

To the York Regional Councillors of the Seniors Strategy Advisory Task Force

Regional Councillor Heath, Mayor Hackson, Regional Councillor Armstrong, Regional Councillor Ferri, Regional Councillor Hogg, Regional Councillor Rosati, Regional Councillor Wheeler

September 22, 2015

Dear Members of the Seniors Strategy Advisory Task Force,

Re: Well-being of Seniors in York Region

We are the seniors living in the area over ten square Kilometer from East of Warden Avenue to West of Highway 404, from South of Major Mackenzie to North of 19th Street.

Over ten years, many new houses were built and many seniors had moved in our area. Unfortunately, there is no corresponding provision of community services for the seniors such as medical clinic, health centre, community centre, affordable public transport, or safety escort service.

At Peel Region in Mississauga, however, in response to the appeal of the World Health Organization the Councillors take initiative to carry out a series of policies to show respect and concern to their seniors which is not known to the York Region. For example:

In Peel, from Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm and whole days of Saturday and Sunday, they offer \$1 bus fare for the senior. This has greatly encouraged the seniors to get out to the community. In York Region, the fare is \$2 with two hours limitation. This expensive cost has practically discouraged the seniors from going out and created unsafe circumstances when they have to rush between bus schedules of long waiting hours over 30 minutes interval.

While their adult children are out for work daily and the seniors have to stay home to help with the domestic chores sometime looking after their grandchildren, since they normally could not get a driving licence due to various medical reason, it has become a necessity for them to take the public transport for supermarket etc. apart from accessing to other community facilities.

To promote the well-being of the low-income seniors York Region, we believe that the City may follow the good example in Mississauga to lower the bus fare that mainly are used for the low income seniors so that they will have a better mobility not only to fulfill their domestic role but also to participate into the community activities.

We rely on your immediate concern and kind response please.

Yours truly,

Markham Ward 6 Seniors Association

Signature: 

**Markham Ward 6
Seniors Association**