



**Agenda**  
**YORK REGIONAL COUNCIL**

June 27, 2024

Immediately following Shareholder Meetings  
Electronic and In-Person Meeting  
Council Chambers  
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

Quorum: 11

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**Page No.**

**A. Call to Order**

**B. Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations.

Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land.

We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.

**C. Disclosures of Interest**

**D. Minutes of Council**

D.1 Council Meeting held on May 23, 2024 1

D.2 Council Special Meeting held on May 30, 2024 9

**E. Presentations**

None

**F. Deputations**

(Subject to Council granting deputant status.)

None

## G. Communications

### G.1 **June 13, 2024 Committee of the Whole Item I.2.1 – York Region's 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan** 12

Memorandum dated June 19, 2024 from Katherine Chislett,  
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Recommendation: Add recommendation #5 to Item H.2, as follows:

1. The Regional Chair send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Members of Provincial Parliament who represent York Region to request an increase of \$7 million to York Region's annual Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program allocation, starting in 2025, to fund operating costs of the rapid deployment actions.

(See Item H.1, Committee of the Whole Item I.2.1)

(See Item H.2)

### G.2 **Homelessness Service System Plan** 14

Correspondence dated June 12, 2024 from Clovis Grant, Chief Executive Officer, 360kids

Recommendation: Receive

(See Item H.1, Committee of the Whole Item I.2.1)

(See Item H.2)

### G.3 **York Region's Response to Bill 194 – Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act, 2024** 16

Memorandum dated June 18, 2024 from Dino Basso,  
Commissioner of Corporate Services

Recommendation: Receive

### G.4 **ANCHOR Funding Proposal** 23

Correspondence dated June 12, 2024 from Shernett Martin,  
Executive Director and Marcie Boothe, Board Chair, ANCHOR  
Canada

Recommendation: Receive

(See Item H.1, Committee of the Whole Item F.2)

## H. Consideration and Adoption of Reports

**H.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting - June 13, 2024** 30

**H.2 York Region's 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan** 46

This item was referred from the Committee of the Whole meeting on June 13, 2024.

Report dated May 30, 2024 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services recommending that:

1. Council approve York Region's 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan (Attachment 1).
2. Council approve the rapid deployment actions for Emergency and Transitional Housing set out in Appendix A, including approval of immediate actions with an estimated net operating cost of up to \$3.1 million in 2024, to be funded from within the existing Community and Health Services Budget, with funding for ongoing annual net operating costs of up to \$7 million beyond 2024, equivalent to 0.5% of the 2025 net tax levy, to be identified and considered through the 2025 Budget process.
3. Commissioner of Community and Health Services be directed to include a capital plan for consideration as part of the 2025 budget process for development of new emergency and transitional housing projects.
4. The Regional Clerk circulate York Region's 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan to all local municipalities, the provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Associate Minister of Housing, as well as local area MPs and MPPs, Ontario Health Teams in York Region, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the United Way Greater Toronto.

**H.3 Minutes - Audit Committee Meeting - June 13, 2024** 109

Recommendation: Adopt the recommendations

## I. Introduction and Consideration of Bylaws

**I.1 2024-28 Parking Bylaw Amendment - Keele Street Stopping Prohibitions 112**

A bylaw to amend Bylaw 2023-34 being a bylaw to prohibit or regulate parking and stopping on Regional roads

**I.2 2024-29 Town of Georgina Construction Financing Bylaw [Replacement Civic Centre] 116**

A bylaw to authorize the submission of an application to Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation (“OILC”) for financing certain capital work of the Corporation of the Town of Georgina; and to authorize long-term borrowing for such capital work through the issue of debentures by the Regional Municipality of York (the “Upper Tier Municipality”) to OILC

**I.3 2024-30 Stop up and Close a Portion of Highway 11/Yonge Street and Bathurst Street 126**

A bylaw to stop up and close a portion of Highway 11/Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) and Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38), Town of East Gwillimbury

**I.4 2024-31 Establish a Public Highway – The Queensway South - Town of Georgina 127**

A bylaw to establish a public highway

**I.5 2024-32 Remove a Portion of Major Mackenzie Drive West (Y.R. 25) from the Regional Road System 128**

A bylaw to remove a portion of Major Mackenzie Drive West (Y.R. 25) from the Regional Road System, in the City of Vaughan

**J. Motions**

**K. Notices of Motion to Reconsider**

**L. Other Business**

**M. Private Session**

**M.1 Private Minutes - Council Meeting - May 23, 2024**

Recommendation: Confirm the private minutes

**M.2 Private Minutes - Audit Committee Meeting - June 13, 2024**

Recommendation: Confirm the private minutes

**N. Confirmatory Bylaw**

131

Introduction of Bylaw 2024-33 to confirm the proceedings of Council at this meeting

**O. Adjournment**



## Minutes

### The Council of The Regional Municipality of York

May 23, 2024

Electronic and In-Person Meeting

Council Chambers

17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

Members: W. Emmerson, G. Chan, M. Chan, N. Davison, J. DiPaola, M. Ferri, V. Hackson, A. Ho, L. Jackson, J. Jones, J. Li, I. Lovatt, S. Pellegrini, M. Quirk, M. G. Racco, G. Rosati, F. Scarpitti, J. Taylor, T. Vegh, D. West

Staff: K. Chislett, P. Freeman, D. Kuzmyk, E. Mahoney, L. Mirabella, L. McDowell, C. Raynor, M. Shatil

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#### A. Call to Order

Regional Chair Emmerson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

#### B. Land Acknowledgement

Regional Chair Emmerson made the following remarks:

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations.

Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land.

We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.

#### C. Disclosures of Interest

Regional Councillor Davison declared a potential conflict with the subject material in Private Item M.3 'Verbal Update about an Employee Matter' and identifying the basis of this interest would reveal the nature of the closed session matter.

**D. Minutes of Council**

**D.1 Council Meeting held on April 25, 2024**

**Moved by** Regional Councillor Ferri  
**Seconded by** Regional Councillor Rosati

Council confirm the Minutes of the Council meeting held on April 25, 2024.

**Carried**

**E. Presentations**

None

**F. Deputations**

None

**G. Communications**

**G.1 Town of Aurora Official Plan 2024**

**Moved by** Mayor Quirk  
**Seconded by** Regional Councillor Davison

Council receive the correspondence from Quinto Annibale, Loopstra Nixon LLP on behalf of Auto Group Investments Inc. regarding 305 Wellington Street East, Aurora dated May 9, 2024.

**Carried**

(See Item H.1 - Committee of the Whole Item I.2.3)

**G.2 Community Housing Provider Capital Repair Funding**

**Moved by** Mayor Taylor  
**Seconded by** Mayor Lovatt

Council receive the memorandum from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services dated May 17, 2024.

**Carried**

(See Item H.2)

**G.3 Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 (Bill 185) and New Provincial Planning Statement**

**Moved by** Regional Councillor DiPaola

**Seconded by** Regional Councillor Ho

Council receive the correspondence from Members of The Alliance for a Livable Ontario, York Region dated May 22, 2024.

**Carried**

(See Item H.1 - Committee of the Whole Item I.2.1)

**H. Consideration and Adoption of Reports**

**H.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting - May 9, 2024**

**Moved by** Mayor Pellegrini

**Seconded by** Mayor West

Council adopt the recommendations in the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 9, 2024.

**Carried**

**H.2 Strengthening and Sustaining Community Housing through York Region's Service Agreement Framework**

**Moved by** Mayor Taylor

**Seconded by** Regional Councillor Jackson

Council adopt the following recommendations, *as amended*, in the report dated April 22, 2024 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. Council approve York Region Service Agreement Framework (Attachment 1).
2. Council authorize Regional staff to negotiate Service Agreements, and any ancillary documents required, with housing providers operating Part VII housing projects under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, as they reach the end of mortgages on their buildings, in accordance with Approach for Negotiating York Region Service Agreements (Appendix A).
3. Council authorize the Commissioner, Community and Health Services to determine, in consultation with the Regional Solicitor, the terms and conditions of Service Agreements, Exit Agreements and any ancillary documents required, in accordance with applicable provincial statutes and regulations.



4. Council authorize the Commissioner, Community and Health Services to enter into Service Agreements with eligible housing providers, and execute all related documents on business terms satisfactory to the Commissioner and legal terms satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor.
5. Council authorize the Commissioner, Community and Health Services to enter into Exit Agreements with providers that operate housing projects designated under Part VII and Part VII.1 of the *Housing Services Act, 2011* as deemed necessary by the Commissioner, and execute all related documents on business terms satisfactory to the Commissioner and on legal terms satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor.
6. *The memorandum dated May 17, 2024 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services entitled "Community Housing Provider Capital Repair Funding" be appended to this report.*

**Carried**

(See Item G.2 and Item H.1 - Committee of the Whole Item H.2.2)

## **I. Introduction and Consideration of Bylaws**

**Moved by** Mayor Hackson

**Seconded by** Regional Councillor G. Chan

Council approve and enact the following bylaws:

### **I.1 2024-17 Assume a part of a public highway - Keele Street - Township of King**

A bylaw to add certain lands to the Regional Road System on Keele Street in the Township of King

### **I.2 2024-18 Assume part of a public highway - 17th Sideroad - Township of King**

A bylaw to add certain lands to the Regional Road System - 17th Sideroad in the Township of King

### **I.3 2024-19 2024 Property Tax Ratios Bylaw**

A bylaw to establish 2024 tax ratios and specify the percentage by which tax rates are reduced for prescribed property subclasses for 2024

### **I.4 2024-20 2024 Property Tax Rates Bylaw**

A bylaw to set and levy tax rates for Regional general purposes for the year 2024

**I.5 2024-21 Set maximum speed rates on certain portions of Keele Street - Township of King**

A bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 2021-54 being a bylaw to prescribe maximum speed rates on Keele Street (Y.R. 6)

**I.6 2024-22 Set maximum speed rates on certain portions of Aurora Road/Wellington Street - Township of King**

A bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 2021-45 being a bylaw to prescribe maximum speed rates on Aurora Road/Wellington Street (Y.R. 15)

**I.7 2024-23 Designate Certain Portions of Keele Street and 17th Sideroad as Through Highways**

A bylaw to amend Bylaw No. R-629-79-109 to designate through highways

**I.8 2024-24 Implement a School Zone Speed Limit on Highway 27 for the Kleinburg Montessori School**

A bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 2021-53 being a bylaw to prescribe maximum speed rates on Highway 27 (Y.R. 27)

**I.9 2024-25 Implement a Community Safety Zone on Highway 27 for the Kleinburg Montessori School**

A bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 2022-14 being a bylaw to designate parts of Regional roads as Community Safety Zones

**Carried**

**J. Motions**

None

**K. Notices of Motion to Reconsider**

None

**L. Other Business**

**L.1 Nomination to Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors**

**Moved by** Mayor Scarpitti

**Seconded by** Regional Councillor Jones

Be it resolved that the Council for The Regional Municipality of York nominates Mayor Mrakas for the position of Director, Regional and Single-Tier Caucus on the AMO Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term.

**Carried**

**L.2 Retirement - Katherine Chislett – Commissioner of Community and Health Services**

Regional Chair Emmerson announced the retirement of Community and Health Services Commissioner Katherine Chislett after 37 years of public service. Commissioner Chislett's last day with York Region will be June 28, 2024.

On behalf of Regional Council, Regional Chair Emmerson thanked Commissioner Chislett for her many contributions to York Region over the last seven years as an integral member of the Region's Senior Management Team.

Regional Chair Emmerson shared that during her time at the Region, Commissioner Chislett has contributed significantly to the success of the organization and York Region communities. Her compassionate leadership style was seen first-hand as she led the Community and Health Services Department through the COVID-19 pandemic response and immunization program.

Some of the Commissioner's accomplishments include the development of York Region's first Inclusion Charter, first Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and the first Paramedic Master Plan.

The Commissioner has also been a vital part of York Region's response to supporting asylum seekers and refugees and has played a critical role in supporting the most vulnerable in York Region's communities.

**L.3 Extension of Appointment - York Regional Police Chief MacSween**

Regional Chair Emmerson advised that the York Regional Police Services Board unanimously approved the extension of Chief Jim MacSween's appointment for a further two years to April 30, 2027.

On behalf of Regional Council, Regional Chair Emmerson extended appreciation to Chief MacSween and offered thanks for his continued commitment to York Region communities.

**L.4 Observances and Days of Significance**

Regional Chair Emmerson noted the following Observances and Days of Significance:

- Personal Support Worker Day - May 19, 2024
- World Bee Day - May 20, 2024
- National Public Works Week - May 19 to 25, 2024
- Paramedic Services Week - May 19 to 25, 2024
- National AccessAbility Week - May 26 to June 1, 2024

**M. Private Session**

**Moved by** Regional Councillor Jackson

**Seconded by** Regional Councillor Racco

Council resolve into private session at 9:15 a.m. to consider the following items:

M.1 Private Minutes - Council Meeting - April 25, 2024

M.2 Private Minutes - Committee of the Whole Meeting - May 9, 2024

M.3 Verbal Update about an Employee Matter - Personal Matter about an Identifiable Individual [s. 239(b)] and Employee Negotiations [s. 239(d)]

**Carried**

Regional Councillor Davison left the room during the consideration of Item M.3 and did not participate in any discussion on this matter.

Council resumed in public session at 9:34 a.m.

**M.1 Private Minutes - Council Meeting - April 25, 2024**

**Moved by** Regional Councillor Jones

**Seconded by** Regional Councillor Vegh

Council confirm the private minutes of the Council meeting held on April 25, 2024.

**Carried**

**M.2 Private Minutes - Committee of the Whole Meeting - May 9, 2024**

**Moved by** Regional Councillor Jones

**Seconded by** Regional Councillor Vegh

Council adopt the confidential recommendations in the private minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 9, 2024.

**Carried**

**M.3 Verbal Update about an Employee Matter - Personal Matter about an Identifiable Individual (s. 239(b)) and Employee Negotiations (s. 239(d))**

**Moved by** Regional Councillor Jones

**Seconded by** Regional Councillor Vegh

Council receive the confidential verbal update.

**Carried**

**N. Confirmatory Bylaw**

**Moved by** Mayor West

**Seconded by** Mayor Lovatt

Council enact Bylaw No. 2024-26 to confirm the proceedings of this meeting of Council held on May 23, 2024.

**Carried**

**O. Adjournment**

**Moved by** Mayor Scarpitti

**Seconded by** Mayor Quirk

Council adjourn the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

**Carried**

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Regional Clerk

Minutes confirmed and adopted at the meeting of Council held on June 27, 2024.

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Regional Chair



## Minutes

### The Council of The Regional Municipality of York

#### Special Meeting

May 30, 2024

Council Chambers

17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

Members: W. Emmerson, G. Chan, M. Chan, N. Davison, S. Del Duca, M. Ferri, V. Hackson, A. Ho, L. Jackson, J. Jones, J. Li, I. Lovatt, T. Mrakas, S. Pellegrini, M. Quirk, M. G. Racco, J. Taylor, T. Vegh, D. West

Staff: D. Basso, K. Chislett, P. Freeman, D. Kuzmyk, E. Mahoney, L. Mirabella, L. McDowell, C. Raynor

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#### **A. Call to Order**

Regional Chair Emmerson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

#### **B. Land Acknowledgement**

Regional Chair Emmerson made the following remarks:

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations.

Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land.

We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.

#### **C. Disclosures of Interest**

None

**D. Presentations**

**D.1 The Future of Policing**

**Moved by** Mayor Pellegrini  
**Seconded by** Regional Councillor Jackson

Council receive the presentation from Jim MacSween, Chief, York Regional Police.

**Carried**

**E. Deputations**

None

**F. Communications**

None

**G. Consideration and Adoption of Reports**

None

**H. Other Business**

**H.1 Appointment to Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)**

**Moved by** Mayor Del Duca  
**Seconded by** Mayor Quirk

Be it resolved that Council appoint Mayor Pellegrini to the Board of Directors for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities until the end of the current term of Council, and the Region agrees to cover expenses associated with participation on the Board.

**Carried**

**H.2 Ontario Medal for Paramedic Bravery**

On behalf of Council, Regional Chair Emmerson congratulated Taylor Collins, a Primary Care Paramedic recently awarded the Ontario Medal for Paramedic Bravery. The Medal is awarded to paramedics who have demonstrated great courage risking their lives to save the lives of others.

In September 2023, Taylor encountered a head-on collision on her way home after a shift and jumped into action to help save the vehicle occupants' lives. Her courage, bravery and selfless actions exemplify the true essence of heroism and

are a testament to York Region Paramedic Services' commitment to supporting the health and well-being of residents.

**I. Confirmatory Bylaw**

**Moved by** Mayor Lovatt  
**Seconded by** Mayor West

Council enact Bylaw No. 2024-27 to confirm the proceedings of this meeting of Council held on May 23, 2024.

**Carried**

**J. Adjournment**

**Moved by** Regional Councillor Ho  
**Seconded by** Regional Councillor Ferri

Council adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

**Carried**

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Regional Clerk

Minutes confirmed and adopted at the meeting of Council held on June 27, 2024.

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Regional Chair





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To: Regional Council  
Meeting Date: June 27, 2024  
From: Katherine Chislett  
Commissioner of Community and Health Services  
Re: **June 13, 2024 Committee of the Whole Item I.2.1 – York Region’s 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan**

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In [March 2024](#), Council requested that staff report in June 2024 with a rapid deployment plan, with funding options, for emergency and transitional housing to address the exponential growth in homelessness and for staff to explore establishing a housing and homelessness advocacy group consisting of elected officials. This memo is in response to a request at the [June 13, 2024](#) Committee of the Whole meeting for staff to add a recommendation formally requesting Provincial funding for operating costs of rapid deployment actions.

