

Monday, March 4, 2019

## York Regional Council – Thursday, February 28, 2019

Live streaming of the public session of Council and Committee of Whole meetings is available on the day of the meeting from 9 a.m. until the close of the meeting. Past sessions are also available at [york.ca/councilandcommittee](http://york.ca/councilandcommittee)

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### **York Regional Council approves 2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan**

York Regional Council approved the 2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan: From Vision to Results, which outlines the Region's priorities to meet the needs of our growing community.

Aligned with the current term of Council and four year budget, the Strategic Plan outlines the Region's commitment to making progress in the following four priority areas:

- Increased economic vitality
- Support community health, safety and well-being
- Build sustainable communities and protect the environment
- Deliver trusted and efficient services

Developed in collaboration with staff from all departments and boards, including York Region Rapid Transit, YorkNet and Housing York Inc., the Strategic Plan guides the Region towards Council's vision of strong, caring and safe communities.

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### **York Regional Council approves 2019 \$3.2 billion budget**

York Regional Council has approved a \$3.2 billion budget, the first in the four-year budget coinciding with the current term of Council. The 2019 budget includes a net tax levy increase of 2.96%, plus an additional 1% Roads Acceleration Reserve. The combined 3.96% tax increase for 2019 will add approximately \$95 to the average residential property bill.

Highlights of the budget include:

- Planning and design of the Yonge Subway Extension into Richmond Hill/Langstaff Centre – a critical link in a comprehensive transit system

- Continuing the full build-out of YorkNet's fibre network and extending coverage into the Region's under-served areas
- Increasing the Region's Community Investment Fund by \$850,000 to provide more stability to community agencies who work with low to moderate income residents of York Region
- Implementing the new Regional Forest Plan to better balance public use of the York Regional Forest with ecological needs
- Funding and administering more than 6,700 social housing units owned and managed by Housing York Inc. and other community housing providers
- Adding 45 York Regional Police officers and eight civilian staff to ensure the Region is further prepared for cannabis legalization, and to address overall needs associated with workload and growth
- Hiring 12 new Paramedics to respond to the needs of a growing and aging population
- Delivering wastewater capacity to meet anticipated growth needs in the municipalities of Vaughan, East Gwillimbury, Newmarket and Aurora

The \$2.3 billion operating budget includes:

- \$621 million for Community and Health Services: Initiatives include helping fund and administer more than 6,700 social housing units owned and managed by Housing York Inc. and other community housing providers
- \$612 million for Environmental Services: Services include providing safe water and wastewater treatment for 1.2 million people
- \$462 million for Transportation Services: Maintaining a safe and efficient road network, including more than 4,200 lane-kilometres of road, 2,000 Regional road intersections, bus rapid transit corridors, bridges, sidewalks and cycling lanes
- \$368 million for York Regional Police to ensure York Region continues to remain among the safest places to live in Canada

The \$867 million capital budget includes:

- \$206 million for transit: Projects include advancing planning and design of the Yonge Subway Extension, completing the Cornell bus terminal and working on two transit operations, maintenance and storage facilities
- \$156 million for water and wastewater: Continuing the work on the Upper York Sewage Solutions Project to meet anticipated growth needs in the municipalities of East Gwillimbury, Newmarket and Aurora
- \$95 million for Community and Health Services: Projects include redeveloping affordable housing options such as those in Unionville and Whitchurch-Stouffville
- \$81 million for Property Services: Continuing construction of a new York Region facility at 17150 Yonge Street in Newmarket to provide consolidated access to some of the Region's public services

The 2019 budget includes an updated 10- year capital plan, providing spending of \$6.6 billion to 2028. The 2019 budget reflects the directions and strategies set out in the 2019 to 2022 Strategic Plan.

The Roads Capital Acceleration Reserve will be dedicated to accelerating construction on numerous roads projects identified in the capital plan.

The budget includes an outlook for the remaining three years of this Council term with an annual tax levy increase of 2.96% from 2020 to 2022, which is inclusive of contributions to the Roads Capital Acceleration Reserve.

Information on York Region's 2019 budget is available at [york.ca/budget](http://york.ca/budget) including operating, capital and Roads Acceleration Reserve backgrounders.

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### **York Regional Police 2019 budget approved**

York Regional Council approved the 2019 York Regional Police budget which includes a net operating budget of \$333.9 million and a capital budget of \$33.5 million.

The approved budget will assist York Regional Police in meeting the increased demands for service. Highlights include:

- Adding 45 officers and eight civilians to support workload and growth of the Region, as well as legislative reforms such as the legalization of cannabis
- Funding to support the construction phase of a New #1 District serving the residents of the Town of Newmarket, Town of East Gwillimbury, Township of King and Town of Aurora
- Renovations to facilities and the purchasing of vehicles and other specialized equipment

The York Regional Police budget funds a wide range of public services that support community safety and well-being across York Region.

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### **York Region Rapid Transit Corporation 2019 budget approved**

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York Regional Council approved the 2019 York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (YRRTC) budget that will support the future of rapid transit in York Region. Highlights include:

- Supporting the Yonge subway extension from Finch Avenue to Highway 7 in the Town of Richmond Hill
  - Opening and commissioning of two rapidways in the City of Vaughan and one in the Town of Newmarket
  - Completion of the SmartCentres Place Bus Terminal in the City of Vaughan and the Cornell Bus Terminal in the City of Markham
  - Continuing work on the Yonge Street rapidway in the Town of Richmond Hill
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## **Conservation Authorities 2019 budgets approved**

York Regional Council approved the 2019 Conservation Authorities budgets for the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA). The TRCA and the LSRCA work alongside federal, provincial, municipal and community partners to protect, restore and manage the natural environment.

