



Community and Health Services
Office of the Commissioner

Memorandum

TO: Members of Council

FROM: Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

DATE: March 26, 2015

RE: **National Access Awareness Week - May 31 to June 6, 2015**

Since 2005, Council has affirmed its commitment to creating an accessible York Region by recognizing National Access Awareness Week with the community. York Region plans National Access Awareness Week activities in partnership with the Municipal Staff Reference Group which includes accessibility professionals from York Region, York Regional Police, local municipalities, hospitals and school boards.

I am writing to formally request that York Regional Council endorse May 31 to June 6, 2015, as National Access Awareness Week in The Regional Municipality of York. If approved, it is also requested that the Regional Clerk forward this letter to the Councils and Accessibility Advisory Committees of local municipalities for their information and consideration.

National Access Awareness Week was established in 1988 in response to a request from Rick Hansen following his Man in Motion World Tour. Its aim is to bring together, in a spirit of partnership, people with disabilities, organizations who serve them, business, labour and governments to affect meaningful changes in the daily living of people with disabilities.

Celebrations this year are especially noteworthy as 2015 marks the tenth anniversary of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. For 10 years, public, private and non-profit organizations across Ontario have been working together to improve the everyday lives of people with disabilities.

York Region reflects these ideals in its strategic direction to foster inclusive and accessible communities. National Access Awareness Week offers an opportunity to celebrate the work that is being done across the Region to make programs and services more accessible for everyone.

Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

LD/LG/ph

Copy to: Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
York Region Municipal Staff Reference Group