**Proposed rapid deployment actions are eligible expenses under the Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program, however Provincial funding is fully allocated to existing programs**

Ongoing operating costs for the proposed rapid deployment actions would require an additional \$7 million above the endorsed budget outlook for Community and Health Services in 2025 and beyond. Although the costs for the rapid deployment actions are eligible expenses under the Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program, the \$36.7 million provided to York Region from the Province, is already fully allocated to existing programs. Without an increase in the Provincial annual allocation, operating costs associated with the rapid deployment actions would require Regional tax levy funding to continue beyond 2024.

**It is recommended the Regional Chair request Provincial funding to support the rapid deployment actions in 2025 and beyond**

Pursuant to the direction at Committee of the Whole, it is recommended that the following be added as Recommendation #5 to the [June 13, 2024](#) report:

“The Regional Chair send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Members of Provincial Parliament who represent York Region to request an increase of \$7 million to York Region’s annual Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program allocation, starting in 2025, to fund operating costs of the rapid deployment actions.”



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Katherine Chislett  
Commissioner of Community and Health Services



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Erin Mahoney  
Chief Administrative Officer

June 19, 2024  
#16210240



June 12, 2024



Regional Council

Surrounding kids  
in crisis with care

**Re: Homelessness Service System Plan**

www.360kids.ca

360kids strongly supports the Recommendations put forward in the **2024-2027 Homelessness Service System Plan** as it focuses on the key elements that we believe are critical in addressing the current challenges faced by so many young people and their families in York Region.



80F Centurian Drive,  
Suite 200  
Markham, ON L3R 8C1

T: 905.475.6694  
F: 905.475.5733

For more than 35 years, 360kids has provided services to young people throughout York Region and has developed leading edge solutions to help prevent youth homelessness as well as provide a range of solutions to support those who become homeless. The partnership with the Region of York has been critical and we are grateful for the flexibility and creativity they have allowed us to have in order to evolve our programs to meet the ever-changing needs of those we serve.

We saw this with the unique approaches with housing and isolation requirements for youth during the pandemic as well as with outreach opportunities to connect with and engage youth with lived experience to help reach and support unhouse youth dealing with the challenges of COVID-19. We appreciated the opportunity to pilot family intervention initiatives to help advance a Prevention focus. As a result of the ongoing collective efforts and responsiveness, we were able to implement new approaches to meet needs in real time.

Now, post pandemic, with the growing numbers of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, we need to continue to explore bold solutions to addressing this complex issue. The affordability crisis is putting huge stresses and strains on families we see this regularly in our work.

Bold solutions therefore include a continued focus on homelessness prevention- an important pillar in the Service System Plan. Providing short term supports to families can go a long way to preventing youth homelessness which we know is a leading contributor to adult homelessness. Diversion Programs that we provide like Nightstop and Family and Natural Supports are important in this space.

Increasing the capacity in our facilities was enabled during the pandemic and during the past winter season, and we see this as another critical short-term, dignified solution to reduce the risks of being on the streets. The youth have appreciated the warmth, the access to facilities, regular meals and the important social supports that increases their sense of belonging. Increasing the capacity in the Region to provide short-term housing is critical and provides dignity to some of the most vulnerable.



**360°  
kids**

Surrounding kids  
in crisis with care

www.360kids.ca

Lastly, the importance of longer-term investments in housing- deeply affordable housing cannot be overstated. We have appreciated deeply the partnership with the Region of York, United Way Greater Toronto, Hockey Helps the Homeless, Kylemore, Home Depot Foundation, and so many other individuals, groups and organizations that has allowed us to provide innovative and affordable housing solutions to young people. One of these initiatives is the recently announced Black Youth Housing program that will not only provide longer term transitional housing but will address issues of equity for a group of young people who are continuously over-represented in homelessness in York Region.

**360° kids**

80F Centurian Drive,  
Suite 200  
Markham, ON L3R 8C1

Solving complex issues require creative, bold and sustained solutions. We believe that the Homelessness Service System Plan has these elements and we look forward to the continued support of Regional Council to help us address the needs of vulnerable community members. Thank you.

T: 905.475.6694  
F: 905.475.5733

With gratitude,

Clovis Grant  
Chief Executive Officer



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To: Regional Council

Meeting Date: June 27, 2024

From: Dino Basso  
Commissioner of Corporate Services

Re: **York Region’s Response to Bill 194 – *Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act, 2024***

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This memorandum informs Council of the submission, attached at Appendix A, made by Regional staff to the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement (“Ministry”) in response to the Ministry’s initial consultation on Bill 194, the *Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act, 2024* (“Bill 194”).

### **On May 13, 2024, the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement tabled Bill 194**

Under Bill 194, the Ministry proposes two sets of legislative changes:

- (i) a new law, the *Enhancing Digital Security and Trust Act, 2024* (“EDSTA”); and
- (ii) amendments to Ontario’s *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“FIPPA”).

Bill 194 passed first reading on May 13, 2024. Second reading was debated on May 28, 2024, and the debate was adjourned. The Province invited comments on the proposed legislation from May 13, 2024 to June 11, 2024.

### **Bill 194 proposes legislation to govern cyber security and artificial intelligence in provincial and municipal public sectors**

EDSTA would apply to “public sector entities”, defined to include a range of public sector institutions including provincial ministries, municipalities, school boards, children’s aid societies, colleges, universities, and hospitals.

If enacted, EDSTA would permit regulations requiring public sector entities to have cyber security programs, education and awareness measures, incident response systems, and program oversight. The Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement would have authority to implement technical standards and issue cyber security directives without notice or consultation.

With respect to artificial intelligence, EDSTA would regulate the use of “artificial intelligence systems” in prescribed circumstances. Public sector organizations would be required to appoint an individual to oversee the use of artificial intelligence systems and meet regulatory obligations.

### **Bill 194 also proposes amendments to provincial privacy legislation**

Bill 194 proposes several amendments to FIPPA. For example, provincial institutions governed under FIPPA would be required to conduct privacy impact assessments (“PIAs”) before collecting any personal information, unless the regulations provide otherwise. If significant changes are made to the purposes for which such personal information is used or disclosed, institutions would have to update the PIAs and implement additional steps, as appropriate.

The Bill would also require FIPPA institutions to establish reasonable safeguards to protect personal information from theft, loss, and unauthorized use or disclosure, and to protect against unauthorized copying, modification, or disposal. The Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner could conduct complaint-based and proactive reviews of an institution’s information practices.

While the Bill is not currently proposing any amendments to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“MFIPPA”), it is possible that similar provisions may emerge in the future.

### **The Region is well positioned to meet the broad requirements resulting from Bill 194, if passed**

The Region currently has a mature cyber security program in place that aligns with the broad provisions of the EDSTA. Similarly, while Bill 194 does not propose amendments to MFIPPA, the Region’s privacy program already undertakes many of the required processes, such as privacy impact assessments. The full scope of the proposed changes will not be clear until more detailed regulations are issued.

### **The Region’s submission generally supports the intent of Bill 194, with recommendations to closely consider the impact on municipal institutions**

The Ministry invited comments on Bill 194 from May 13, 2024 to June 11, 2024. The Region’s submission (Appendix A) provided several recommendations for the Ministry’s consideration, including the following key recommendations:

- The term “artificial intelligence system” proposed by the EDSTA must be more clearly defined. The Region further suggests aligning the definition of this term with definitions provided by other jurisdictions, including the EU and the USA.
- Risk management requirements under the EDSTA should take account of the overall risk of the artificial intelligence system. The Region strongly recommends the Ministry consider a risk-based approach to artificial intelligence regulation rather than a universal one.

- Similarly, the Region recommends that a risk-based approach be applied to the proposed requirement for FIPPA-governed institutions to conduct PIAs. This would ensure the PIA process is proportionate to the risk of the information collection proposed.
- Lastly, the Region advocates for maintaining consistency between FIPPA and MFIPPA to the extent possible. If the Ministry plans to introduce amendments to MFIPPA, the Region recommends these be proposed together with amendments to FIPPA as part of Bill 194.

## Next Steps

Staff will continue to monitor Bill 194 as it progresses and provide updates to Council.

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For more information on this memo, please contact Dino Basso, Commissioner of Corporate Services, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71500. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



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Dino Basso  
Commissioner of Corporate Services



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Erin Mahoney  
Chief Administrative Officer

June 18, 2024  
# 16198779

Appendix A - York Region's Submission to Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement

## **SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC AND BUSINESS SERVICE DELIVERY AND PROCUREMENT ON PROPOSED *STRENGTHENING CYBER SECURITY AND BUILDING TRUST IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR ACT, 2024***

**Submitted by:** The Regional Municipality of York

**Date:** June 11, 2024

### **Introduction**

The Regional Municipality of York (“York Region”) makes this submission to the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement (“Ministry”) with respect to the proposed *Strengthening Cyber Security and Building Trust in the Public Sector Act, 2024* (“Bill 194”).

As of 2021, York Region was home to more than 1.17 million residents, and currently delivers 15 core legislated services to the public to provide a high quality of life for its residents. York Region continuously strives to enhance its services delivery, including through updated technological tools and digital processes.

If enacted, Bill 194 would be an important step to providing a more robust framework to regulate cyber security, use of artificial intelligence (“AI”), and digital technology affecting minors across public sector institutions.

### **Recommendations and comments on Bill 194**

York Region has provided recommendations and comments for the Ministry’s consideration below. Our recommendations and comments are made with a particular view to ensuring that municipal institutions are considered in the Ministry’s enactment of the legislation and, ultimately, regulations.

#### *(i) Schedule 1 - Enhancing Digital Security and Trust Act, 2024*

##### **1. Section 1(1) - Definition of “artificial intelligence system”:**

- a. The definition of “artificial intelligence system” provided in the proposed *Enhancing Digital Security and Trust Act, 2024* (“EDSTA”) should be more clearly defined to ensure legal certainty and uniformity. Key concepts within the proposed definition must distinguish it from simpler traditional software systems to ensure public sector entities are able to comply with their obligations.

York Region recommends the following:

- i. Consider if ‘artificial intelligence system’ as defined in the EDSTA should be aligned with definitions in other jurisdictions, such as the EU and U.S.A to facilitate international acceptance while providing flexibility as AI rapidly evolves. An AI system uses the inputs it receives to generate outputs. The objectives of an AI system may be different from its intended purposes, and the objectives may also be context specific. Certain AI systems can be used



on a stand-alone basis while others can be designed to operate with varying levels of autonomy. As such, public sector entities require clear guidelines on their specific obligations when procuring and developing artificial intelligence systems under EDTSA.

- ii. We recommend that the definition of artificial intelligence systems, cyber security incidents, unauthorized access and other terms used throughout the EDTSA be as consistent as possible with other prevailing definitions of such terms in the information technology and AI industry.
- iii. We propose that guidance be developed to assist public sector entities in raising awareness and providing training to their staff by producing a glossary to support AI literacy. The supporting glossary may cover both basic and advanced terminology and include defined terms such as “machine-based system”, “AI inputs” and “AI outputs”. Guidance materials could also be supplemented by providing real world examples and use cases to ensure that terminology is explained as clearly as possible.

## 2. Section 5(4) – Risk Management:

- a. We recommend that the risk management requirements developed by the Ministry in the regulations to the EDTSA set out any criteria that public sector entities must consider as they develop artificial intelligence systems, including whether public sector entities will need to disclose how they identify, evaluate and monitor artificial intelligence systems that they develop or procure.
  - b. More generally, we would recommend that risk management requirements under the EDTSA distinguish between low- and high-risk artificial intelligence systems. York Region proposes that low- and high-risk artificial intelligence systems can be distinguished based on: (i) the sensitivity, nature and amount of data processed; (ii) the intended purpose of the system; (iii) the ability of the artificial intelligence system to act autonomously, and (iv) potential risk of harm to the health, safety or human rights of an individual. Artificial intelligence systems that do not pose a significant risk of harm to health, safety or impact the fundamental human rights of an individual should not be considered to be high risk. For example, the use of an artificial intelligence system to manage essential infrastructure has a different risk profile as compared to a pothole detection system. Using generative artificial intelligence to assist with drafting a new job description will have a differing impact and audience than a report to a municipal council that may change the direction of a social services program. We would strongly recommend that the Ministry consider a risk-based approach to artificial intelligence regulation rather than a universal one.
3. The substance of the EDTSA will be mainly left to regulations and directives, which the current draft allows for without notice or comment. York Region strongly advocates for ongoing consultation with public sector entities during development of the regulations.

(ii) *Schedule 2 – Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

**1. Harmonizing FIPPA and MFIPPA:**

- a. The EDSTA would apply to institutions as defined under both the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“FIPPA”) and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“MFIPPA”). Despite this, Bill 194 only proposes amendments to FIPPA to modernize this legislation and accompany the new EDSTA requirements. York Region would recommend that if similar amendments are planned for MFIPPA, that these be proposed together with amendments to FIPPA as part of Bill 194.

This is recommended for the following reasons:

- FIPPA and MFIPPA have, historically, mirrored one another, providing consistency between municipal and provincial institutions. While a number of the proposed amendments to FIPPA reflect existing standard privacy practices, setting this out in the legislation ensures that all applicable institutions abide by the same expectations. By only amending FIPPA to legislate these requirements, there will remain some ambiguity or inconsistency as to the expectations for institutions governed under MFIPPA.
- Municipalities, including York Region, deliver many services on behalf of and pursuant to agreements with provincial ministries. Under the EDSTA, several key obligations will apply not only to public sector entities prescribed by the regulations, but also to third parties providing services on their behalf (see sections 1(2)(c) and 1(3)). We expect that provincial ministries would obligate municipalities delivering services on their behalf to follow at least the same information and privacy practices as the ministries would be required to follow. To facilitate consistency and coordination between municipal and provincial institutions, it would be important to maintain as much consistency between FIPPA and MFIPPA as possible.
- Even if municipal public sector entities will not be ‘prescribed’ public sector entities in the first set of regulations to be enacted under the EDSTA, it is anticipated that regulations would eventually be enacted to prescribe municipal entities. If so, York Region would recommend that amendments to MFIPPA relating to information practices be considered at this time. This would allow greater predictability for MFIPPA-regulated institutions, as well as the opportunity to better prepare for further legislative changes as they will arise. This would significantly assist municipal entities in ensuring compliance with any such changes.

**2. Privacy Impact Assessments:**

- a. York Region supports the overall intent of the changes proposed to section 38 of FIPPA, as Privacy Impact Assessments (“PIAs”) significantly assist organizations in ensuring personal information is collected, used, and disclosed appropriately. We are concerned, however, that the application of the proposed changes, as they are written, would be overbroad and create significant burden for public sector entities. As written, the proposed changes would require a PIA for any personal information

- that the institution intends to collect. This may become unduly onerous. Many public institutions have limited resources and operate within constrained budgets.
- b. York Region therefore recommends that a risk-based approach be used to identify a threshold of risk that would require a fulsome PIA to be completed. Alternatively, if the Ministry wishes to require all institutions to complete PIAs for all instances of personal information collection, York Region would recommend that there be simplified PIA requirements for lower-risk instances of collection, and that comprehensive requirements only be applied to high-risk instances of collection.

### **3. Service Provider Organizations:**

- a. York Region supports the “tell us once” approach being implemented by the Ministry. As a municipality, this is something that we strive for. Digital municipal service delivery that streamlines the customer experience has the potential to allow residents to access programs that are right for them, at a time that is convenient for them. The proposed amendments to section 65.1 of FIPPA are essential to York Region residents being able to seamlessly access the many programs and services that are available to support individuals at all stages of their life. York Region would support similar provisions being added to MFIPPA to provide clearer legislative guidance on how a “tell us once” approach could be implemented at the municipal level.

## **Conclusion**

York Region appreciates the opportunity to provide the Ministry with comments on Bill 194. The EDTSA is a great step in promoting trust in public sector institutions’ use of cyber security and artificial intelligence systems, and developing a human-centric approach to these systems.



Honourable Regional Chair  
Mr. Wayne Emmerson  
Regional Municipality of York Region

June, 12, 2024

Dear Chair Emmerson and members of Council:

Thank you for being gracious this morning as I deputized at Council. As I mentioned, I am sending you our formal request for operating and program support with a budget attached.

As you know, Anchor has been a staple in York Region since 2003. We were formed in 2003 by a group of teachers, principals and vice principals. Sadly, four of the original founders have moved out of York Region to Durham and Peel, but are still very involved in the organization. Since our formation, we have never made a plea to Council for program and operating funds.

Over the course of the past 12-months, we have attended Council meetings and watched as a number of organizations and agencies presented deputations asking the Region for funding, some asking for operational funds, program funds, program extensions and sustainable funding. It is vital that cities invest in agencies and projects that benefit the diversity of our communities.

Anchor has been serving the community without paid staff since 2003. Funding for programs that usually lasted 6-12 months afforded us temporary staff for that time period. But, once the program ended, we had to say good-bye to our staff. Over the course of 20 years, we have existed through the dedication, and support of our volunteers. Our volunteers have coached teams, started tutoring programs, helped our seniors, dropped off food hampers and toys to families in need, met with school boards on behalf of parents, packed care packages, supported the asylum seekers, written proposals, attended events, planned Galas and attended meetings sometimes out of the province in support of Anchor and our work with the Black community. We have done all of this, including our advocacy work with no yearly funding or permanent program space.

As our Founders are educators, education is extremely important to Anchor. We currently have two scholarship programs; one for a high school student entering post-secondary who is living with a disability or illness. That scholarship is in my namesake, *The Shernett Martin Scholarship* because I too live with a disability and life-threatening illness. The 2<sup>nd</sup> scholarship is the *Hodan Nalayeh Scholarship* named after Vaughan native and journalist who was killed by a suicide bomber in Somalia in 2019. Our goal was to offer each recipient coaching, mentorship and monthly meetings to ensure their transition to College/University was going well. We know that students from racialized communities oftentimes have a challenging time in their first and second year and benefit from community support. We wanted to hire dedicated staff to manage our education programs that would include our tutoring programs, parent navigation classes, Kindergarten prep-classes, summer camps and of course our scholarship programs. Without staff, we have one volunteer who is a retired nurse managing those programs.

