

Clause No. 18 in Report No. 7 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on April 17, 2014.

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NATIONAL PARAMEDIC SERVICES WEEK

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated March 20, 2014 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Council recognize the week of May 25–31, 2014 as National Paramedic Services Week 2014.

2. PURPOSE

This report seeks to request Council’s recognition, during National Paramedic Services Week 2014, of the contributions made by York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff to the health, safety and well-being of regional residents and visitors to our region.

In addition, this report will provide an overview of the planned activities during this celebratory week.

3. BACKGROUND

Paramedic Chiefs of Canada and the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs approved transitioning Emergency Medical Services Week to Paramedic Services Week nationally

In recognition of the broader role paramedics are playing in the delivery of both emergent and non-emergent health care to Ontarians, many municipal Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies have transitioned to be named Paramedic Services. Municipalities that have transitioned to Paramedic Services include: County of Frontenac, Halton Region, City of Hamilton, City of Kawartha Lakes, County of Lanark, United Counties of Leeds

and Grenville, Northumberland County, City of Ottawa, Region of Peel, County of Peterborough, County of Renfrew, and County of Simcoe. The City of Toronto is under transition to Paramedic Services.

National Paramedic Services Week brings together local communities and emergency medical personnel 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 National EMS week for the first time in 2003 and has done so annually since then.

For 2014, the theme of National Paramedic Services Week is *Our family caring for you*.

Paramedics are moving forward and developing strong working relationships with other health disciplines, regulators and government officials. *Our family caring for you* reflects the changing role that paramedics have in the evolution of the health care system in Canada.

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 EMS 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 EMS' pilot projects with respect to expanding paramedicine in the community, are currently underway, introducing a community-based paramedicine approach with the intention of better using EMS resources and enhancing efficiency in the system.

In 2013, 451 full-time and casual York Region EMS paramedics resuscitated 123 patients in sudden cardiac arrest; took 173 heart attack patients directly to the Cardiac Centre at Southlake Regional Health Centre; delivered 79 babies; and assessed 186 patients at emergency social service shelters. York Region EMS has been successful in meeting the response time performance plan targets of 2013.

Four York Region Paramedics recognized for providing 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. Once a paramedic has performed his/her duties in an exemplary manner for over 30 years of service, they are

awarded a First Bar. First Bars were presented to four York Region EMS staff in 2013. The recipients were:

- John M. Anderson
- John A. Hewson
- Kevin G. Kwiecien
- Andrew John Liski

Blair Croker and Michael Sean McPeake were recipients of their Second Bar recognizing over 40 years of exemplary service.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Paramedic services recognize the growing need for ongoing public education in the following areas:

- When to call 9-1-1
- Importance of knowing and initiating cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- Advancement of EMS pre-hospital care skills
- Placement and training in the use of public access defibrillators
- York Region paramedic involvement in the community includes paramedics in shelters, Community Referrals Emergency Medical Services and the Expanding Paramedicine in the Community trial
- Involvement with new Canadian residents

Events throughout the week will highlight the role of paramedic services and will educate the public about injury prevention, safety awareness and medical emergencies.

Proposed schedule of events during week of May 25–31, 2014

Family Fun Day

In partnership with Environmental Services and Transportation and Community Planning, a kick-off event called *Family Fun Day* will be held at the EMS headquarters at 80 Bales Drive East in the Town of East Gwillimbury on Saturday, May 24, 2014. This event will include EMS displays focusing on safety messages, and a car seat clinic.

Media Awareness

This is an opportunity for members of the local media to perform simulated paramedic skills. On Wednesday, May 28, 2013 at EMS Headquarters, from 9 a.m. to noon, the EMS simulation lab will host local media.

Link to key Council-approved plans

This report directly contributes to supporting the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan objective to *optimize the health of the community for all ages and stages through health care delivery, protection, prevention, and promotion.*

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Emergency Medical Services staff will volunteer their time in order to attend the EMS Week events. All costs associated with the planned activities will be accommodated within the Region's approved 2014 Operating Budget for the EMS Branch.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

National Paramedic Services Week signage will be provided to all local municipalities to display at their municipal offices. The nine local municipalities may benefit from the initiative through increased public education and awareness of York Region EMS and the skill, dedication, and professionalism of York Region EMS paramedics.

7. CONCLUSION

Recognizing National Paramedic Services Week 2014 provides an opportunity to increase public awareness regarding the contribution of services paramedics provide in our community.

For more information on this report, please contact Norm Barrette, Chief and General Manager, York Region Emergency Medical Services at Ext. 74709.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.