

Clause 14 in Report No. 6 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on April 19, 2018.

14

Donation of Paramedic Services Decommissioned Ambulances  
for 2018

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated March 23, 2018 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. Council authorize the donation of one York Region Paramedic Services ambulance, decommissioned from service in 2018, to Caribbean North Charities Foundation.
2. Council approve updating the guideline for donating decommissioned ambulances to consider on an annual basis all received requests for donation from the previous 12 months and consider donating a maximum of two ambulances per year.

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Report dated March 23, 2018 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services now follows:

1. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. Council authorize the donation of one York Region Paramedic Services ambulance, decommissioned from service in 2018, to Caribbean North Charities Foundation.
2. Council approve updating the guideline for donating decommissioned ambulances to consider on an annual basis all received requests for donation from the previous 12 months and consider donating a maximum of two ambulances per year.

## 2. Purpose

This report seeks approval for the donation of one decommissioned ambulance to Caribbean North Charities Foundation. This request is in alignment with the total forgone revenues outlined in Council's approved donation guidelines. This report also seeks approval to update the guidelines for the donation of decommissioned surplus Paramedic to introduce holding all requests received for donation and presenting Council on an annual basis all requests received in the previous 12 months as well as fixing the number of ambulances considered for donation to two per year.

## 3. Background and Previous Council Direction

Council has guidelines and procedures for decommissioned Paramedic Services vehicle donations

On [March 23, 2017](#), Council adopted revised guidelines and procedures for evaluating donation requests for decommissioned ambulances.

### Guidelines

- A maximum of 25 per cent of the decommissioned surplus vehicles may be donated in any given calendar year provided the value of those vehicles does not exceed \$25,000.
- Donations will only occur to registered not-for-profit, community or international humanitarian organizations of sound repute and generally aligned with the services supported by York Region.
- Preference, in order of priority, will be as follows:
  1. Regional or local uses
  2. Provincial/Federal/International Relief or other organizations
- Organizations must also follow general guidelines, as outlined with the Community Investment Strategy that relate to not being affiliated with a political or religious organization and must adhere to and support the Human Rights Code.

Procedures

1. A report will be forwarded for Council approval each time a request has been received that complies with the guidelines for donation
2. Any expense for shipping, permits, and related costs will be covered by the organization receiving the donation
3. Prior to accepting the donation, the organization will be required to acknowledge, in writing, that The Regional Municipality of York makes no representations or warranties regarding the vehicle, and that they are assuming ownership on an “as is” basis

Since the approval of the guidelines, Council has approved donation of nine decommissioned ambulances

Table 1 provides the detail of past donation approvals.

**Table 1**  
**Donations of Decommissioned Ambulances since Guideline Approval**

Year of Request	Council Approval	Agency/Organization	Number of Ambulances
2011	June 23, 2011	High Adventure Gospel Communication Ministries for a medical centre project in Ongutoi, Uganda	1
2011	June 23, 2011	1st York Region Medical Venturers and Rovers – Scouts Canada	1
2012	May 12, 2012	Guyana Burn and Health Care Foundation	2
2013	January 23, 2014	Friends of Ecuador	1
2014	September 11, 2014	Chippewas of Georgina Island	1
2016	June 23, 2016	St. Johns Ambulance York Region	2
2016	June 23, 2016	Caribbean North Charities Foundation (St. Jude’s – St. Lucia)	1

## Donation of Paramedic Services Decommissioned Ambulances for 2018

On February 16, 2018, Caribbean North Charities submitted a request to the Commissioner of Community and Health Services for a donation of a decommissioned ambulance

Caribbean North Charities Foundation, originally incorporated as Guyana Burn and Healthcare Charitable Foundation, is a Canadian charity domiciled in York Region (registration #875225401RR0001). The name Caribbean North Charities Foundation is used to reflect the geographic expansion of the charity's activities from a single country to the group of countries referred to as the Caribbean. Caribbean North partners with hospitals that serve the general public in affected areas and provide free services to the residents.

The former Guyana Burn and Healthcare Charitable Foundation was the recipient of a previous decommissioned ambulance for the Georgetown Public Hospital in Guyana through the application process, as approved by Council on [May 17, 2012](#), and an additional request for St. Jude Hospital in Vieux Fort, St. Lucia was approved by Council on [June 23, 2016](#).