We are always trying to be proactive with our programs. We want to create programs to support the community before they are in challenging situations. One of those programs is our “Rites of Passage” program. This program is used in Canada, the U.S., the Caribbean and South America. It is based on the same premise as the Jewish birth-rite program, without the travel to Africa. This program aims to teach Black youths about their ancestry, civilization, and their rich history. It aims to support youths in finding their purpose through religious texts and learning about the lives of our leaders, past and present. We would like to offer this program through Anchor, but need the staff and space to deliver the program. We have seen the data from the Rites of Passage program. This program has 100% success rate in changing the trajectory for youths who need a new pathway to success. It has brought out the brilliance in young people who didn’t know how to confidently let their talents and gifts shine. It has changed lives. As a teenager I went through a similar program presented by MACCA (Markham African-Canadian Caribbean Association) when I was very close to quitting school. I didn’t see myself reflected in the curriculum. I was bored in school. I didn’t feel like teachers understood me. The program changed me. The weekend retreat that I went to was led by Black lawyers, Black authors and community leaders who showed me that anything was possible. It changed my focus and I know I wouldn’t have become a teacher and writer without that program. The Rites of Passage program did that. It was powerful. I want to continue that tradition.

Along with advocacy work, we have run arts programs and sports programs. We started a basketball program in 2014 called Ballers Paradise. We sent over 15 students to the United States on scholarships. We have welcomed basketball coaches from Florida, Serbia, New York and South Carolina as part of our Ballers Paradise program. We brought the coaches to Canada to watch talent from across the Province during our tournaments. We even brought them to Montreal to meet basketball players at our Cross-border basketball tournament. As a result of our event that saw over 200 talented players attend the weekend event, 25 were selected to attend an elite camp in Florida. Out of the twenty-five, fifteen were offered scholarships. Sadly, after five years trying to keep our program running, we had to close the program due to lack of funding and lack of available gym space in the Region.

For members of Council who do not know much about what we do, and have only met us through the African asylum seekers response, I hope this email provides you with an overview of who we are. We were brought into the African asylum seekers response because staff at the Region called us. They knew who we were and the support we provide, they knew we would respond.

Anchor has always been there for community. We are passionate about our advocacy. We have always advocated for programs to make our City better for years. We have supported Black business owners, created a program specifically for Black girls & Black women, organized Caribbean cultural events, asked to have Emancipation Day and Black history month proclaimed in Vaughan. We have run a summer program for Black students to get them ready for the upcoming school year. We advocated for an Equity & Diversity manager in Vaughan. We advocated to have the name “Vaughan” stripped from a high school after learning about the life of our namesake Benjamin Vaughan. With the support of the Muslim, Asian, Jewish, Tamil, Italian and Black community we fought to have it renamed Hodan Nalayeh Secondary School. We advocated for a Human Right’s office to deal with anti-Black racism at the York Region School Board and changes within the Board. It was a tough fight, but we got it. Our advocacy work has shaped our City and Region. Our work is well documented. And, we have done all of this without funding or staff capacity. We are presently chairing the York Region Black Mental Health Roundtable with community partners from Cayre and 360 Kids. We simply see a problem and work to solve it. We are committed to community building.

Our program outline and budget that is being submitted is asking for a commitment of \$340,000 over five years for a total of 1.7 million. This amount if granted will enable Anchor to build capacity within our

organization by hiring staff that will be able to have a living wage with benefits. It will provide us with funding to run our programs fully with all the resources that they require. It will ensure that we can expand our seniors program and youth programs. It will help us acquire necessary items for our office space making it accessible for all. It will enable us to continue to provide support and services to the growing Black community in Vaughan and across the Region. It will provide us with the staff compliment to train, and provide workshops to community members. It will enable us to be funded equitably like other social service agencies. We will have the capacity to appoint staff to sit on committees and broaden our reach and stakeholder relations. It will provide us with the capacity to create a succession plan in line with our strategic plan so we can ensure that we have the right talent ready for our next twenty years. It will help us maintain our programs year-after-year without fear of having to cancel them due to lack of funding. It will provide us with sustainable funding for important programs that depend on funding for their continuation. Most importantly, it will signal to the Black community that the Region is a valuable partner. It tells us that you see us and you hear us. You understand that in order for a community to flourish it needs investment to equip it so that it can continue doing great work.

Thank you for taking the time to read our proposal and go through our budget. We appreciate the importance you have placed on providing community groups and cultural groups with funding. We are grateful that you see the need to support the growing Black/African community in York Region. We look forward to continuing to provide needed services for the community.

With gratitude,

*Sherrett Martin, Executive Director*

*Marcie Boathe, Board Chair*



Through the support of the City of Vaughan, Anchor is creating a space called **The Helm**, which will be a welcoming and inclusive space offering a range of our current and new programs and services.

## **ANCHOR Programs -2024/2025**

### Youth Housing Navigator

The Youth Housing Navigator (YHN) program will be managed by our Youth Navigator Team (Manager, intake workers) who will support young individuals aged 16-30 in York Region by helping them find and maintain safe and affordable housing, obtaining furniture, subsidized rent, supporting them with mini-grants, first & last month rent and support integrating them in community.

### JiWA Mental Health Support Program

JiWA is a Sanskrit word meaning “soulful” or “spiritual” Our Mental Health Support Program is called the “Jiwa Program” and is a specially tailored initiative for culturally sensitive mental health support delivered by Black and racialized psychotherapists, social workers and psychiatrist. This program will follow recommendations from the York Region Black mental health roundtable. All appointments are subsidized.

### Newcomer Youth Settlement

Designed for youth who are new to Canada, this program offers recreational, skill-building and mental health services, working with young newcomers as they make friends and settle into their new home. Youths will be matched with Anchor youths to help them settle into the City and Canada.

### EAS - Employment Accessibility Services for Persons with Disabilities

We work with many individuals with visible and invisible disabilities. This program assists youths, post-secondary students and graduates with disabilities to prepare for, obtain and maintain meaningful employment. Our team aims to reduce disability-related barriers to employment while supporting clients to achieve their goals. We will work with the City of Vaughan’s Accessibility team to ensure we are creating safe, and barrier programs and conditions for all.

### Pre-Apprenticeship and Trades Programs

Anchor will work in partnership with our friends at Liuna 183 and the Carpenters Union as well as Black-owned construction companies, and skilled-trades programs geared towards Black youths and adults interested in the skills trade, free pre-apprentice and trades programs, providing a pathway to high-demand trades. Participants will undergo assessments for grade 12 Math and English and engage in Academic Upgrading to develop essential communication and numeracy skills for entry into skilled trades. We will employ facilitators student teachers and

tradespeople to lead the classes, which will be offered during the day, evenings and weekends to maintain flexible hours.

#### Youth Job Connection Program

Youth Job Connection (YJC) serves youth aged 15 – 29 who experience multiple or complex barriers to employment. The program provides more intensive supports beyond traditional job search and placement opportunities. We will require support to purchase lap tops and technology to support the development of a teaching lab. Tutors and facilitators will be hired.

#### Foundations for Youth Success

We will be contacting the United Way to bring the Foundations for Youth Success program to York Region. This program is designed for youth experiencing multiple or complex barriers to education and employment. Building on activities offered through the Youth Job Connection program, it aims to equip participants with the life skills needed to successfully engage in employment or employment readiness programs.

#### Jobs Ontario

Anchor will apply for funding to offer the Better Jobs Ontario program (formerly known as Second Career) provides unemployed individuals with financial support and skills training to secure in-demand jobs in their communities. This will be great for newcomers, asylum seekers, 2<sup>nd</sup> career seniors, retirees and new Canadians.

#### Mechanic Millwright Pre-Apprenticeship Program

This free program equips students with skills related to the millwright trade, which involves installing, maintaining, diagnosing and repairing industrial machines. Delivered by George Brown College in partnership with WoodGreen, the program includes trade readiness, employment preparation and academic upgrading.

#### Visual Effects (VFX) & Creative arts program

This VFX training program is designed to give Black youth a competitive edge as they launch careers in digital compositing. Over 16 weeks, participants gain the knowledge and experience necessary to find post-production work. Training includes a six-week paid internship.

#### YJR - Program

Youth Justice Reform program is by referral and works with youths in the justice system. Youths who are charged, out on bail, awaiting trial, incarcerated or youths who have been released after incarceration. We meet with and support youths and their families with stakeholders and partners to ensure they stay out of the system and find gainful employment, social programs, training and internship.

#### Black Girls Inc.

Our flagship entrepreneur program created to address the inequities of business ownership Black women experience through providing coaching, mentorship, workshops and personal support



Expense Category	Description	Cost
Administrative staff	FT/1.0	75,000 per year
Administrative staff	FT/ 1.0	60,000 per year
Administrative staff	FT/1.0	\$50,000 per year
Administrative Assistant	PT/1.0	\$30,000 per year
Rites of passage cost for Program Training/ Orientation/Copyright	culturally relevant program materials and activities	\$10,000 (one-time cost)
Guest Speakers, workshop leaders and Facilitators for yearly events	Honorariums for cultural experts, mentors, and workshop leaders (x15)	\$8,000 per year
<b>Workshop, Programs and Activities</b>		
Mental Health and Well-being programs – Jiwa program	Mental, physical, and spiritual health program	\$15,000 per year
Leadership Training Sessions	Board, Leadership, planning, and training	\$5,000 per year
The Helm Programs	Program cost – see program intro’s	\$36,000
Community Engagement Event	Caribbean Cultural Event	\$7,000 per year
<b>Tech/IT, Materials and Supplies</b>		
IT/Tech, Educational Materials	Tech/IT, educational supplies, tools, and workshop materials	\$5,000 per year
Office Supplies	General office supplies for program administration	\$2,000 per year
<b>Events and Seniors Exploration</b>		
Cultural Events	Black History Month & Emancipation Day yearly event	\$6,000 per year
Field Trips, Community social events for youths and seniors	Youth and Seniors exploration trips to museums, historical sites, and cultural centers (transportation, subsidizing)	\$5,000 per year
<b>Technology and Equipment</b>		
Computers and Software	Laptops, software, and other technology	\$5,000
<b>Facilities and Utilities</b>		
Venue Rental/permit costs	Rental of space for workshops, events, and activities (ex: CariVaughan & Juneteenth event)	\$5,000 per year
<b>Marketing and Outreach</b>		
Community Outreach Events	Radio, online marketing, outreach, online ads	\$3,000 per year
Technology/IT/ website	Website update, maintenance, emails, domain costs	\$8,000 per year
Contingency Fund	Unforeseen expenses and miscellaneous costs	\$5,000 per year
Total Annual Budget		<b>\$340,000</b>





## Minutes

### Committee of the Whole

June 13, 2024

Electronic and In-Person Meeting

Council Chambers

17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

Members: W. Emmerson, G. Chan, M. Chan, N. Davison, S. Del Duca, J. DiPaola, M. Ferri, V. Hackson, A. Ho, L. Jackson, J. Jones, J. Li, T. Mrakas, S. Pellegrini, M. Quirk, G. Rosati, F. Scarpitti, J. Taylor, D. West

Staff: D. Basso, K. Chislett, P. Freeman, D. Kuzmyk, E. Mahoney, L. McDowell, L. Mirabella, C. Raynor

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#### A. Call to Order

Regional Chair Emmerson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

#### B. Land Acknowledgement

Regional Chair Emmerson made the following remarks:

"We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations.

Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land.

We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community."

#### C. Disclosures of Interest

None

**D. Development Charges Complaint Hearing**

**D.1 Report**

Committee of the Whole adjourned the Development Charges Complaint Hearing regarding 10 Grenfell Crescent, City of Markham to October 2024.

**D.2 Deputation**

Keith Ho, Complainant, was not in attendance as consent was previously given to adjourn the subject hearing to October 2024.

**D.2.1 Complainant's Request for Deferral of Development Charge Complaint Hearing**

Committee of the Whole received the correspondence from Keith Ho, Complainant, dated June 10, 2024 providing consent to adjourn the Development Charges Complaint Hearing regarding 10 Grenfell Crescent, City of Markham to October 2024.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**E. Presentations**

**E.1 Mackenzie Health Annual Update**

Committee of the Whole received the presentation by Altaf Stationwala, President and CEO, Mackenzie Health.

**E.2 York Region's 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan**

Committee of the Whole received the presentation by Kevin Pal, General Manager, Social Services, Community and Health Services.

(See Item I.2.1)

**F. Deputations**

**F.1 McMichael Canadian Art Collection Capital Renewal**

Committee of the Whole received the deputation by Sarah Milroy, Executive Director, The McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

**F.2 ANCHOR Canada**

Committee of the Whole received the deputation by Shernett Martin, Executive Director, ANCHOR Canada.

**F.3 York Region's 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan**

**F.3.1 Michael Braithwaite, Blue Door**

Committee of the Whole received the deputation by Michael Braithwaite, Blue Door.

(See Item I.2.1)

**F.3.2 Ann Watson, Inn from the Cold**

Committee of the Whole received the deputation by Ann Watson, Inn from the Cold.

(See Item I.2.1)

**G. Public Works - Transportation Services**

**G.1 Communications**

None

**G.2 Reports**

**G.2.1 Trans Canada Trail Expansion Into York Region**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 27, 2024 from the Commissioner of Public Works:

1. Council endorse inclusion of the Lake to Lake Route and the South York Greenway as part of the Trans Canada Trail.
2. Council authorize The Regional Municipality of York to act as interim Trail Operator for the application to the Trans Canada Trail – Trail Funding Program (Roadway Conversion and Improvement Program and Network Extension Program Stream).
3. Council authorize the Commissioner of Public Works to enter into funding agreements with Trans Canada Trail on business terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Public Works and on legal terms that are agreeable to the Regional Solicitor.
4. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the local municipalities and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

**G.2.2 Traffic and Pedestrian Enhancements - Keele Street South of King Road - Township of King**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 21, 2024 from the Commissioner of Public Works:

1. Bylaw 2023-34 to prohibit or regulate parking and stopping on Regional roads be amended to add parking controls as outlined in Appendix A.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to Clerk of the Township of King and Chief of York Regional Police.
3. The Regional Solicitor and General Counsel prepare the necessary bylaw amendments.

## **H. Public Works - Environmental Services**

### **H.1 Communications**

#### **H.1.1 2023 Corporate Energy Update**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the memorandum dated May 27, 2024 from Laura McDowell, Commissioner of Public Works.

### **H.2 Reports**

#### **H.2.1 2023 Annual Waste Management Report**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation in the report dated May 24, 2024 from the Commissioner of Public Works:

1. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of local municipalities and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

#### **H.2.2 Update on the Province's Hazardous and Special Products Regulation (O. Reg 449/21) and Implications to the Region**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 24, 2024 from the Commissioner of Public Works:

1. The Regional Chair send a letter to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and local Members of Provincial Parliament to request amendments to the Hazardous and Special Products regulation (O. Reg 449/21) as outlined in this report.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), local Members of Provincial Parliament and the local municipalities.

### **H.2.3 Privately-Owned Water and Wastewater Communal Systems Status Report**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 27, 2024 from the Commissioner of Public Works:

1. Council endorse the Private Communal Water and Wastewater Systems Terms of Reference for proposed development applications considering privately-owned communal water and/or wastewater systems (Attachment 1).
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities, Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

### **H.2.4 Water Financial Plan Required under Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 27, 2024 from the Commissioner of Public Works:

1. Council approve the Water Financial Plan (Attachment 1) prepared for York Region's Municipal Drinking Water System Licence Renewals (Financial Plan Number 013-301A), in accordance with Ontario Regulation 453/07.
2. Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in accordance with the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*.

## **I. Community and Health Services**

### **I.1 Communications**

None

### **I.2 Reports**

#### **I.2.1 York Region's 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan**

Committee of the Whole referred this item to the Regional Council meeting on June 27, 2024 to consider an additional clause requesting the Province of Ontario to provide funding toward York Region's 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan.

### **I.2.2 2023 Paramedic Response Time Performance Plan Results**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation in the report dated May 27, 2024 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the local municipalities for information.

### **I.2.3 Housing Solutions 2023 Progress Report**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 29, 2024 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services and the Chief Planner:

1. Council request the Provincial and Federal governments to:
  - a. Expand the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit to add new households for the 2024-25 program year and beyond.
  - b. Establish a trilateral table including Service Managers to negotiate the final three-year allocation (2025-26 to 2027-28) of cost-shared funding under the National Housing Strategy.
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report and Attachment 1 to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing as the Region's 2023 Progress Report in accordance with the *Housing Services Act, 2011* and to local Members of Parliament, local Members of Provincial Parliament and Clerks of the local municipalities.

## **J. Planning and Economic Development**

### **J.1 Communications**

#### **J.1.1 Ontario Land Tribunal Appeal - OLT Case No. OLT-23-000254 - Lucia Milani and Lucia Milani in Trust - 11641 Dufferin Street and 11490 Bathurst Street - OP.58.89**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the communication from Todd Coles, City Clerk, City of Vaughan dated May 30, 2024.

(See Item M.1)

### **J.2 Reports**

#### **J.2.1 2023 Housing Supply and Affordability Update**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation in the report dated May 27, 2024 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and the Chief Planner:



1. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), local Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament and local municipalities for information.

### **J.2.2 Minutes - Agriculture & Agri-Food Advisory Committee Meeting - May 22, 2024**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the Minutes of the Agriculture & Agri-Food Advisory Committee meeting held on May 22, 2024.

## **K. Finance and Administration**

### **K.1 Communications**

#### **K.1.1 2023 Disposal of Surplus Assets**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the memorandum dated May 23, 2024 from Laura Mirabella, Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer.

#### **K.1.2 Contract Awards from January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the memorandum dated May 27, 2024 from Laura Mirabella, Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer.

