



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Committee of the Whole

FROM: Adelina Urbanski,
Commissioner, Community and Health Services

DATE: April 7, 2016

RE: **National Paramedic Services Week – May 22 to May 28, 2016**

National Paramedic Services Week brings together local communities and paramedics and emergency medical dispatchers to recognize the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line". It also helps raise public awareness about safety issues, including how to prevent injuries and what to do in the event of a medical emergency. Council proclaimed this national week for the first time in 2003 and has done so annually since then.

Building upon last year's theme of *Paramedics: Expanding Care*, for 2016 the theme of National Paramedic Services Week is *Enhancing Care – Changing Lives*.

Enhancing Care – Changing Lives reflects the changing role that paramedics have in the evolution of the healthcare system in Canada. Paramedics provide care that goes beyond the ambulance. Community Paramedicine and healthcare partnerships are enhancing the services that are available to those who need it most. The ongoing expansion of Paramedic Scope of Practice is developing paramedic skills to include services beyond the traditional 9-1-1 response. This evolution in Paramedic Scope of Practice has grown to include clinical and psycho-social assessments, chronic disease management, referral to community based agencies and public education.

Initiatives aimed at reducing emergency department visits and wait times and improving community health are major priorities in Canada, and support the theme of Paramedic Services week. York Region Paramedic Services is committed to pursuing opportunities to work with public policy makers, primary healthcare providers, social service agencies, and public safety groups to develop initiatives which will help create enhanced, community-based paramedic services. York Region Paramedic Services' Community

Paramedicine programs, including Expanding Paramedicine in the Community, continue to provide support to patients and clients within the community and enhance efficiency in the system.

In 2015, 545 full-time and casual York Region paramedics:

- Resuscitated 190 patients in sudden cardiac arrest
- Took 159 heart attack patients directly to the Cardiac Centre at Southlake Regional Health Centre
- Delivered 59 babies
- Provided assessment to patients in Emergency Housing Facilities in York Region

York Region Paramedic Services has been successful in meeting the response time performance plan targets of 2015.

In 2015, four York Region paramedics were recognized for providing the highest standard of pre-hospital care to patients

The Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal recognizes professionals in the provision of pre-hospital emergency medical services who performed their duties in an exemplary manner, and are characterized by good conduct, industry, and efficiency. Recipients must have completed 20 years of exemplary service, including at least 10 years in the performance of duties involving potential risk.

The recipients were:

- John Glenn
- Dawn Heshka
- Sandra Hynds
- John Sacco

In recognition of the value of our paramedics and to celebrate National Paramedic Services Week, staff has organized the following events:

Tour for School Groups

On Monday, May 16 and Tuesday, May 17, there will be half-day tours for school groups to showcase the Paramedic Services Headquarters, career and information, and participate in a CPR/AED workshop as part of Public Works week as a lead into Paramedic Services Week.

Public Works Family Fun Day Participation

On Saturday, May 14, Paramedic Services will have a display at the Public Works Family Fun Day that will include CPR demonstrations.

Social Media Messaging

Our @YorkParamedics Twitter account will be used to announce Paramedic Services week and highlight how the service is working to support the theme of *Enhancing Care – Changing Lives*.

Live “Ask a Medic” Broadcast

On Wednesday, May 25, we will Periscope a live “Ask a Medic” broadcast showcasing the work of paramedics, including paramedic education, training, skills and recruitment.

Fleet Day

On Saturday, May 28, Paramedic Services will be hosting a Fleet Day at Upper Canada Mall that will highlight the Paramedic Services Fleet including displays and interactive CPR demonstrations targeting public participation.

All costs associated with the planned activities will be accommodated within the Region’s approved 2016 Operating Budget for the Paramedic and Seniors Services Branch.

Recognizing National Paramedic Services Week 2016 provides an opportunity to increase public awareness regarding the contribution of services paramedics provide in our community, and to promote public safety and community health through engaging stakeholders and community partners.

Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner, Community and Health Services

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