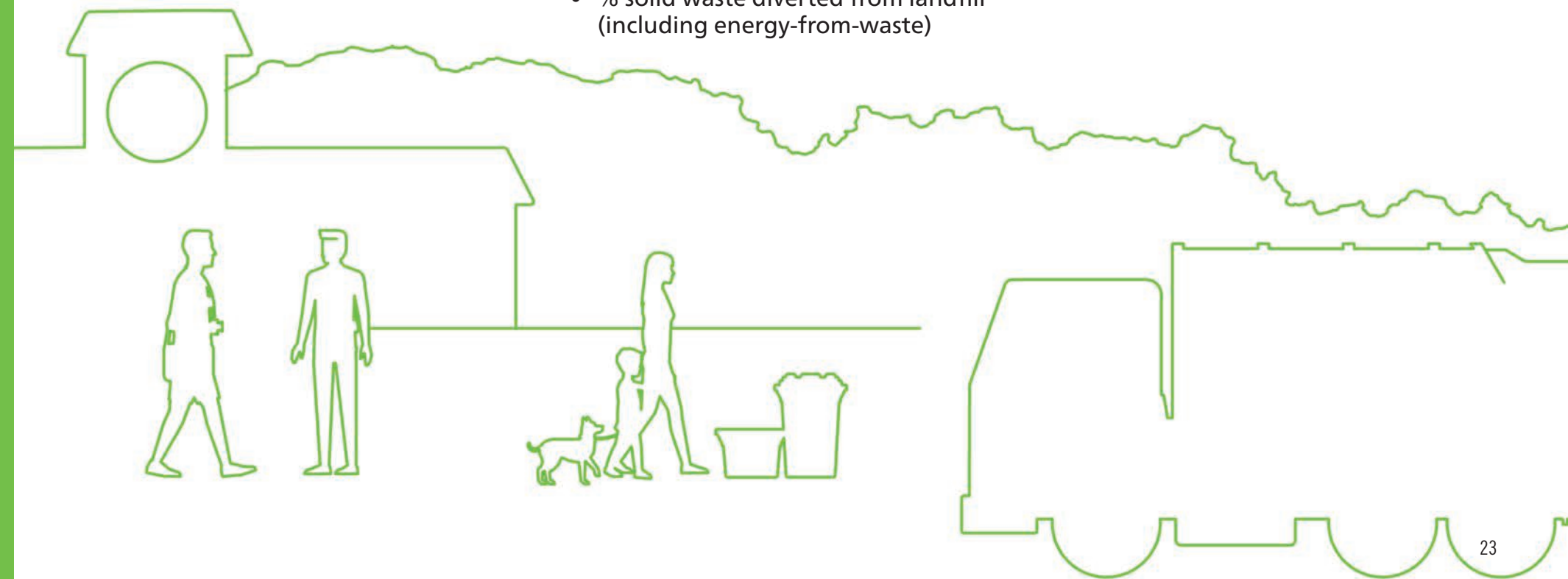


Sustainable ENVIRONMENT

Focuses on the need
to protect and sustain
the natural and built
environment and reduce
our ecological impact.

HOW IS IT measured?

- % of commuters using a travel mode to work other than a personal vehicle
- Greenhouse gas emissions measured in tonnes per capita
- Average residential water demand (litres/capita/day)
- Hectares of green space per 100,000 population
- % solid waste diverted from landfill (including energy-from-waste)



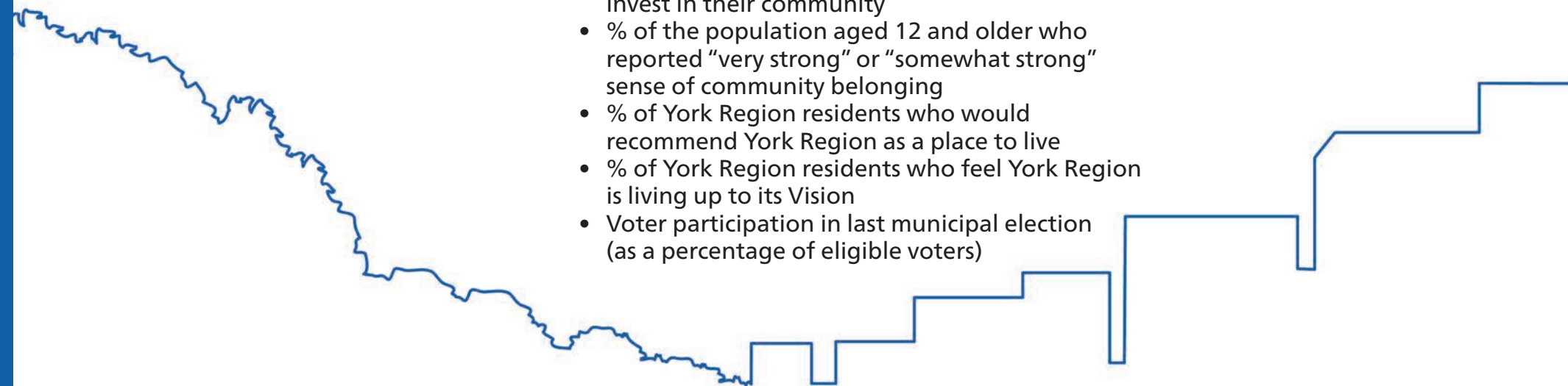


Good GOVERNMENT

Focuses on a sense of
community as one that is
democratic, accessible,
equitable and reliable,
where civic engagement and
participation is welcomed
from all.

HOW IS IT measured?

- % of York Region residents that participate or invest in their community
- % of the population aged 12 and older who reported “very strong” or “somewhat strong” sense of community belonging
- % of York Region residents who would recommend York Region as a place to live
- % of York Region residents who feel York Region is living up to its Vision
- Voter participation in last municipal election (as a percentage of eligible voters)



To the **1.2 MILLION** residents of York Region, including all those who personally responded, and took part in listening events...



VISION BELONGS TO ALL OF US.

It reflects **1.2 million**
aspirations for tomorrow.

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

VISION