(See Item O.5)

#### **K.1.3 Court & Tribunal Services 2023 Progress Report**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the memorandum dated May 29, 2024 from Dan Kuzmyk, Regional Solicitor and General Counsel.

#### **K.1.4 Update on Policing in Ontario - Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the memorandum dated May 29, 2024 from Dan Kuzmyk, Regional Solicitor and General Counsel.

### **K.2 Reports**

#### **K.2.1 2024 Capital Budget Reallocations**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation in the report dated May 7, 2024 from the Commissioner of Finance:

1. Council approve reallocations in 2024 gross capital expenditures and associated funding sources, as well as Capital Spending Authority and associated funding sources, including an increase of

\$9.0 million in Capital Spending Authority debt, as detailed in Appendix A and B.

### **K.2.2 Contract Awards and Amendments Requiring Council Approval**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 27, 2024 from the Commissioner of Finance:

1. Council approve the new non-standard procurements, extensions, and increases described in Appendix A and Private Attachment 1.
2. Council authorize the Signing Authorities in Table 8 of this report to execute the related contracts and instruments for the purchases in Appendix A and Private Attachment 1.

(See Item O.6)

### **K.2.3 Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation Debenture, Georgina**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 27, 2024 from the Commissioner of Finance:

Subject to the receipt of the necessary supporting documents from the Town of Georgina (the Town):

1. Council approve request from the Town for long-term financing in an amount not to exceed \$20,000,000 to finance construction of the Replacement Civic Centre (RCC) project for a term not exceeding 10 years.
2. Council approve submission of an application to Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation (OILC) for all or part of the above-noted financing by York Region on behalf of the Town.
3. Regional Chair and Regional Treasurer be authorized to execute the necessary documents to implement the approval of the financing, on business terms satisfactory to the Regional Treasurer and on legal terms satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor.
4. Regional Solicitor and General Counsel be directed to prepare the necessary bylaws.

### **K.2.4 Interim Extension of Rapid Transit Agreement**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 29, 2024 from the Regional Solicitor and General Counsel:

1. The Rapid Transit Agreement (the Agreement) between York Region Rapid Transit Corporation (YRRTC) and The Regional Municipality of York (the Region), dated September 10, 2009, be extended for an additional six months or until new governance documents between YRRTC and the Region are in effect, whichever is earlier.
2. The Region enter into an Extension Agreement with YRRTC in a form substantially similar to Appendix A.
3. The Regional Clerk and the Regional Chair be authorized to execute the Extension Agreement on behalf of the Region.

**K.2.5 Expropriation of Land - 16th Avenue from Leslie Street to Woodbine Avenue - City of Richmond Hill and City of Markham**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 28, 2024 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. Council approve an application for approval to expropriate interests in land in Appendix A, for road widening and improvement of 16th Avenue from Leslie Street to Woodbine Avenue in the Cities of Richmond Hill and Markham.
2. Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to execute the Application for Approval to Expropriate Land and the Notice of Application for Approval to Expropriate Land (the "Notice") and to serve and publish the Notice, as required under the *Expropriations Act* (the "Act").
3. Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to forward to the Chief Inquiry Officer any requests for an inquiry received and to represent the Region at an inquiry (Hearing of Necessity) held under the *Act*.
4. Council, as approving authority, approve the expropriation of the interests in land provided there is no Hearing of Necessity requested and not withdrawn in accordance with the *Act*.
5. Where approval to expropriate the land is given, the Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to register a plan of expropriation and execute and serve any Notices required under the *Act*.
6. Where approval to expropriate the land is given, Council authorize the introduction of the necessary bylaw to give effect to these recommendations.

**K.2.6 Expropriation of Land - 16th Avenue from Woodbine Avenue to Warden Avenue - City of Markham**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 28, 2024 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. Council approve an application for approval to expropriate the interests in land set out in Attachment 1, for road widening and improvement of 16th Avenue from Woodbine Avenue to Warden Avenue, in the City of Markham.
2. Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to execute the Application for Approval to Expropriate Land and the Notice of Application for Approval to Expropriate Land (the "Notice") and to serve and publish the Notice, as required under the *Expropriations Act* (the "Act").
3. Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to forward to the Chief Inquiry Officer any requests for an inquiry received and to represent the Region at an inquiry (Hearing of Necessity) held under the *Act*.
4. Council, as approving authority, approve the expropriation of the interests in land provided there is no Hearing of Necessity requested and not withdrawn in accordance with the *Act*.
5. Where approval to expropriate the land is given, the Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to register a plan of expropriation and execute and serve any Notices required under the *Act*.
6. Where approval to expropriate the land is given, Council authorize the introduction of the necessary bylaw to give effect to these recommendations.

**K.2.7 Expropriation of Land - Northeast Vaughan Wastewater Servicing Project - City of Vaughan**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 28, 2024 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. Council approve an application for approval to expropriate interests in lands set out in Appendix A, required for the Northeast Vaughan Wastewater Servicing Project, in the City of Vaughan.
2. Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to execute the Application for Approval to Expropriate Land and the Notice of

Application for Approval to Expropriate Land (the “Notice”) and to serve and publish the Notice, as required under the *Expropriations Act* (the “Act”).

3. Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to forward to the Chief Inquiry Officer any requests for an inquiry received and to represent the Region at an inquiry (Hearing of Necessity) held under the *Act*.
4. Council, as approving authority, approve the expropriation of interests in the lands set out in Appendix A provided there is no Hearing of Necessity requested and not withdrawn in accordance with the *Act*.
5. Where approval to expropriate the land is given, the Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to register an expropriation plan and execute and serve any notices required under the *Act*.
6. Where approval to expropriate land is given, Council authorize the introduction of the necessary bylaw to give effect to these recommendations.

#### **K.2.8 Expropriation Settlement - 11665 Jane Street - City of Vaughan**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 28, 2024 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. Council authorize the settlement of all claims pursuant to the *Expropriations Act* (the *Act*) with the owner of 11665 Jane Street, related to the Northeast Vaughan Water Servicing Project in the City of Vaughan.
2. Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to execute the Minutes of Settlement and all necessary documentation to complete the transaction.

(See Item O.7)

#### **K.2.9 Expropriation Settlement - Viva Rapid Transit Corridor - 9700 Yonge Street - City of Richmond Hill**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 28, 2024 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. Council authorize the settlement of all claims pursuant to the *Expropriations Act* with the fee simple owner of 9700 Yonge Street,

related to constructing the vivaNext bus rapid transit corridor on Yonge Street in the City of Richmond Hill.

2. Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to execute the Minutes of Settlement and all necessary documentation to complete the transaction.

(See Item O.8)

**K.2.10 Remove Lands from Regional Roads - Major Mackenzie Drive at Huntington Road - City of Vaughan**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated May 28, 2024 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. A portion of the original Major Mackenzie Drive West (Y.R. 25) alignment be removed from the Regional road system to revert these portions of public highway to the jurisdiction of the City of Vaughan as described in Appendix A.
2. Regional Clerk circulate this report to the City of Vaughan.
3. Regional Solicitor prepare the necessary bylaw.

**K.2.11 Expropriation Settlement Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension - 2900 Steeles Avenue West City of Vaughan**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations in the report dated June 6, 2024 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. Council authorize settlement of all claims pursuant to the *Expropriations Act* with the fee simple owner of 2900 Steeles Avenue West, related to construction of Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension in the City of Vaughan.
2. Commissioner of Corporate Services be authorized to execute the Minutes of Settlement and all necessary documentation to complete the transaction.

**L. Notice of Motion**

None

**M. Motions**

**M.1 Proposed Motion from Regional Councillor Jackson**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following motion:

WHEREAS on October 13, 1989, development applications for an Official Plan amendment and Zoning By-law amendment (OP.58.89 and Z.127.89) (collectively, the “Applications”), were filed with the then Town of Vaughan to facilitate the establishment of a residential subdivision on 11641 Dufferin Street and 11490 Bathurst Street (the “Property”);

WHEREAS the Applications predate the Region’s Official Plan; therefore, subject to the *Clergy* Principle, the Applications need not conform to any version of the current or previous Region Official Plans;

WHEREAS on March 8, 2004, the City Council passed a resolution stating that “the [Applications] are open and are considered “transitional” applications according to the definition under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act/Plan”;

WHEREAS on February 1, 2023, the owner of the Property filed appeals to the OLT due to the City’s failure to make a decision on the Applications (OLT Case No. 23-000254) (the “Appeal”). Regional Council resolved that the Region shall not participate in this Appeal;

WHEREAS the Region is satisfied that the Appeal before the OLT is valid. In the event there is some procedural concern about the initiation of the proceeding by appeal, to remove any misapprehension about the OLT’s jurisdiction, the Region has been asked to make a referral of the same matter;

WHEREAS no later than April 6, 2023, the Region received the Applications and Appeal;

WHEREAS to date, Regional comments have been completed and there are no outstanding Regional fees in relation to the Applications (respectively, Regional Files Nos. ZBA.23.V.0030 and LOPA.23.V.0017);

WHEREAS the City is supportive of having the matters before the OLT resolved efficiently without any cloud on the OLT’s jurisdiction to do so;

WHEREAS on May 9, 2024, the owner of the Property requested that the Region refer OP.58.89 (Region File No. LOPA.23.V.0017) to the OLT, and be consolidated with the ongoing Appeal. The owner states the following reasons for the referral:

1. The City Council has failed to make a decision on the Applications;
2. The Applications have regard to the matters of Provincial interest set out at section 2 of the Planning Act;
3. The Applications are consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement;
4. The Applications conform to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe;

5. The Applications comply to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act;
6. The proposed development will contribute to the overall achievement of the goals and objectives of the Official Plan;
7. The Applications would permit a development on the Property which represents good land use planning that is in the public interest; and
8. Such additional reasons as may be submitted by counsel and permitted by the Tribunal.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Council hereby refers OP.58.89 to the OLT; and, if necessary, gives retroactive effect to the referral to before the filing of the Appeal.
2. Council hereby resolves that this referral be dealt with together with the existing Appeal before the OLT.

**M.2 Correspondence - Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association (MRRRA) – Opposition to Aggregate on 300 Acres Around Future Kirby Road Extension**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the correspondence from Robert A. Kenedy, President, Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association.

(See Item M.1)

**N. Other Business**

**N.1 Observances and Days of Significance**

Regional Chair Emmerson acknowledged the following observances and days of significance in June:

- National Indigenous History Month
- PRIDE Month
- Seniors Month
- Italian Heritage Month
- Filipino Heritage Month
- Portuguese Heritage Month
- National Deaf Blind Awareness Month
- National Brain Injury Awareness Month



## **N.2 Hockey - Memorial Cup**

Regional Chair Emmerson extended congratulations to the Saginaw Spirit junior hockey team on its recent Memorial Cup victory. The team has three players from York Region, including:

- Braden Haché from the Town of Newmarket
- Alex Christopoulos from the City of Richmond Hill
- James Guo from the City of Vaughan

The Saginaw Spirit triumphed over the London Knights who have two players from York Region:

- Denver Barkley from the Town of Newmarket
- Jackson Edward from the Town of Newmarket

## **N.3 National Hockey League**

Regional Chair Emmerson congratulated and extended best wishes to five York Region NHL players currently competing in the Stanley Cup finals:

### Edmonton Oilers:

- Connor McDavid from the Town of Newmarket
- Sam Carrick from the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- Warren Foegele from the City of Markham

### Florida Panthers:

- Sam Bennett from the Town of East Gwillimbury
- Ryan Lomberg from the City of Richmond Hill

## **O. Private Session**

Committee of the Whole did not resolve into Private Session.

### **O.1 Private Report - 2024 Insurance Program Renewal - Negotiations**

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the confidential recommendation in the private report dated May 27, 2024 from the Commissioner of Finance. Report remains private.

### **O.2 Private Attachment 1 to Item K.2.11 - Expropriation Settlement - Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension - 2900 Steeles Avenue West - City of Vaughan - Acquisition of Land**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the private attachment. Attachment remains private.

**O.3 Private Memorandum - Privately-Owned Water and Wastewater Communal Systems Status Report - Solicitor Client Privilege**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the private memorandum dated May 29, 2024 from the Regional Solicitor and General Counsel. Memorandum remains private.

**O.4 Private Memorandum - Notice of Motion regarding Official Plan Amendment Appeal - 11641 Dufferin Street and 11490 Bathurst Street - City of Vaughan - Litigation and Solicitor-Client Privilege**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the private memorandum dated May 29, 2024 from the Regional Solicitor and General Counsel. Memorandum remains private.

**O.5 Private Attachment 1 to Item K.1.2 - Contract Awards from January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024 - Security of Property**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the private attachment. Attachment remains private.

**O.6 Private Attachment 1 to Item K.2.2 - Contract Awards and Amendments Requiring Council Approval - Security of Property**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the private attachment. Attachment remains private.

**O.7 Private Attachment 1 to Item K.2.8 - Expropriation Settlement - 11665 Jane Street - City of Vaughan - Acquisition of Land**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the private attachment. Attachment remains private.

**O.8 Private Attachment 1 to Item K.2.9 - Expropriation Settlement - Viva Rapid Transit Corridor - 9700 Yonge Street - City of Richmond Hill - Acquisition of Land**

Committee of the Whole recommends receipt of the private attachment. Attachment remains private.

**P. Adjournment**

Committee of the Whole adjourned at 11:10 a.m.



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**Report of the Commissioner of Community and Health Services  
York Region's 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan**

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## **1. Recommendation**

1. Council approve York Region's 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan (Attachment 1).
2. Council approve the rapid deployment actions for Emergency and Transitional Housing set out in Appendix A, including approval of immediate actions with an estimated net operating cost of up to \$3.1 million in 2024, to be funded from within the existing Community and Health Services Budget, with funding for ongoing annual net operating costs of up to \$7 million beyond 2024, equivalent to 0.5% of the 2025 net tax levy, to be identified and considered through the 2025 Budget process.
3. Commissioner of Community and Health Services be directed to include a capital plan for consideration as part of the 2025 budget process for development of new emergency and transitional housing projects.
4. The Regional Clerk circulate York Region's 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan to all local municipalities, the provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Associate Minister of Housing, as well as local area MPs and MPPs, Ontario Health Teams in York Region, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the United Way Greater Toronto.

## **2. Purpose**

This report seeks Council approval of York Region's 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan (System Plan) to guide York Region's response to homelessness. The System Plan is one of three implementation plans to support the Region's next 10-year housing and homelessness plan, targeted for Council approval in 2025. Priority Areas, activities, milestones and performance measures will be reported annually through the 10-year housing and homelessness plan progress

reports. Actions identified in the System Plan include advocacy related to federal and provincial government responsibilities in the housing and homelessness sector.

This report also responds to a request by Council in [March 2024](#) that staff report in June 2024 with a rapid deployment plan, with funding options, for emergency and transitional housing to address the exponential growth in homelessness and for staff to explore establishing a housing and homelessness advocacy group consisting of elected officials.

## Key Points:

- Homelessness is a serious and growing issue in York Region as noted in the [June 2023](#) memo to Council and the [November 2023](#) Special Council Meeting
- As the provincially designated homelessness services system manager, the proposed System Plan sets out goals and Priority Areas to guide the Region and community partners to improve, enhance and align delivery of homelessness services and supports between 2024 and 2027
- Progress on actions set out in the System Plan will be reported annually under a new 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, which is expected in 2025
- Proposed rapid deployment actions (Appendix A) align with the System Plan, focusing on increasing the availability of emergency and transitional beds and expanding support services for people who are unsheltered/in encampments
- Six rapid deployment actions can begin in 2024, with most starting this summer, funded within the existing Community and Health Services budget in 2024. If Council elects to proceed, additional operating funding would be required to support continuation of these actions in 2025 and onward
- The Region continues to manage the response to asylum seekers through the existing Homelessness Community Programs providing support to those in need

## 3. Background

### **As Service Manager, York Region is responsible for planning, development, implementation and delivery of housing and homelessness services**

York Region is one of 47 Service Managers in Ontario responsible for funding, planning, implementing, and delivering housing and homelessness programs and services as required by the provincial *Housing Services Act, 2011*. York Region administers and delivers homelessness prevention and housing stability supports, including funding for community agencies to provide services. The Region is also responsible for managing emergency and transitional housing, delivered in partnership with community agencies.

In [June 2022](#), Council directed staff to develop a homelessness service system plan in consultation with key partners including local municipalities, community organizations and people with lived experience. A [June 2023](#) memorandum to Council provided data about homelessness and poverty in the Region, highlighting housing affordability and low income as key drivers of homelessness, and identified challenges and gaps in the current regional homelessness service system. York Region joined the Association of Municipalities Ontario on [March 23, 2023](#) in calling on the provincial government to do more to end homelessness and recognize the growing challenge of homelessness throughout the province.

A Special Council Meeting was held in [November 2023](#) to provide Council with additional data illustrating the growing number of people experiencing homelessness and increasing need for support services in York Region, share information about innovative approaches to addressing homelessness, and introduce proposed goals and priority areas for the System Plan.

On [March 7, 2024](#), Regional Council approved a motion directing staff to develop rapid deployment actions, with funding options, for emergency and transitional housing to address growth in homelessness, and for staff to approach other Regional municipalities and the City of Toronto to establish a Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Group consisting of elected officials, with a report to Council in June 2024.

## **There are many factors contributing to homelessness**

Homelessness may be caused by a combination of factors, including high housing costs, low vacancy rates, individual life events like the loss of a job, a divorce or an eviction, and barriers such as low income, mental illness and addiction may make it more difficult to find and keep housing.

Although income supports are available through Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program, benefit levels are far too low to reasonably expect households to retain housing. For example, a single individual on Ontario Works receives a total of \$733 per month, including \$390 for housing. This rate is set by the province and has not changed since 2018. In York Region, a room in shared housing costs between \$800 and \$1,000 per month, while the average rent for purpose built rental units was \$1,664 in 2023. The Region has a limited stock of rental housing and vacancy rates for purpose-built rentals averaged 1.9% in 2023.

