



November 7, 2013

Dear Chairman Fisch,

**RE: Invitation to the Regional Municipality of York to Participate in the Evergreen CityWorks Infrastructure Leaders Council**

We would like to thank you, Bruce McGregor, Bill Hughes and Lina Bigioni for taking the time to meet with us on October 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss our CityWorks program and how the Regional Municipality of York might get involved.

By way of this letter, we would like to invite the Region to be a participant in the CityWorks Infrastructure Leaders Council. This invitation-only group brings urban leaders together from across sectors to direct and advance innovations and ideas needed to ensure our cities thrive in the global economy. Additional information about the Council is attached.

CityWorks is Evergreen's newest program. By focusing on the GTHA and beyond our goal is to tackle critical infrastructure issues — from housing and transportation to energy, water and waste — that are essential to our prosperity. We bring together the public, innovators, and decision-makers to generate green infrastructure in cities across Canada and beyond. We experiment with new ideas and build coalitions behind them to ensure their adoption. We know that change can happen when the public is engaged in ways that are relevant to them.

Evergreen has been active in York Region for over a decade. During this period we have funded numerous community and school greening projects across the region and have built successful partnerships with the municipalities of Richmond Hill and Markham to deliver tree planting and community garden programs. We also work directly with York Region staff to support your Regional Forest community stewardship program. In total we have brought over \$800K in new funding to the Region and engaged over 10,000 residents. We would be thrilled to explore additional opportunities to collaborate including your Water for Tomorrow program

As you know CityWorks is also in conversation with York Region Transportation and Community Planning to explore opportunities to apply scenario planning to enhance the Region's Transportation Master Plan Update process. We have several funding proposals pending to support this innovative partnership.

Thank you for considering the invitation. We hope that you will consider participating and adding York Region's voice to this important conversation. We look forward to continuing the discussion. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

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