The request for a decommissioned ambulance is as a result of the devastation of the Commonwealth of Dominica following Hurricane Maria on September 19, 2017

Many areas in Dominica were left in ruins as a result of the hurricane, and many homes and businesses were destroyed. Examples of the destruction are shown in Attachment 1.

Both hospitals on the island sustained significant damage. The main tertiary care hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital, was one of the hospitals affected by the hurricane. The requested ambulance will be deployed to Princess Margaret to assist with access to medical care that does exist. It will further efforts toward rebuilding capacity and reducing mortality rates for patients seeking the appropriate and necessary levels of care.

Caribbean North Charities are participating in hurricane relief efforts as a result of the extensive damaged caused by Hurricane Maria. The request for donation of an ambulance is supported by the Hounourable Frances DelSol, Commissioner of the Trade & Investment Commission for the Commonwealth of Dominica in Canada (Attachment 1).

#### 4. Analysis and Implications

According to donation guidelines, one ambulance may be considered for donation in 2018

Paramedic Services will decommission 12 ambulances in 2018. Under the guidelines, 25 per cent, or a maximum total of \$25,000 foregone revenue may be available for donation.

A new trade-in program has resulted in higher revenues for decommissioned ambulances

The current donation guidelines are based on the average value at auction of decommissioned ambulances. On [September 21, 2017](#) Council approved the direct purchase of the Ambulance Fleet to Demers Ambulance Manufacturers. A provision of the current contract is for trade-in credits for decommissioned ambulances. The average trade-in value through this program is \$13,300 per ambulance and may potentially increase year over year. The average value at auction over the period from 2014 to 2016 was \$8,300. As a result, Paramedic Services is no longer auctioning decommissioned ambulances, in favour of the increased revenues received through the trade-in program.

With higher revenues from trade-in credits (\$13,300 in 2017) the donation guidelines' cap of \$25,000 of forgone revenue means that a maximum of one ambulance may be considered for donation in 2018.

#### **Staff recommend amending the donation guidelines given the higher ambulance values being achieved through the new trade-in program**

Given the higher trade-in values, staff recommend amending the donation guidelines to hold all received requests for donations for up to twelve months and present an annual report to Council detailing all requests received. This will allow Council to consider the merits of all requests rather than on an as received basis. In addition, staff recommend fixing the number of available ambulances to be considered to two per year. Staff will adjust each year's operational budget submission to Council to reflect the forgone revenue based on the average trade in value from the previous year.

All costs associated with the donation will be assumed by Caribbean North and is consistent with Council's donation guidelines

It has been confirmed that the Region will not assume any of the costs associated with shipping the ambulance to the Commonwealth of Dominica through Caribbean North.

Staff recommends providing the ambulance to Caribbean North as the request falls within the Council approved guidelines and procedures.

In addition to the request from Caribbean North, staff have recently received a preliminary inquiring from the Parliament of Uganda for the donation of a decommissioned ambulance. If Council approves the changes to the donation guidelines, should a formal request be received from the Parliament of Uganda, it will be processed according to the new guidelines.

[Link to key Council-approved Guidelines](#)

The staff recommendation is consistent with the Council-approved guidelines and procedure for decommissioned Paramedic Services ambulances.

## 5. Financial Considerations

In 2017, a trade-in program was initiated with the current ambulance vendor. The average trade-in value through this program was \$13,300 per ambulance, nearly 50 per cent higher than past auction values.

The maximum total foregone revenue for decommissioned ambulances under Council's guidelines is \$25,000 and has been factored into 2018 budget estimates for the Paramedic Services Branch.

Any expense for shipping, permits, and related costs will be covered by the organization receiving the donation. There is no added expense to the Region. It is the responsibility of the receiving organization to inspect and prepare the ambulances for use in accordance with local regulation.

## 6. Local Municipal Impact

There is no direct local municipal impact associated with this report.

## 7. Conclusion

The donation of one decommissioned ambulance will support the efforts of the Princess Margaret Hospital in Dominica to provide much needed access to care for patients who are continuing to be affected by the devastation on the island.

Updating the vehicle donation guidelines will assist Council in determining the best disposition of donated vehicles. York Region will benefit from the knowledge that the donation will assist not-for-profit, community or international

## Donation of Paramedic Services Decommissioned Ambulances for 2018

humanitarian organizations and that donated ambulances will continue to be of use.