## **More people in York Region are experiencing homelessness than ever before**

The number of people identified on the By-Name List, a real-time list of people experiencing homelessness and accessing services in York Region, increased from 1,395 in 2019 to 1,784 in 2023. Between 2019 and 2023, the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness, meaning experiencing homelessness for longer than six months in the past year, increased from 124 to 473.

More people are living unsheltered. In 2023, the York Region Outreach Services encampment team visited a total of 204 encampment locations, up from 62 in 2021. The number of encampments fluctuates as people obtain shelter or move to another location. As of April 24, 2024, there were 54 known active encampments – people living outside on public land not intended for occupancy. An

insufficient supply of emergency and transitional housing in York Region relative to need is contributing to the increase.

As presented to Council at the November 2023 Special Council meeting on homelessness, based on current growth trajectories the number of people experiencing homelessness in York Region annually could increase to between 2,100 and 2,300 by 2030 (excludes asylum seekers which cannot be forecasted at this time).

### **York Region's emergency and transitional housing infrastructure is insufficient to address growing needs**

York Region has fewer emergency beds than its peer municipalities as shown in Appendix B. The Region's 183 emergency beds and 66 transitional housing beds are regularly at or near capacity, because of increased demand, and because it takes longer for people to move out. The average length of stay in emergency housing grew from 26.5 days in 2019 to 49.3 days in 2023. As people stay longer in emergency housing, less capacity is available for others to get help.

When there is no capacity in the emergency and transitional housing system, alternate approaches are used to provide people experiencing homelessness with accommodations:

- Overflow beds are added in common areas at emergency housing facilities
- Seasonal shelters
- Hotels are used when other options are not reasonably available

### **The solution for homelessness is a permanent home, however York Region does not have enough affordable housing**

High housing costs, low incomes and a limited supply of available units make ending homelessness a challenge. The Region funds community housing and other subsidy programs, however, demand exceeds supply. As of December 31, 2023, there were 15,716 households on the wait list for subsidized housing.

Programs such as the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) have proven to be an important tool to assist people experiencing or at risk of homelessness find and keep permanent housing, by providing a financial subsidy eligible households can use to help pay market rent. In 2023, York Region was allocated over \$4.8 million in provincial funding and enrolled 527 households in COHB, including 214 households who were experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Funding amounts have not been consistent, and York Region regularly allocates all available funding within a few months. Success of the program relies on sufficient affordable and available market rental supply. As outlined in the Housing Solutions Progress Report, the Region continues to advocate for predictable investment in COHB.

## **The Region's Asylum Seeker response has moved into Homelessness Community Programs however it is not integrated into the System Plan**

The Region has been operating interim accommodations and providing supports to meet the unique settlement needs of asylum seekers arriving in York Region. The Region is continuing to work with local municipalities and partners to help ensure asylum seekers are supported through their settlement journey.

The asylum seeker response is now being delivered within Homelessness Community Programs, however, there is additional work to be done to assess the needs of asylum seekers and provide appropriate supports, such as forecasting, program review and the impact of potential new developments such as the reception center to be created in Peel Region.

## **Proposed System Plan supports legislated responsibility to develop a 10-year housing and homelessness plan**

As Service Manager, York Region is mandated to develop a 10-year housing and homelessness plan that includes a community needs assessment and sets out objectives and targets to address identified issues. Council approved York Region's first 10-year housing and homelessness plan, *Housing Solutions*, in [June 2014](#), and a significant update to the plan in [October 2019](#) following a five-year review. [Housing Solutions: A place for everyone – Phase 2](#), ended in 2023.

Housing Solutions 2023 Progress Report is provided on the same agenda as this report for Committee of the Whole's consideration on June 13, 2024. It reports on progress made in 2023 and achievements over the last five years on the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. As communicated in March 2024, the next 10-year housing and homelessness plan is under development, targeted for Council's consideration in Q2 2025.

If approved, the System Plan would be the first of three implementation plans supporting the next 10-year housing and homelessness plan, as shown in Figure 1. The proposed System Plan will build on work undertaken over the past five years to increase service capacity, strengthen partnerships and coordination, and enhance the use of data to support ongoing system planning and address system gaps, while maintaining a focus on helping people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find and keep stable housing. Priority Areas, activities and milestones identified in the System Plan will be reflected in the next 10-year plan.

**Figure 1**  
**York Region Housing Continuum, Related Implementation Plans and**  
**Households Served**



## 4. Analysis

### Proposed System Plan is informed by community consultation and research

The System Plan was informed by research, analysis of approaches used by other jurisdictions, and engagement, including key informant interviews with members of Council, sector organizations, service providers and people with lived experience. Demand forecasting was done to identify infrastructure and service requirements needed by 2033.

The community engagement process focused on two aspirational goals and three priority areas, discussed below, to explore community needs and gaps and challenges in the service system and identify key actions to strengthen the homelessness service system between 2024 and 2027. Through consultations, the goals and priority areas were validated and a fourth priority area, Advocacy and Engagement, was identified to address areas where the federal and provincial governments have responsibility.



## **Demand forecasting identified the need for additional service system capacity**

Demand forecasting completed for York Region identified recommended increases to service system capacity to meet the current level of need and support the Region and its partners to respond to continued growth. Capacity increases needed by 2033 include:

- 300 additional emergency housing beds
- 350 additional transitional housing units
- Additional rent subsidy and case management supports to respond to chronic homelessness need to increase from 100 people supported to over 600 people supported
- Capacity of the Outreach Services Program (front-line support for people who may be living unsheltered in the community) needs to increase to address increases in visible homelessness in communities
- Capacity of the Homelessness Prevention Program and Housing Stability Program (homelessness prevention programs that help to keep people housed) needs to increase. These are key homelessness prevention programs that help to keep people housed

Service demand forecasting for asylum seeker needs is challenging due to the high degree of uncertainty with asylum seeker arrival data and changing immigration policies. Additional analysis and engagement with community agencies is planned to further refine and validate the projected capacity increase requirements and estimated costs.

## **System Plan has two aspirational goals and four Priority Areas**

Priority Areas, objectives, activities and milestones set out in the System Plan are framed by two aspirational goals that will guide the Region's overall approach to service delivery and system management:

- Goal 1: End chronic homelessness in York Region by prioritizing prevention to keep people from losing their housing in the first place; supporting people who experience homelessness to obtain stable housing as quickly as possible; and investing in housing retention and wraparound support services to ensure people remain housed, including programs that use a Housing First approach.
- Goal 2: Strengthen York Region's human rights-based approach to addressing homelessness by working with partners to deliver supports and services that reflect the personal rights and dignity of the people who need them; ensuring support services are equitably provided; focusing the response to encampments and unsheltered homelessness on helping people connect to appropriate housing and support services, and meaningfully engaging people with lived experience.

Activities in the System Plan are organized under four Priority Areas. The Priority Areas and examples of proposed activities and milestones are summarized in Table 1. All proposed activities, milestones and performance measures are set out in the detailed implementation plan, with timelines for each milestone (see Appendix C of the Attachment). Activities and milestones set out in the System Plan will address the growth in homelessness in York Region and support continued development of a homelessness service system focused on ensuring that if or when a person experiences homelessness, it is a rare, brief and one-time event. Milestones in the System Plan recommended as rapid deployment actions to begin in 2024 are marked with an \*.

**Table 1:  
Priority Areas for 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan**

<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Milestones</b>
1. Prevention and Diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve eviction prevention</li> <li>• Enhance emergency housing diversion programs to help people connect with alternatives to emergency housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities to support and enhance eviction prevention programs</li> <li>• Develop a “prevention toolkit” to provide an information resource for community service providers and residents</li> <li>• Identify options to enhance the Diversion Program</li> </ul>
2. Intervention and Housing Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide more wraparound supports including system navigation, housing-focused case management, and service referrals to help people find and keep housing</li> <li>• Provide housing programs for people with high needs and complex barriers, including people experiencing chronic homelessness</li> <li>• Increase emergency housing capacity to reflect need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance Outreach Program supports for people who are living unsheltered/in encampments by expanding hours and adding services*</li> <li>• Develop an encampment protocol in partnership with local municipalities including bylaw, police, fire, and other community agencies to coordinate the response to people who are unsheltered/in encampments*</li> <li>• Strengthen and expand Housing First approaches to programs to support people with complex needs, including funding for programs that help people who are chronically homeless*</li> <li>• Partner with local municipalities to identify locations and options to build new Emergency and Transitional Housing</li> <li>• Increase emergency and transitional beds capacity until such time as the Emergency and Transitional Housing</li> </ul>

Priority Area	Activities	Milestones
		capacity is sufficient to address need*
3. Systems Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with partners to effectively manage the service system</li> <li>Improve coordination and planning across the service system to connect people to appropriate and available services</li> <li>Enhance use of tools and data to support system planning and set service targets</li> <li>Strengthen the capacity, capability and competency of the service system and service providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a homelessness system leadership table</li> <li>Evaluate the Emergency Housing Central Intake Line to identify opportunities for continuous improvement</li> <li>Expand use of data forecasting for long-term system planning</li> <li>Enhance training for frontline staff and service providers to support integration of best practices and new innovations into the service system</li> </ul>
4. Advocacy and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement an agenda to guide advocacy to the Provincial and Federal governments to address structural and system issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased operating and capital funding from the Provincial and Federal governments</li> </ul>

## York Region proposes to implement rapid deployment actions starting in summer 2024

Staff have identified six actions that can be initiated quickly in response to Council direction to develop a rapid deployment plan for emergency and transitional housing. The proposed rapid deployment actions are listed in Appendix A. Rapid deployment actions focus on services that help people experiencing homelessness meet their immediate needs, to become stably housed, and to support progress toward activities and milestones identified under Priority Area 2 – Intervention and Housing Stability in the System Plan.

Principles used to identify rapid deployment actions are:

- Actions would begin in 2024; preferably beginning this summer
- Reduce the number of people living unsheltered and expand emergency housing capacity
- Contract with existing service providers where possible to support rapid implementation
- Fiscally prudent, practical, and targeting immediate results

Proposed actions are aligned with the System Plan priorities. Table 2 provides an overview of the actions and Appendix A provides fulsome details. All ongoing costs are net new operating costs.

**Table 2**  
**Proposed Rapid Deployment Actions**

Actions	Description	2024 Estimated Operating Costs	Annual Ongoing Operating Costs
Add beds in existing emergency and transitional housing facilities starting Summer 2024	One-time funding to Housing York Inc. to increase existing emergency and transitional housing capacity by 30 beds	\$200,000 (one-time funding)	-
	Annual operating costs to support new beds (e.g. meals, supports, community agency staffing)	\$640,000	\$1,530,000
Add beds in hotels starting Summer 2024	Fund existing emergency and transitional housing providers to provide 34 additional hotel room beds and support services	\$830,000	\$2,000,000
Add seasonal shelter beds starting October 2024	Fund existing emergency and transitional housing providers to provide 75 additional seasonal shelter beds (Heat Relief Plan, and Cold Weather Response)	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000
Increase capacity of the Community Paramedicine Outreach Response Team program starting Summer 2024	Add four permanent Outreach Workers and four permanent Community Paramedics to provide supports to people living unsheltered/in encampments	\$200,000	\$480,000
Increase capacity of Outreach Workers to support clients living unsheltered/in encampments starting Summer 2024	Add four temporary Outreach Workers to provide supports to people living unsheltered/in encampments and expand hours of service to 10 p.m.	\$190,000	\$420,000
Additional program funding to help people who are chronically homeless starting in 2024	Provide funding to service providers to provide supports to additional people who are chronically homeless	-	\$1,000,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,060,000</b>	<b>\$8,430,000</b>

Note: 2024 net operating impact will be absorbed within the approved CHS budget. 2025 net operating impact requires a 0.5% tax levy increase above approved outlook (approximately \$7 million), with the balance being funded through the existing CHS budget.

**Proposed rapid deployment actions will create 139 new emergency, transitional, hotel and seasonal shelter beds**

Table 3 provides a breakdown of existing and proposed emergency, transitional, hotel and seasonal shelter beds.

**Table 3  
Proposed New Emergency and Transitional Housing Capacity**

Bed Type	Total Current Beds	Total Proposed New Beds
Emergency Housing	183	15
Transitional Housing	66	15
Seasonal Shelter*	50	75
Hotel Program	34	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>139</b>

\*Note: seasonal shelter beds do not operate year-round.

**Capital funding will be required to support development of new emergency and transitional housing capacity to meet growing need**

Rapid redeployment actions are intended to bridge the gap until the Region’s supply of permanent emergency and transitional beds can be increased to meet need. Meeting these needs will require land and capital funding in future years.

Based on current numbers and the 2030 forecast, staff are developing a capital plan to be part of the 2025 budget process for construction of two new emergency and transitional housing projects. The two new projects will add approximately 75 emergency and 60 transition housing beds to the system, a total of approximately 135 new beds. The estimated capital cost of these two projects is \$70 million (includes cost of land). Ongoing operating costs will also be required for new facilities, with those costs to be brought forward in future operating budget submissions.

The two new projects are in addition to the three existing emergency housing facilities to be replaced already included in the 10-year capital plan. Where practical and subject to funding, opportunities to expand their capacity upon redevelopment will be explored, including the addition of transitional housing. The facilities are:

- Porter Place Men’s shelter, 30 beds, Town of East Gwillimbury
- Leeder Place Family shelter, 60 beds, Town of East Gwillimbury
- Sutton Youth Services, 16 beds, Town of Georgina

Increasing the supply of affordable housing options, including community housing, is also critical to reduce the risk of homelessness and help people remain stably housed. To help address this need, two new Regional Community Housing Projects will be considered as part of the 2025 budget process.

### **A review to identify potential locations for emergency, transitional and community housing is currently underway**

Planning Services staff are currently consolidating data on Regionally and municipally owned lands that may be available for housing initiatives including emergency and transitional housing, community housing or partnerships with the private sector for market affordable housing. Corporate Services is concurrently completing a review of Regionally-owned properties and buildings to explore additional opportunities. This work supports the Community Housing Supply Plan and Affordable Private Market Housing Implementation Plan and is targeted for completion in Q4 2024.

As sites are identified, pre-development activities will commence, such as retaining planning and architectural design consultants to secure approvals and prepare construction documents. Work will be funded in 2024 from the existing Community and Health Services capital budget. Additional funding for pre-development work and to advance construction will be sought through annual budget approval processes.

### **Additional 2024 work in support of the rapid deployment actions is planned**

York Region will continue to advocate in partnership with local municipalities, to the provincial and federal governments for additional operating and capital funding to address the homelessness and housing supply issues.

Given the rapid increase in the number of encampments, the Region's practices and protocols for working with local municipalities (especially by-law enforcement) require updating. Development of a new, comprehensive protocol is planned to start in fall 2024, in partnership with local municipalities and other stakeholders.

Finally, the Region has received requests from local municipalities to again offer training to their staff on homelessness and available programs. Staff will be providing training upon request, beginning in summer 2024.

### **Association of Municipalities Ontario and Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario provide an opportunity for elected officials to engage in advocacy**

Regarding the request for staff to explore establishing a housing and homelessness advocacy group consisting of elected officials, staff have conducted research and have engaged with the Association of Municipalities Ontario and Ontario Municipal Social Services Association. There are two tables of elected officials where housing and homelessness advocacy is discussed: Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario and Association of Municipalities Ontario Social Policy and Human Services Transformation Task Force.

Further advocacy from the Region on housing and homelessness could be brought forward to both tables as needed. In addition, a meeting of federal, provincial and local municipal elected officials to discuss the response to homelessness may be considered. At a staff level, the Region will continue to work with community partners and through existing tables as appropriate.

Advocacy is important as Federal and Provincial funding will be critical in supporting the Region to help people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to find and keep housing. The Region will continue to advocate for additional federal and provincial investment, including direct funding to respond to homelessness, permanent portable benefit programs, such as the COHB, multi-year funding, sustained federal and provincial funding, and policy changes to increase the supply and access to affordable housing of all types.

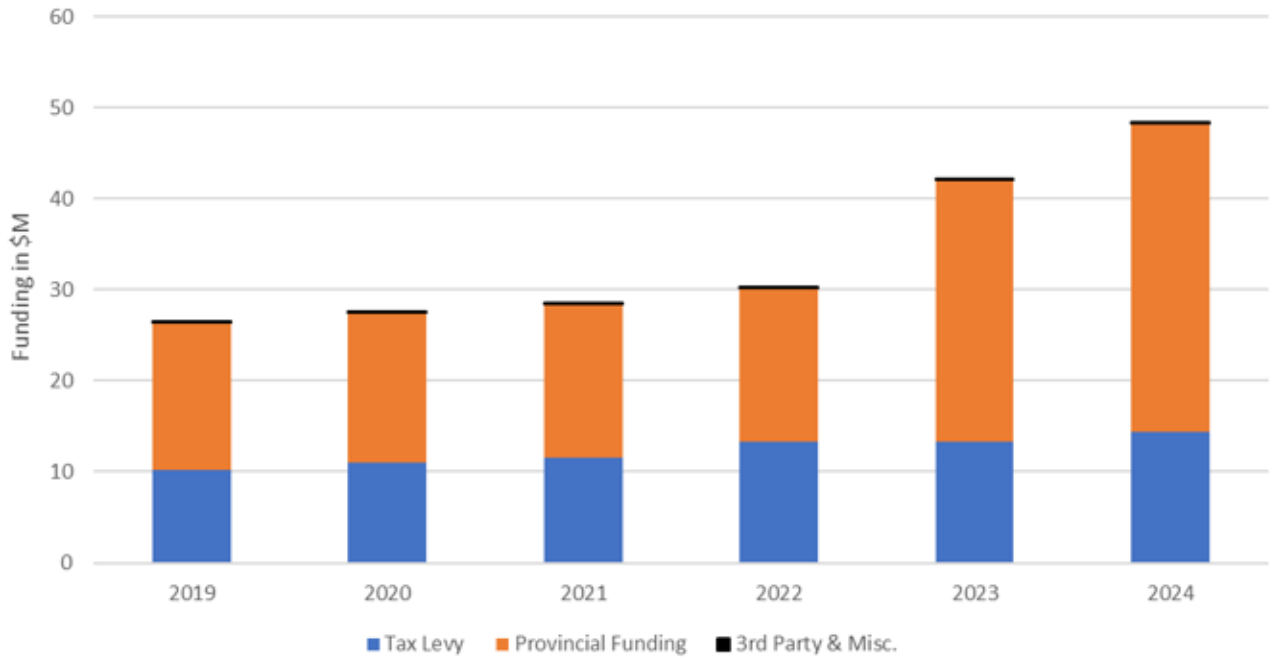
**The System Plan supports the Healthy Communities Area of Focus**

Through a focus on helping residents who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find and keep housing, the System Plan will contribute to York Region’s [2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan](#) priority to Support Community Well-being, and aligns with Council’s Vision for York Region as strong, caring and safe communities.

