



Community and Health Services Department
Office of the Commissioner

Memorandum

TO: Regional Chair and Members of Council
FROM: Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner of Community and Health Services
DATE: November 19, 2015
RE: **2015 Excellence Canada – Ontario Accessibility Award**

This memo serves to advise the Regional Chair and Members of Council that The Regional Municipality of York has been awarded the 2015 Excellence Canada – Ontario Accessibility Award. The award recognizes and congratulates organizations that have shown a commitment to providing excellent accessibility initiatives to accommodate people with disabilities.

To achieve this award, organizations must not only meet the requirements of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*, they must exceed compliance by implementing activities above and beyond compliance with the legislation. Regional Council's commitment to creating an accessible community is reflected in the many initiatives the award highlights, across all departments, not only in response to the AODA but because creating accessible communities is embedded in how we serve our community.

Achieving an Excellence Canada – Ontario Accessibility Award is further recognition that the Region is respected as an accessibility leader across Ontario. In its correspondence to York Region, Excellence Canada noted: "The men and women who serve The Regional Municipality of York on Council, in the office and in the field, have demonstrated by their vision, words and actions, their commitment to creating a society that is fair, respectful and accessible to people of all abilities."

This great honour is founded in Council's long-standing commitment to accessibility and is shared by the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee and York Region employees who continue to work hard to create accessible communities where all people can participate fully.

This is the second time York Region has been recognized with this prestigious award from People Access, a division of Excellence Canada. This independent not-for-profit organization was selected by the Province to help raise awareness of the AODA throughout the province.

As corporate lead for accessibility I thank all who have been involved in our accessibility efforts. Together we share this honour and will continue to strive for excellence in the work that we are doing to help achieve the Region's vision to create strong, caring and safe communities for everyone.

Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

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