For more information on this report, please contact Norm Barrette, Chief and General Manager, Paramedic and Seniors Services at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74709.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

March 23, 2018

Attachment (1)

#8321960

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

# Caribbean North Charities Foundation

A Canadian Registered Charity: 875225401 - Providing Outreach Programs Since 1998

Originally Incorporated as Guyana Burn & Healthcare Charitable Foundation (The Burn Care Unit)

66 Major Mackenzie Drive West  
Richmond Hill, ON Canada L4C 3S2

Phone: (905) 737 - 3368  
Email: [guyanorth@gmail.com](mailto:guyanorth@gmail.com)

Website: [www.guyanaburncareunit.com](http://www.guyanaburncareunit.com)



February 16, 2018

Ms Katherine Chislett  
Commissioner of Community & Health Services  
Regional Municipality of York  
17250 Yonge Street-3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Newmarket, ON. L3Y 6Z1

Dear Ms. Chislett:

## Letter of Request Soliciting Donation of A Decommissioned Ambulance

We are a Canadian Registered Charity domiciled in York Region and have been providing compassionate assistance through local institutions, in structured global outreach programs. Our efforts in capacity building result in and are targeted towards improvement of the quality of life and reduction in mortality rates. We partner directly with hospitals that serve the general public and there are no fees applied to users, i.e. for free.

The purpose of this submission is to seek the donation of a decommissioned ambulance for the Caribbean island called Commonwealth of Dominica. This island was devastated by Hurricane Maria on September 19, 2017. Dominica was left in ruins after the hurricane. The island lost most of its homes and the visible destruction is shown on several videos and photographs, a sample of which is attached. Both hospitals on the island were badly damaged. The Princess Margaret Hospital is the main tertiary care hospital there, and the ambulance we are requesting will be deployed to fill the void that now exists.

According to our policies and procedures, we do assume "as is" possession and are responsible for costs onwards that includes preparation and freight, and likely local training, for it to be in service at the hospital. Our information regarding ongoing operational servicing, and local dealerships on the island, will be the serving agent.

Additionally, at the request of the Commonwealth of Dominica Trade Commissioner in Toronto, we are participating in the hurricane relief efforts here, by assuming the role of receiving cash donations and providing timely charities tax donation receipts. These will conclude on Feb 28, 2018.

Our request for an ambulance would go a long way towards rebuilding capacities and thus reducing mortality rates for patients seeking the appropriate level of care.

It is also supported by the Trade Commissioner of Dominica in Canada, Hon Ms Frances Delsol, who has offered to join us in our presentation to council that you may request.

We also express our ongoing gratitude to YRMC and staff for support we get in our programs.

We look forward to a favourable response to our request

Yours truly,

Harry Harakh, MBA.CPA.CA.

President

Caribbean North Charities Foundation





Trade & Investment Commission for The Commonwealth of Dominica, in Canada  
Trade Investment & Tourism

January 6, 2018

Caribbean North Charities  
Attn: Mr. Harry Harakh, President  
66 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 3S2

**Reference: Request for Ambulance for the Commonwealth of Dominica**

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Commonwealth of Dominica, I kindly request your assistance in the provision of assets, more specifically an ambulance, to aid my country that was devastated by Hurricane Maria on September 19, 2017. Dominica was left in ruins after unprecedented battering by the hurricane. The island lost most of its GDP, ninety percent (90%) of all homes lost their roofs and/or were destroyed, thousands are still homeless and electricity and running water are sparse and intermittent, almost three and a half months post the disaster. While international aid has been forthcoming, we are still in desperate need of supplies and support.

The main hospital on the island operated as if in a war zone for the first two weeks post the disaster and the island's medical facilities though operational, are still very fragile. An ambulance would help significantly in the recovery process. Availability of parts and service for Ford, GM or foreign made vehicles is readily available. If successful, the asset will be delivered to the Ministry of Health for use all over the island, to aid the most vulnerable and most in need.

Your kind support of this initiative is sincerely appreciated and acknowledgement of your donation, once received on the island will be forthcoming from the Government of Dominica as well. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Highest Regards,

Frances DelSol  
Commissioner



Trade & Investment Commission for The Commonwealth of Dominica, in Canada  
Trade Investment & Tourism





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P.O. Box 62518, 85 Ellesmere Road, Scarborough, Ontario Canada M1R 5G8 (416)578-6649  
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