**5. Financial Considerations**

Total gross expenditures in the approved 2024 operating budget for Homelessness Community Programs are \$48.5 million. \$34 million (70.1%) is funded by the province, \$14.4 million (29.5%) is funded by tax levy and \$0.1 million funded by other funding sources, such as Federal Reaching Home funding. Figure 2 below shows the Homelessness Community Programs budget and funding sources for 2019 to 2024.

**Figure 2  
Homelessness Community Programs Budget - Funding Sources 2019 to 2024**



\*Note: The Region also received approximately \$48 million between 2020 and 2022 in temporary Social Services Relief Funding to assist with responding to social service impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Provincial funding in the Homelessness Community Programs budget has increased by \$17.8 million or 110% since 2019, from \$16.2 million to \$34 million. Tax levy funding for this budget has increased by \$4.1 million or 40%; \$1.5 million of the increase is from transfer of existing tax levy funding from the Community Investment Program to Homelessness Community Programs to ensure continued funding of critical homelessness projects (such as seasonal shelters).

**York Region received additional funding from the Province in 2023, however it is not enough to address increasing homelessness in the Region**

In March 2023, the Province increased total Homelessness Prevention Program funding by \$202 million. As a result, York Region’s allocation increased by \$15.8 million over the 2022/23 funding allocation of \$20.9 million, bringing the new total to \$36.7 million for fiscal 2023/24. \$33.4 million of this funding is included in the Homelessness Community Programs budget, with the remaining \$3.3 million funding rent supplements under the Housing budget. This additional funding is to help address York Region’s historical underfunding from the province, as reported in the 2021 Ontario Auditor General’s Report. The province has committed to providing \$36.7 million every year to York Region through its Homelessness Prevention Program until 2025/26.



## Council approved Critical Social Infrastructure Funding to help address critical social issues

In [February 2023](#) Council approved \$12.8 million in funding to the Community and Health Services budget. One of the three priorities identified was homelessness with allocated funding of \$4.8 million. New provincial funding received by the Region was used to replace the Regional funding originally committed for Council-endorsed homelessness initiatives. These initiatives, summarized in Table 4, expanded capacity to help people experiencing homelessness meet their immediate needs and provide longer-term support to stabilize in housing. The System Plan and rapid deployment actions recommended in this report will further support Homelessness Community Programs to respond to growing needs and continue to build capacity to intervene earlier to prevent homelessness where possible and provide supports to help more people become and remain stably housed.

**Table 4:  
Impact of Critical Social Infrastructure Projects**

Initiative	Outcome
Extend Inn from the Cold to provide year-round emergency and transitional housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added 25 ongoing emergency beds and 5 transitional units to the service system</li> </ul>
Heat Relief Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided additional supports for people experiencing homelessness during extreme hot weather, such as providing supplies and drop-in programs</li> <li>Over 450 cooling kits provided in 2023</li> </ul>
Expanded Community Paramedicine and Outreach Response Team (CPORT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided primary health care, mental health and addiction support and social services support to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness</li> <li>505 unique clients supported by CPORT in 2023, including 83 at known encampment locations</li> </ul>
Added housing supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded service providers to offer temporary rent assistance and support services to help people stabilize in housing</li> <li>144 unique clients supported in 2023</li> </ul>

## Proposed rapid deployment actions would be funded from within Community and Health Services Department budget for 2024; funding will be needed for 2025

Current projections of Community and Health Services operating surplus for 2024 suggest the rapid deployment actions implemented in 2024 (approximately \$3.1 million) can be managed within the Community and Health Services 2024 approved budget.

All rapid deployment actions would require continued funding in 2025. There are significant initial investments required such as the hiring and training of staff by funded community agencies and the Region, and continuation of rent assistance funding for unsheltered people that have been housed. Based on current information and estimates, Community and Health Services cannot fully fund these actions in 2025 or beyond.

The net operating impact in 2025 is anticipated to require a 0.5% tax levy increase above the approved outlook (resulting in approximately \$7 million), with the balance funded through the existing Community and Health Services budget. Staff will work through the 2025 budget process to request these funds and will explore all potential alternate funding sources including any available federal or provincial funding opportunities.

### **A capital plan for new emergency and transitional housing is being developed**

Two new Emergency and Transitional Housing projects will be presented for consideration as part of the 2025 10-year capital plan, at an estimated cost of \$70 million. Ongoing operating costs will also be required for these facilities. Funding options for the two new projects will be put forward through the budget process. Pre-development work will commence in 2024, funded through the existing approved Community and Health Services capital budget.

## **6. Local Impact**

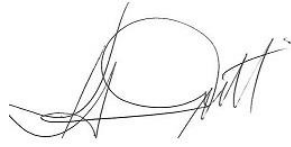
Homelessness affects all local municipalities in York Region. The Region engaged with local municipalities, community agencies, service providers, and people with lived experience to develop the System Plan.

## **7. Conclusion**

Homelessness is a growing and complex challenge requiring a whole of community approach, including partnerships with other systems, community partners, local municipalities, and service providing organizations. The System Plan and the proposed rapid deployment actions will support York Region in working collaboratively with system partners to take action to address homelessness over the next three years and beyond. Continued advocacy for additional funding and support to the provincial and federal governments is also critical to supporting the ongoing response to support people who may be at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the Region.

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For more information on this report, please contact Kevin Pal, General Manager at (877)-464-9675 ext. 72150. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



Recommended by:

**Katherine Chislett**  
Commissioner of Community and Health Services



Approved for Submission:

**Erin Mahoney**  
Chief Administrative Officer

May 30, 2024  
#16044409

Appendix A – Rapid Deployment Actions  
Appendix B – Emergency and Transitional Housing Capacity  
Attachment 1 – 2024 to 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan #16178578

**Rapid Deployment Actions**

Proposed Actions	2024 Estimated Costs	Annual Ongoing Costs	Descriptions	Key Outcomes
<b>Add beds in existing emergency and transitional housing facilities</b>	\$200,000 (one-time funding)	None	One-time capital funding to increase existing emergency and transitional housing capacity by 30 beds	Required furniture and equipment purchased and 30 beds made available for people.
	\$640,000	\$1,530,000	Annual operating costs to support new beds (e.g. meals, supports, community agency staffing)	Up to 120 additional people supported in Emergency and Transitional housing annually <sup>1</sup>
<b>Add beds in hotels</b>	\$840,000	\$2,000,000	Fund existing emergency and transitional housing providers to provide 34 additional hotel room beds and support services	Up to 136 additional people supported in hotels rooms annually <sup>2</sup>
<b>Add seasonal shelter beds</b>	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000	Fund existing emergency and transitional housing providers to provide 75 additional seasonal shelter beds (Heat Relief Plan, and Cold Weather Response)	Up to 525 additional people supported in seasonal shelters per cold weather season <sup>3</sup>
<b>Increase capacity of the Community Paramedicine and Outreach Response Team program</b>	\$200,000	\$480,000	Add four permanent Outreach Workers and four permanent Community Paramedics to provide supports to people living unsheltered/in encampments and expand hours of service	Up to 248 additional people supported with social services through CPORT annually <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Based on historical data indicating up to four people may be provided services per one bed, annually

<sup>2</sup> Based on historical data indicating up to four people may be provided services per one bed, annually

<sup>3</sup> Length of stay per client in seasonal shelters is highly variable and can change based on severity of weather. Seasonal shelters support many unique individuals on a nightly basis.

<sup>4</sup> Based on historical data indicating an average caseload of approximately 60 clients per outreach worker providing intensive case management, per year

Proposed Actions	2024 Estimated Costs	Annual Ongoing Costs	Descriptions	Key Outcomes
<b>Increase capacity of Outreach Workers to support clients living unsheltered/in encampments</b>	\$185,000	\$420,000	Add four temporary Outreach Workers to provide supports to people living unsheltered/in encampments and expand hours of service	Up to 268 additional people supported through Outreach Services annually <sup>5</sup>
<b>Additional program funding to help people who are chronically homeless</b>	-	\$1,000,000	Provide funding to service providers to provide supports to additional people who are chronically homeless	It is expected that with this additional funding, between 250 to 300 people will be supported with 180 receiving rent subsidy <sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Based on historical data indicating an average caseload of approximately 60 clients per encampment outreach worker, per year

<sup>6</sup> Based on 2023 program data about 200 people were supported with about 100 of these people receiving rent subsidy

**Comparison of Emergency and Transitional Housing Capacity with Neighbouring Service Managers**

<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Number of Beds</b>	<b>Population*</b>
York Region	183 emergency housing beds 66 transitional housing beds <b>249 total number of beds</b>	1,173,103 (21 beds/100,000 population)
Waterloo Region	499 emergency shelter beds 130 interim/hybrid beds <b>629 total number of beds</b>	587,165 (107 beds/100,000 population)
Peel Region	442 emergency housing beds 72 transitional housing beds <b>514 total number of beds</b>	1,451,022 (35 beds/100,000 population)
City of London	305 emergency shelter beds 110 transitional rooms 16 Hub respite beds 27 Hub transitional beds <b>458 total number of beds</b>	543,551 (84 beds/100,000 population)
City of Hamilton	408 emergency housing beds 80 transitional housing beds <b>488 total number of beds</b>	569,353 (86 beds/100,000 population)
Durham Region	150 emergency housing beds 44 transitional housing beds <b>194 total number of beds</b>	696,992 (28 beds/100,000 population)

# HOMELESSNESS

## Service System Plan:

ATTACHMENT 1

2024 TO 2027



[york.ca/PlanForHomelessness](http://york.ca/PlanForHomelessness)

June 2024

# A MESSAGE FROM YORK REGION CHAIRMAN AND CEO AND MEMBERS OF REGIONAL COUNCIL



Chairman & CEO  
Wayne Emerson

# DRAFT

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations. Today, this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land. We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.



Mayor  
Frans Scarpitti  
City of Markham



Regional Councilor  
Michael Chan  
City of Markham



Regional Councilor  
Jim Jones  
City of Markham



Regional Councilor  
Joe Li  
City of Markham



Regional Councilor  
Alan Ho  
City of Markham



Mayor  
John Taylor  
Town of Newmarket



Regional Councilor  
Tom Vech  
Town of Newmarket



Mayor  
Steven Joe Duce  
City of Vaughan



Regional Councilor  
Linda Jackson  
City of Vaughan



Regional Councilor  
Vania Ferri  
City of Vaughan



Regional Councilor  
Sima Rosati  
City of Vaughan



Regional Councilor  
Mario G. Rocco  
City of Vaughan



Mayor  
Margaret Quirk  
Town of Georgina



Regional Councilor  
Naomi Davison  
Town of Georgina



Mayor  
David West  
City of Richmond Hill



Regional Councilor  
Godwin Chan  
City of Richmond Hill



Regional Councilor  
Joe Di Paolo  
City of Richmond Hill



Mayor  
Tom Vinkas  
Town of Aurora



Mayor  
Virginia Jackson  
Town of East Gwillimburgh



Mayor  
Steve Pellegrin  
Township of King



Mayor  
John Lovell  
Town of Whitby



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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.  
Please contact 1-877-464-9675.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Homelessness Service System Plan (the System Plan) was developed with the contributions of regional, local municipal, and community agency staff, including many people who provide direct support to people experiencing homelessness. They took time to share their current challenges and ideas.

The Region also thanks the many people with lived and living experience of homelessness who shared their stories. This plan has been shaped by people’s experiences. They have given ideas and hopes for how efforts can better help prevent and end homelessness.

Over the course of the System Plan, the Region will continue to engage with community partners and people with lived experience.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE OF HOMELESSNESS IN YORK REGION

Demand for homelessness services in York Region has increased significantly in recent years. Existing emergency and transitional housing programs consistently operate at or near capacity. The need for supports to help people without a home or at risk of losing it continues to increase. Detailed demand informed forecasting completed in 2023 found that without additional services and supports and improved access to housing affordable to people with low incomes, the number of people experiencing homelessness in York Region will grow from 1,300 as of September 30, 2023<sup>1</sup> to between 2,100 and 2,300 by 2030. The current large increases in the numbers of people living unsheltered and unsustainable pressures on the emergency and transitional housing system are an ongoing trend. The challenge to the Region and its partners is to work together to help people keep their homes and at the same time, help people who do experience homelessness to find housing swiftly, stay safe and healthy, and get support to stabilize over the long term.

The **2024 to 2027 York Region Homelessness Service System Plan (the System Plan)** identifies a vision, goals and priority areas to prevent and reduce homelessness in York Region.

Through this System Plan, York Region aims to build an effective, coordinated, and responsive Homelessness Service System that aligns the work of many different partners to prevent and end homelessness.

### THE SYSTEM PLAN IS GUIDED BY TWO ASPIRATIONAL GOALS:

#### GOAL 1

End Chronic Homelessness in York Region

#### GOAL 2

Strengthen York Region's Human Rights-Based Approach to Addressing Homelessness

<sup>1</sup> At the time the forecast was completed, data was available up to September 30, 2023. As of December 31, 2023, 1,784 unique individuals were known to have experienced homelessness in York Region in 2023.



“They do a good job motivating you as well as supporting you here [Emergency Housing site]. They’ll help you with stuff like making your resume.”

(Lived Experience Focus Group Participant)

As homelessness impacts all of the Region’s unique communities, a collaborative approach is required to prevent, reduce and eventually end homelessness in York Region. It is by working together as one community that the homelessness response can be delivered with compassion and a coordinated effort.



#### PRIORITY 1

Prevention and Diversion

#### PRIORITY 2

Intervention and Housing Stability

#### PRIORITY 3

Systems Response

#### PRIORITY 4

Advocacy and Engagement

### FROM 2024 TO 2027, THE KEY PRIORITIES IN THE PLAN ARE:

- Enhancing **Prevention and Diversion** services that help people stay housed or return to stable housing as quickly as possible
- Delivering **Intervention and Housing Stability** supports that meet the needs for safety, shelter, and food of people who experience homelessness and help people obtain housing and connect with longer-term housing stabilization programs
- Building a **Systems Response**, working collaboratively with partners across the service system to connect people to appropriate and effective supports
- Strengthening York Region’s **Advocacy and Engagement** with other levels of government to address service system gaps, in partnership with the community

The System Plan sets out actions the Region will take to achieve these goals and priorities, working with all levels of government, community-based agencies, and many other partners.

## OUR VISION, GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE HOMELESSNESS SERVICE SYSTEM:

York Region's vision is an **effective, coordinated** and **responsive** Homelessness Service System that aligns the work of many different partners to **prevent and end homelessness**.

Across Canada, the number of people experiencing homelessness is increasing, and demand for services is growing rapidly.

York Region is not immune to this growing challenge. While the expansion of services and supports over the past 10 years has been critical to responding to homelessness in York Region, existing programs funded by the Region operate at or near full capacity as the depth of need has continued to increase at a faster rate. High rents and low vacancy rates mean it is nearly impossible for many people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness to find and keep housing in York Region without ongoing support.

Effectively preventing and ending homelessness

requires tailored, individualized services and collaboration across different sectors and levels of government. It also requires senior levels of government to focus on investments and policies that address structural challenges, such as supporting housing affordability, increasing social assistance, and improving access to employment, health and mental health and additional supports.

The System Plan identifies a vision, goals, and priority areas. It sets out actions and milestones that the Region, together with community partners, will take to improve and enhance the collective response to homelessness. The System Plan also includes performance measures that will enable the Region to track progress.

## Housing is a key social determinant of health

“Adequate housing is essential to one's sense of dignity, safety, inclusion and ability to contribute to the fabric of our neighbourhoods and societies... Without appropriate housing it is often not possible to get and keep employment, to recover from mental illness or other disabilities, to integrate into the community, to escape physical or emotional violence or to keep custody of children.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Ontario Human Rights Commission. (2008). Right at home: Report on the consultation on human rights and rental housing in Ontario.

## THE SYSTEM PLAN IS GUIDED BY TWO ASPIRATIONAL GOALS:

### GOAL 1

## End Chronic Homelessness in York Region

Chronic homelessness describes people who have been experiencing homelessness for six months or longer in the past year, or people who have experienced homelessness for more than 18 months in the past three years. See Appendix A for common terms and definitions.

Ending chronic homelessness is a long-term goal that can be achieved through a shared focus on preventing people who are at risk of homelessness from losing their housing, and by helping people who experience homelessness to quickly access supports and services to stabilize and regain housing.

Ending chronic homelessness can help free up essential system capacity, including emergency housing. For example, in 2023, the top 40 people with the longest stays (six months or longer) in emergency housing accounted for 16% of total capacity usage in the system.