In 2019, the Region will contribute approximately \$8 million to the TRCA and \$5.6 million to the LSRCA. Highlights include:

- Develop phase two of the TRCA flood forecasting and warning website
- Continue partnering on York Region's Climate Change Action and Implementation Plan
- Continue the acquisition process for 190 additional hectares of valley lands across York Region
- Continue implementing the LSRCA strategic plan which includes four goals areas: Creating a safer, healthier, livable watershed; Gain knowledge and increase certainty; Create a connected and engaged watershed community; and Become a stronger more valued organization

This funding will also support the TRCA and LSRCA to carry out their mandate, through powers granted under the Conservation Authorities Act to establish and undertake programs furthering conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources.

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## **The first four-year budget for YorkNet approved**

York Regional Council approved the 2019 budget of \$2.1 million for YorkNet, the Region-owned corporation that builds and manages a high-speed, open-access dark fibre network. Highlights include:

- Funding for network construction
- Establishing reserves for resource replacements
- Project planning for the Connect to Innovate grant application

The YorkNet budget represents 0.1% of the total 2019 York Regional Budget and supports Economic Vitality and Good Government priority areas of the 2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan.

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## **Housing York Inc. 2019 budget approved**

The Board of Directors for Housing York Inc. (HYI) approved the 2019 budget which will focus on implementing the third year of Housing York's 2017 to 2020 Plan, Achieving New Heights Through Innovation and Sustainability.

Total revenues for HYI are projected to increase by \$1.6 million over 2018. HYI's increase in expenditures is driven by the completion of Woodbridge Lane in 2019, a 162-unit mixed income building owned by Housing York Inc.

Housing York Inc. is The Regional Municipality of York's housing corporation. It operates 35 housing properties in all local cities and towns housing over 4,000 residents. The 2019 budget gives HYI the fiscal stability and sustainability it needs to continue to provide quality affordable housing to York Region residents.

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### **York Regional Council approves Terms of Reference for Governance Task Force**

York Regional Council approved the Terms of Reference for the Region's Governance Task Force. Composed of the York Region Chairman and CEO and Mayors from all nine cities and towns, the task force will receive information and provide advice to Council related to Regional Governance changes.

The terms of reference, which reflect the Provincial review of Regional governments across Ontario, provide the task force with background information, research findings and supporting documentation to respond to the Regional Review. The terms of reference also serve to help task force members provide advice to Council relative to the optimal size and composition of York Regional Council.

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### **York Regional Council appoints members to its Accessibility Advisory Committee**

York Regional Council appointed City of Markham Regional Councillor Don Hamilton as Chair of the 2019 to 2022 term of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC) as well as 12 citizen committee members.

The YRAAC advises Regional Council on how to make programs, services and facilities more accessible in our community.

The inaugural meeting of the YRAAC will take place on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 4 p.m. in the York Region Administrative Centre, Seminar Room, 17250 Yonge Street, Town of Newmarket.

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### **York Regional Council appoints Human Services Planning Board**

York Regional Council has appointed City of Markham Regional Councillor Jack Heath and Rebecca Shields, CAO of the Canadian Mental Health Association, as Co-Chairs for the 2019 to 2022 term the Human Services Planning Board.

Established by Regional Council in 2010, the Human Services Planning Board is a multi-sector collaborative with a mandate to build capacity and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of human services in York Region. For the 2019 to 2022 term, the HSPB will also serve as the Advisory Committee to Council for the preparation of a Community Safety and Well-being plan.

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### **York Regional Council appoints Community Partnership Council**

York Regional Council appointed City of Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Social Enterprise Canada and CEO Patricia Cousins as Co-Chairs for the 2019 to 2022 term of the Community Partnership Council (CPC). Regional Council also approved the appointment of 23 additional CPC members from community, government and public organizations.

Working collaboratively with Regional Council, the mandate of the CPC is to support the implementation of the 2017 to 2021 York Region Newcomer Strategy and the integration of newcomers living in York Region.

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### **Bill Cober appointed as Township of King alternative representative to York Regional Council**

York Regional Council approved King Township Ward 4 Councillor Bill Cober as the Township's alternative representative to Regional Council for the duration of the current Council term. A motion to appoint Councillor Cober was passed by the Township of King Council on December 10, 2018.

Amendments to the Municipal Act allow for a local council to appoint an alternate to their primary member of Regional Council, should the primary member be unable to attend a meeting. The appointment of an alternate is at the discretion of local council.

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### **Greg Beros appointed as Town of Richmond Hill alternative representative to York Regional Council**

York Regional Council approved Town of Richmond Hill Ward 1 Councillor Greg Beros as the Town's alternate representative to Regional Council for the duration of the current Council term. A motion to appoint Councillor Beros was adopted by the Town of Richmond Hill Council on February 25, 2019.

Amendments to the Municipal Act allow for a local council to appoint an alternate to their primary member of Regional Council, should the primary member be unable to attend a meeting. The appointment of an alternate is at the discretion of local council.

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### **Next regular meeting of York Regional Council**

York Regional Council will meet on Thursday, March 21, at 9 a.m. in the York Region Administrative Centre Council Chambers, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket.

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The Regional Municipality of York consists of nine local cities and towns, and provides a variety of programs and services to 1.2 million residents, 51,000 businesses and 620,000 employees. More information about the Region's key service areas is available at [York.ca/regionalservices](http://York.ca/regionalservices)

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