To end chronic homelessness, the Region will work with partners to:

- Prioritize prevention to keep people from losing their housing in the first place
- Support people who experience homelessness to obtain stable housing as quickly as possible
- Invest in housing retention and wraparound supports to ensure people remain housed, including effective high-support programs that use a Housing First approach



## Housing First Approach

Housing First is a service model targeted at people who have complex needs and barriers in their experience with chronic homelessness. The key principles include immediate access to housing with no pre-conditions, choice and self-determination, recovery orientation (including harm reduction), individualized and person-driven supports, and social and community integration.<sup>3</sup>

Communities that have put the Housing First approach into practice have seen significant reductions in homelessness. Finland, which set a goal in 1987 to end all homelessness, adopted a plan based on Housing First principles in 2008. People experiencing homelessness are provided with immediate access to housing without preconditions,

with subsidized rent and other supports if required. As a result of this approach, the number of shelter beds in Helsinki dropped from 2,121 in 1985 to 52 in 2016, while the number of supportive housing units and rental units for people who had experienced homelessness increased from fewer than 200 to more than 3,700.<sup>4</sup>

The Housing First approach is more cost-effective than long-term emergency shelter use. It is also better for the person and the community.<sup>5</sup>

Across Canada, communities including Toronto, Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Kingston, Edmonton and Calgary have made Housing First a key pillar of their approaches to ending homelessness.

<sup>3</sup> Goering, P., Veldhuizen, S., Watson, A., Adair, C., Kopp, B., Latimer, E., Nelson, G., MacNaughton, E., Streiner, D., & Aubry, T. (2014). [National At Home/Chez Soi Final Report](#). Calgary, AB: Mental Health Commission of Canada.

<sup>4</sup> Lester, P. (2023, July 11). [Eradicating Homelessness in Finland](#). Retrieved from Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research.

<sup>5</sup> Goering, P., Veldhuizen, S., Watson, A., Adair, C., Kopp, B., Latimer, E., Nelson, G., MacNaughton, E., Streiner, D., & Aubry, T. (2014). [National At Home/Chez Soi Final Report](#). Calgary, AB: Mental Health Commission of Canada.

## GOAL 2

### Strengthen York Region's Human Rights-Based Approach to Addressing Homelessness

Strengthening the human rights-based approach to addressing homelessness will help develop a service system that is equitable and responsive to the diverse needs of York Region's communities.

To realize this goal, York Region will continue to work with partners to:

- Deliver supports and services that respect and reflect the personal rights and dignity of the people who need them, and each person's unique needs and goals, in alignment with the recommendations of the Federal Housing Advocate

- Ensure support services are equitably provided to people
- Focus the response to encampments and unsheltered homelessness on helping to connect people to appropriate housing and support services
- Meaningfully engage people with lived experience of homelessness in the development of programs and services



### Encampments and Human Rights

Communities across Canada, including York Region, have seen increasing numbers of people living in tents and sleeping rough in parks, ravines and other outdoor locations. This can create risks to their safety, and lead to conflict over the use of public spaces.

Recent Court rulings related to encampments in Waterloo and Kingston continue to support the goal of strengthening the human rights-based approach to addressing homelessness through working collaboratively with communities, service providers, and other partners to support those who may be living unsheltered to have a safe and secure place to stay.

York Region's community response to encampments focuses on helping people who are unsheltered and/or living in encampments to connect with housing and support services as quickly as possible. This aligns with the recommendations of the [Federal Housing Advocate's review of encampments](#)<sup>6</sup>, which calls for municipal governments to develop a human rights-based policy related to encampments that prioritizes upholding the human dignity of these residents, and ensure that relevant by-laws, policies, programs and plans include meaningful engagement with people with lived experience in encampments.

<sup>6</sup> Office of the Federal Housing Advocate. (2024). Upholding dignity and human rights: the Federal Housing Advocate's review of homeless encampments - Final report. Ottawa: The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate.

## FOUR PRIORITY AREAS FOCUS ACTIONS WITHIN THE SYSTEM PLAN

### Activities within the System Plan are organized under four Priority Areas that support the aspirational goals.

Each Priority Area has objectives, activities and milestones that will help guide the work of the Region and its partners over the next four years.



#### PRIORITY 1 Prevention and Diversion

**Prevention and Diversion:** Preventing homelessness means helping people stay housed or return to stable housing as quickly as possible. Diversion involves helping people find alternatives to emergency housing and connecting them with support to return to stable housing. Taking action to prevent homelessness reduces the stress, stigma, trauma and isolation that can result when someone experiences homelessness.



#### PRIORITY 2 Intervention and Housing Stability

**Intervention and Housing Stability:** Programs and services that help people experiencing homelessness meet their immediate needs for safety, shelter, and food, and provide supports to help them obtain housing and/or connect with longer-term resources to remain stably housed are critical to ending homelessness.



#### PRIORITY 3 System Response

**System Response:** Preventing, reducing and ending homelessness calls for a whole of community response in which the Region and partners work seamlessly across different programs, agencies and sectors to connect people to the right supports at the right time. The Region will continue to work with partners to plan and deliver an integrated system that is person-centred, housing-focused, collaborative, and data-driven.



#### PRIORITY 4 Advocacy and Engagement

**Advocacy and Engagement:** Advocating and engaging with other levels of government is essential to respond to service system gaps and structural issues that can only be addressed by the Federal and Provincial governments. Leveraging community voices in advocating for greater action from other levels of government will support a whole of community response to homelessness.

# Background

York Region is one of 47 Service Managers across Ontario responsible for funding, planning, implementing, delivering and administering housing and homelessness programs and services as required by the provincial *Housing Services Act, 2011*. Key responsibilities include:

## Responsibilities in Legislation and Provincial Guidelines

- Local system planning
- Policy and program development
- Administering provincial funding and managing services delivered in partnership with community agencies
- Maintaining a By-Name List of people experiencing homelessness

## Other Areas of Service

- Direct service delivery, including Outreach Services and homelessness prevention assistance
- Funding an Emergency Housing Central Intake Line (EHCIL)
- Administering a centralized database for all homelessness data collection and reporting requirements
- Training and capacity building for community partners

# A KEY COMPONENT OF THE 10-YEAR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PLAN

York Region’s current 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, [Housing Solutions](#), aims to help people find and keep housing, increase the supply of affordable and rental housing, and strengthen the entire system of supports.

The System Plan builds on the work that began through Housing Solutions. It is one of three implementation plans, each targeted toward a different segment of the housing continuum, that will inform the Priority Areas and Goals of the next 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.



## By-Name Lists

A By-Name List counts the number of unique individuals who experience homelessness on at least one day each month. It provides real-time data to support coordinated access and set priorities for helping individuals and families. People are added to the list (inflow) when they begin accessing homelessness services, and are removed from the list (outflow) if they obtain housing or stop accessing services. At a system level it shows overall homeless inflow and outflow, making it valuable for assessing system performance and providing evidence of needs.

# Roles and Responsibilities in the Homelessness Sector

While York Region plays a significant role in funding and managing the Homelessness Service System, many other partners also have key roles and responsibilities.

## FEDERAL

- The National Housing Strategy is Canada’s 10-year \$82+ billion plan to give more Canadians a place to call home
- Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy provides funding to Indigenous, urban, rural and remote communities to address their homelessness needs.
- Provides Capital Funding through grants and loans
- Oversees Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) provides funding to Service Managers and community agencies to provide shelter and support services for asylum seekers and refugee claimants

**Goal:**  
Reduce chronic homelessness nationally by 50% by fiscal year 2027/2028

## PROVINCIAL

### Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- Provides oversight and policy direction of housing and homelessness services under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*
- The Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program (PHPP) funds Service Managers to provide housing and support services for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness
- Requires Service Managers to maintain a By-Name List, a real-time list of people experiencing homelessness
- Provides funding to Service Managers and community agencies to support asylum seekers and refugee claimants

### Ministry of Health

- Provides funding for health-oriented programs delivered by Service Managers including mental health and addictions
- Funds and administers supportive housing, including for adults with mental health needs

### Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

- Provides funding to municipal Service Managers to deliver programs including Social Assistance
- Provides funding and oversight for Violence Against Women shelters
- Funds and administers supportive housing for adults with developmental disabilities

**Goal:**  
Prevent and address homelessness; reduce chronic homelessness

## UNITED WAY GREATER TORONTO

- The federally designated community entity for York Region, receives and flows federal funding to community service providers
- York Region partners with United Way Greater Toronto to prevent and respond to homelessness

## LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Funded by all levels of government to deliver front-line programs and services
- York Region partners with community service providers to deliver programs and services to prevent, respond and reduce homelessness

## LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

- Key partners in planning and improving homelessness services and supports in York Region
- Work collaboratively with the Region to address homelessness
- Work in partnership with the Region to support people who are living unsheltered/in encampments as part of administration of by-laws that govern use of municipal public property

## HOMELESSNESS SERVICE SYSTEM

The service system in York Region aims to provide people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness with immediate access to support services that focus on housing and longer-term stabilization. A detailed overview of programs and services is provided in Appendix B.

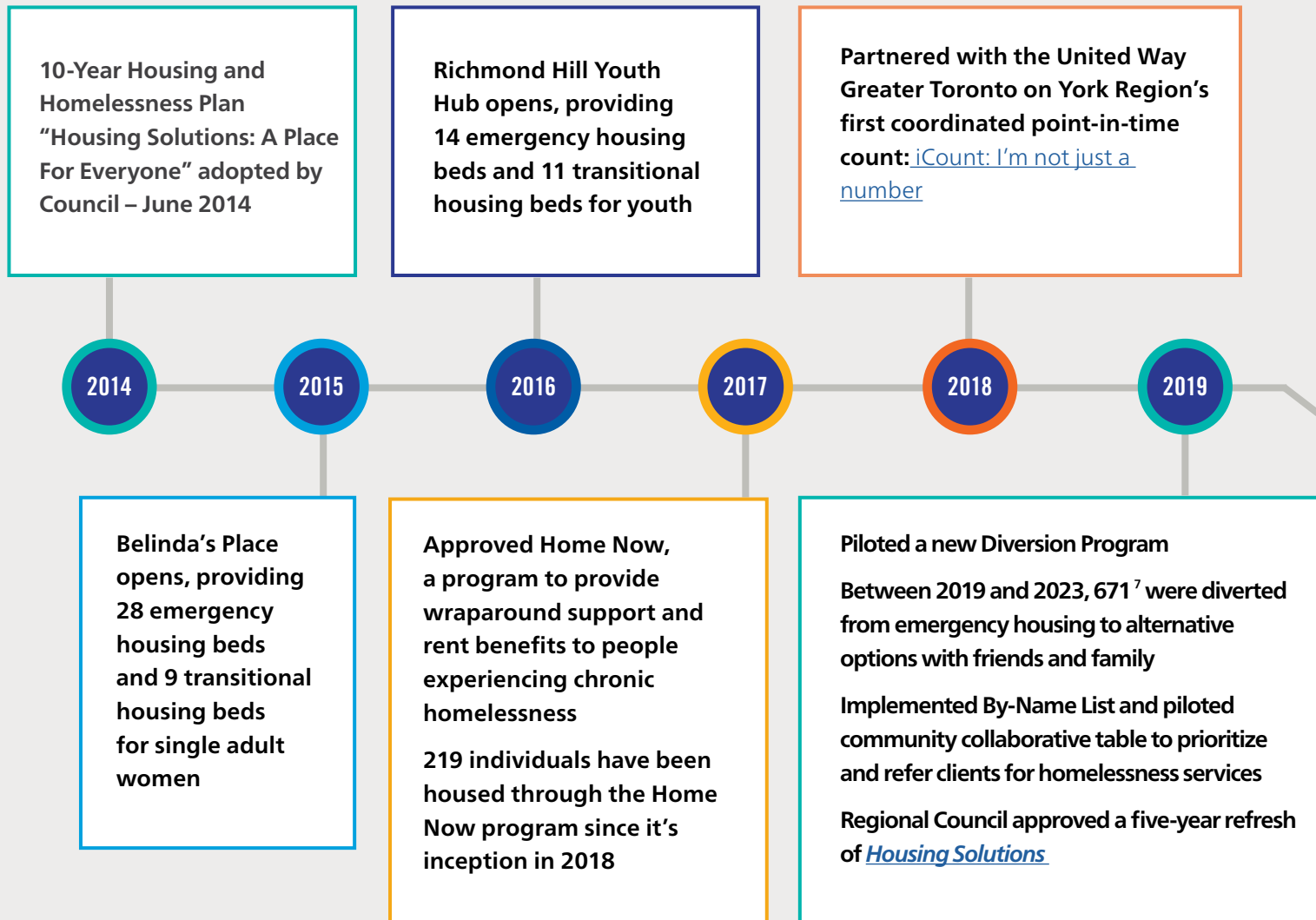
### Key roles of the Homelessness Service System in York Region are to provide:

- Prevention programs, including financial assistance to help people who are at risk of homelessness retain their housing
- Outreach services for people who are unsheltered and/or living in encampments, with a focus on connecting these individuals to more appropriate shelter and support services

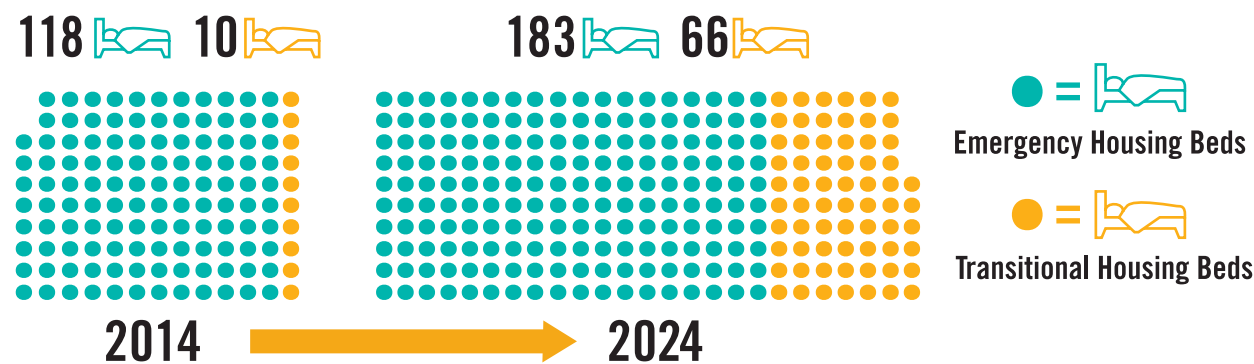
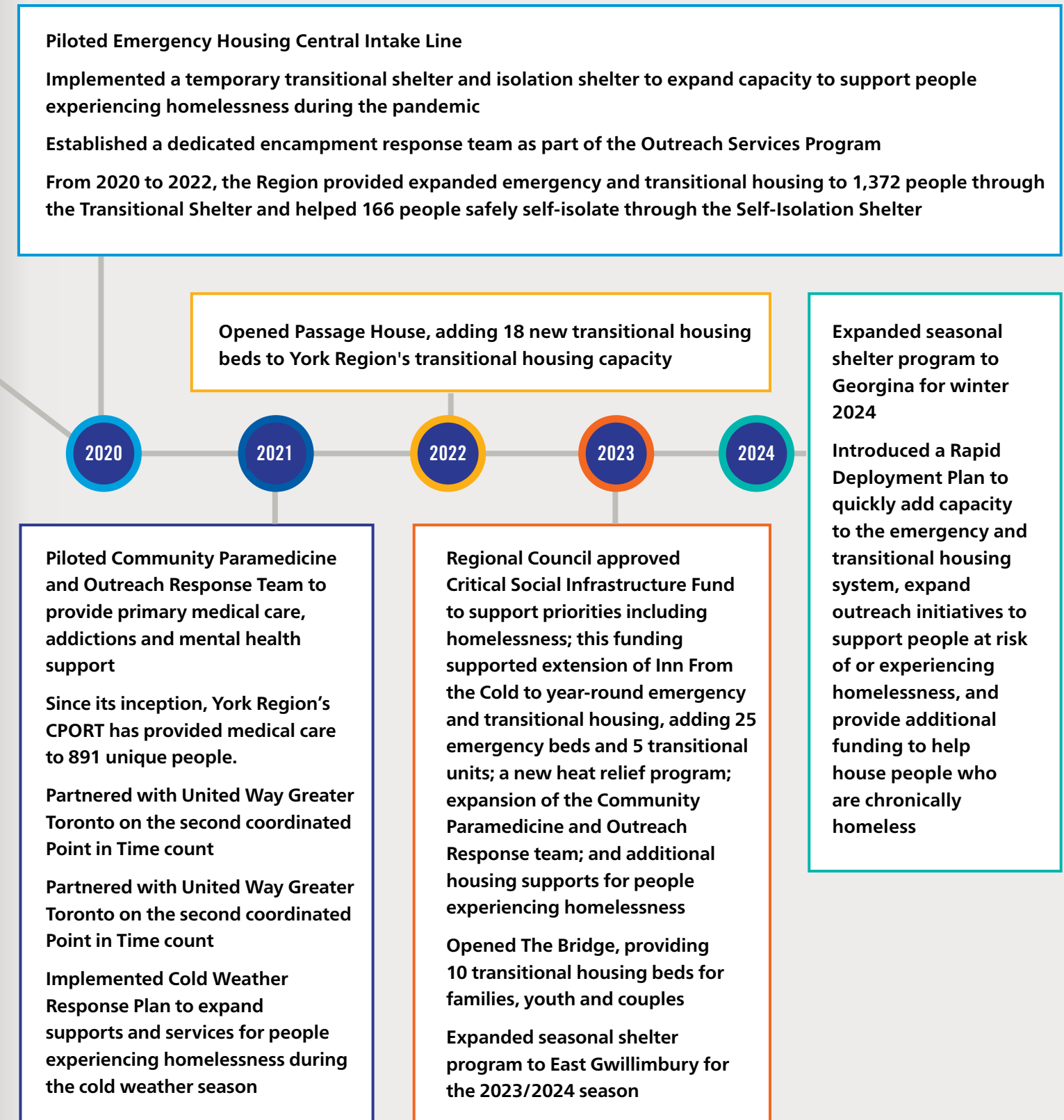
- Emergency programs that provide a short-term place to stay (intended for up to 30 days) and access to support services, including assistance to find longer term housing, for people who are experiencing homelessness
- Housing support programs that combine a rent subsidy with case management and service system navigation. These programs can be temporary (such as Transitional Housing) or ongoing (such as programs that use a Housing First approach)
- Case management, service system navigation and referrals to help people connect to other community services and resources to stabilize their lives

# 2014 to 2024 Accomplishments

## EVOLUTION OF YORK REGION'S HOMELESSNESS SERVICE SYSTEM



Between approximately 2014 and early 2024, York Region and its partners worked collaboratively to develop a data-driven and outcome-focused homelessness service system to help people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find and keep housing.



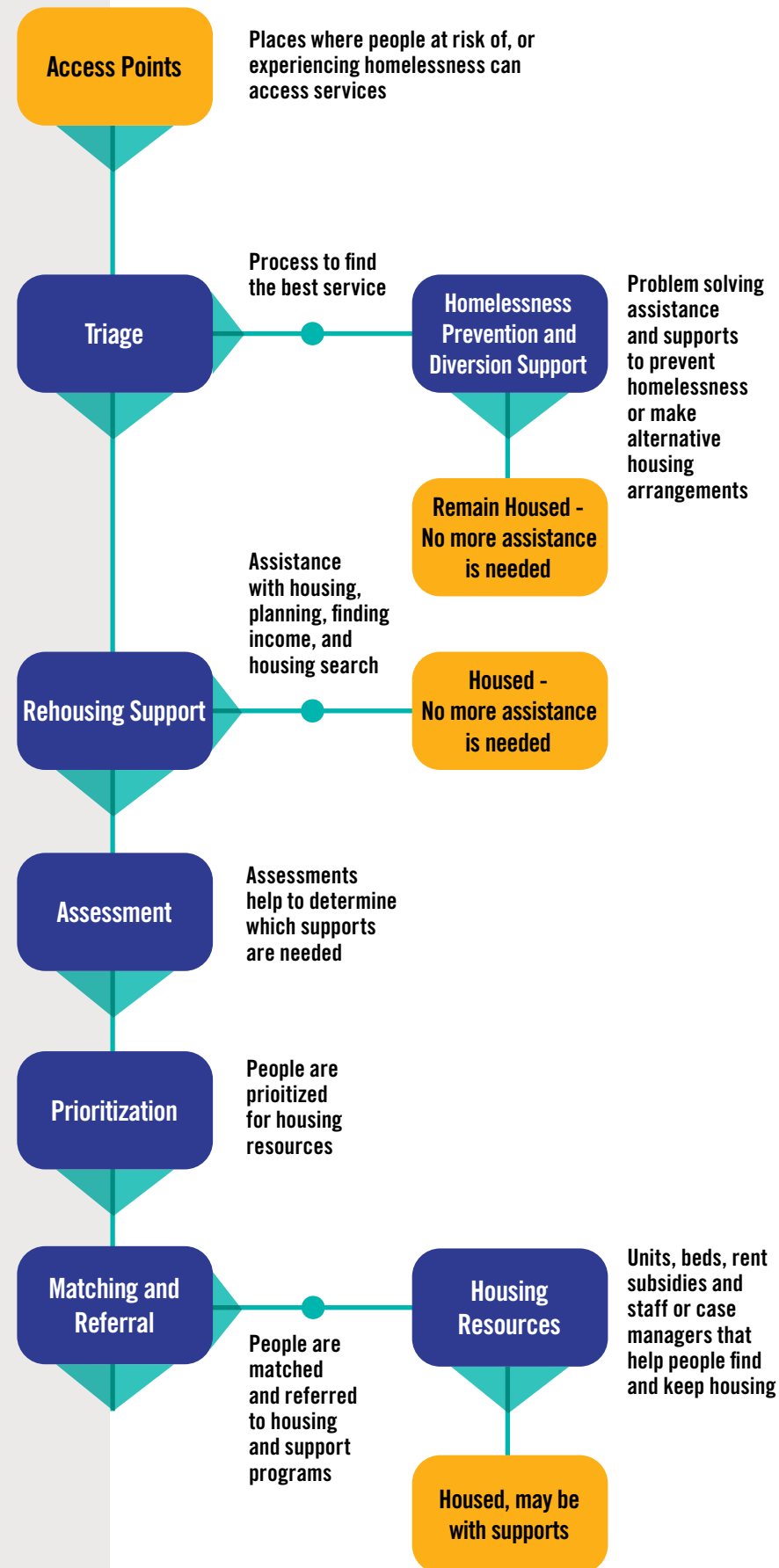
<sup>7</sup> This number may not be unique as people may have been diverted in more than one year between 2019 and 2023

## COORDINATED ACCESS: PUTTING THE SYSTEMS RESPONSE INTO PRACTICE

York Region and United Way Greater Toronto have worked and continue to work together to create a Coordinated Access System to connect people experiencing homelessness with housing and support. United Way Greater Toronto is the designated lead (referred to as the Community Entity) for the federal funding program called Reaching Home.

As Service Manager, the Region has been developing and implementing elements of Coordinated Access over the past few years. Key activities include establishing a By-Name List and a Community Collaborative Table.

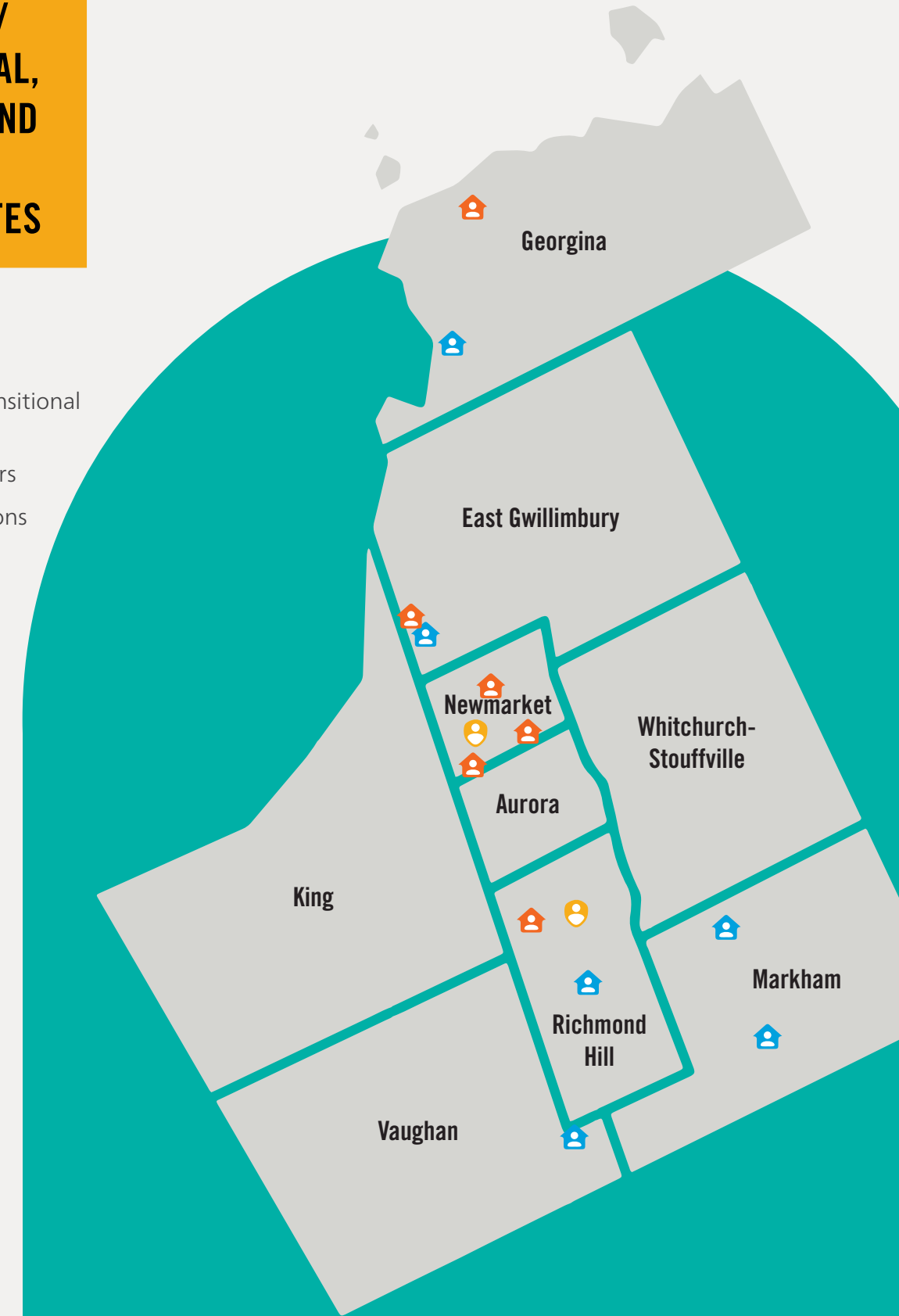
The United Way and York Region are now collaborating to develop a framework, protocols and tools to formalize the key components of Coordinated Access across York Region. The first phase of this work was completed in July 2023. Coordinated Access is a critical component in the systems response to homelessness.



## EMERGENCY/ TRANSITIONAL, SEASONAL AND DROP-IN HOUSING SITES

### LEGEND

- Emergency/Transitional Housing
- Seasonal Shelters
- Drop-In Locations





# Consultation and Community Planning

York Region's Homelessness Service System Plan is informed by research, data analysis and forecasting, and community consultation.

Preliminary consultations and research to develop the Homelessness Service System Plan began in 2023, including interviews with key community leaders, local municipal and regional staff, and presentations to community tables including the Human Services Planning Board and helped refine the System Plan's scope and shape the goals and priority areas. Through this work, the Region identified the two aspirational goals and three

initial Priority Areas: Prevention and Diversion, Housing Stability and Intervention, and Systems Response.

A jurisdictional scan that included other Greater Toronto Area municipalities and Canadian cities (Kingston, London, Waterloo, Hamilton, Toronto, Edmonton and Calgary) as well as some international examples provided insight into best practices and strategies and identified that many communities have shared goals to reduce or end chronic homelessness.

## Service Managers across Ontario are developing formalized encampment protocols

As unsheltered homelessness increases across Ontario, Service Managers and communities are developing dedicated encampment response frameworks or protocols. Encampment response protocols aim to align municipal and community agency actions in helping people living unsheltered access housing resources and, if there is planned enforcement, accountable processes for what actions will be taken and how people who are being displaced will be helped. Communication is key to ensuring that people living unsheltered understand the resources and safe accommodations that are available.

On November 23, 2023, York Region held a [Special Council Meeting](#) to share information about the growing challenges of homelessness in York Region and actions being taken to address this problem, introduce the proposed Goals and Priority Areas, and to continue the engagement and consultation activities in support of the Homelessness Service System Plan.



## CONSULTATION GROUPS

Through continued engagement in the first quarter of 2024, the Region used the two aspirational Goals and three proposed Priority Areas to explore community needs and gaps and challenges in the service system and identify key actions to support the vision. Feedback received during this phase validated the Goals and Priority Areas, and a fourth Priority Area, Advocacy and Engagement, was also identified.

Municipal staff engagement through a virtual roundtable included York Regional Police, fire services, York Region Transit, library staff, by-law staff, parks and recreation staff.

Consistent with the goal of taking a human rights approach, York Region also held six focus groups to hear directly from people with lived experience of homelessness in York Region. Staff visited emergency and transitional housing locations in York Region, including Porter Place, Inn From the Cold, Sutton Youth Services, Belinda's Place, the Richmond Hill Youth Hub, and the Richmond Hill Drop-In. These participants provided critical insight into the Homelessness Service System, and how it must change to better meet their needs and the community's needs.



Engagement with **leaders** of agencies and organizations



Engaged with interested members of **Regional Council** and a number of local councillors



Presentations to **2 local municipal councils**



**6** focus groups with people with lived experience



**2** virtual roundtables with staff from local municipalities and frontline agencies

### Additional consultations with internal and community leadership tables included:



Community and Health Services Policy Managers Table



Human Services Planning Board



York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

## Context

### The high cost of housing is a challenge for many York Region residents

Homelessness has emerged as a challenge across Ontario and in York Region against a backdrop of significant increases in housing costs, limited supply of rental housing, and low vacancy rates. Despite high median and average income levels, income inequality is a growing concern, especially as house prices and rent as well as other costs of living continue to rise more quickly than incomes.

The 2021 Census Release Report on Housing showed that across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, York Region had the highest proportion of owners and the highest proportion of renters spending 30% or more of their gross income on housing costs. For individual households, spending a higher percentage of income on housing costs is associated with an increased risk of homelessness, particularly for people with fixed incomes or receiving social assistance.<sup>8,9</sup>

### Homelessness is Driven by Structural Factors Including Housing Costs

Homelessness is the result of a combination of structural issues, particularly housing markets characterized by high costs and low vacancy rates, and individual life events like the loss of a job, a divorce or an eviction notice. When housing is scarce and expensive, people facing other barriers, including low income, mental illness, addiction or interpersonal conflict are more likely to experience homelessness, and to have a harder time regaining housing.<sup>10</sup>

## HOUSING IN YORK REGION IS UNAFFORDABLE FOR MANY



Between 2019 and 2023, average resale home prices in York Region increased by 43% and the average resale home price is now over \$1.3 million<sup>11</sup>



Limited supply of purpose-built rental units has pushed the average 2023 monthly rent in York Region to \$1,664<sup>12</sup>



Vacancy rates for purpose-built rentals in York Region averaged 1.9% in 2023<sup>13</sup>



When comparing March 2018 to March 2024, the number of York Region residents receiving Ontario Works benefits increased by 81% from 10,635 to 19,287



A single person on Ontario Works receives a total of \$733 a month, \$343 to cover basic needs and \$390 for housing. This rate is set by the province and has not changed since 2018



In York Region, a room in shared housing costs between \$800 and \$1,000 a month<sup>14</sup>

<sup>8</sup> 2021 Census Release Report: Housing.

<sup>9</sup> Kneebone, R., & Wilkins, M. (2022). Policy Brief 15:22: Income support, inflation and homelessness. Calgary: University of Calgary School of Public Policy

<sup>10</sup> Colborn, G., & Aldern, C. (2023). Homelessness is a Housing Problem: How Structural Factors Explain US Housing Patterns. University of California Press.

<sup>11</sup> Housing Solutions: A Place For Everyone 2023 Progress Report


<sup>12</sup> Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Rental Market Survey Data Tables, 2018-2023

<sup>13</sup> CMHC Rental Market Survey Data Tables, 2018-2023.

<sup>14</sup> Homelessness in York Region: Memorandum to Members of Committee of the Whole. June 2023. Retrieved from <https://yorkpublishing.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=40680> March 9, 2024.

## MAKING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN INCOME, HOUSING INSTABILITY AND FOOD INSECURITY

Although people with the lowest incomes, including people receiving social assistance, face some of the most significant barriers to finding and keeping housing and affording other necessities, many people who are fully employed, as well as seniors on fixed incomes, are also challenged by the cost of living, and may be at greater risk of experiencing housing instability or homelessness.

**MEDIAN INCOME: \$50K**   
for people who work in truck transportation, manufacturing, food and retail services, and health care supports

The 2021 Census reports in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area that:

**50%**  **TWO PARENT FAMILY HOUSEHOLD WITH CHILDREN AT OR BELOW \$51.6K**<sup>15</sup>

The living wage as calculated by the Ontario Living Wage Network, which uses a geographic area comparable to the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area, is a calculation of what each adult in a household must earn to cover necessities including housing, food and transportation for their family type. The living wage is heavily impacted by high housing costs. In York Region, an individual must earn a living wage of \$25.05 (approximately \$50,000 per year), up from \$23.15 in 2022.<sup>16</sup>

Many people who have low or inadequate income will also experience food insecurity, which is linked to poor mental and physical health including heart disease, poor dental health and depression, as well as hyperactivity, asthma, and depression later in life, in children and youth.

For a single parent household with two children receiving assistance from either Ontario Disability Support Program or Ontario Works, benefits will not be able to cover the cost of rent and food.<sup>17</sup>

 **SENIOR**  
LIVING ON OLD AGE SECURITY/  
GUARANTEED INCOME SPENDS  
**85%** OF INCOME ON RENT/FOOD

Housing instability and food insecurity both stem from lack of adequate income, and people may be forced to choose between eating enough or keeping a roof over their heads.

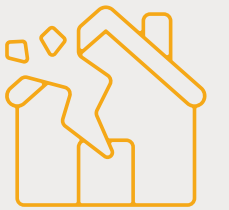
## System Pressures

The number of people who are active on the Region's By-Names List, an indicator of the number of unique individuals who are known to be experiencing homelessness, is growing.<sup>18</sup>

- In 2019, 1,395 unique individuals experienced homelessness and were added to the By-Name List; this number increased by 28% to 1,784 unique individuals in 2023.
- When comparing December 2022 to December 2023, the number of individuals on the By-Name List grew from 552 to 848, a 54% increase.<sup>19</sup>

It is estimated that an estimated that 80% of homelessness is "hidden," which means almost 9,000 people may have experienced homelessness in York Region in 2023.

## Most Homelessness is "Hidden" Homelessness<sup>20</sup>



For many people, the word "homeless" is associated with a stereotypical image, but homelessness is experienced differently depending on a person's location, identity, and personal history.

Only an estimated 20% of people experiencing homelessness are **visible** on the streets or in shelters. The vast majority are **invisible** or **hidden**: they may be moving from one friend's couch to another, living short-term with family, or coping in an unsafe environment that is not a home.

Hidden homelessness overlaps with **unsheltered** homelessness, which includes people who are sleeping rough or living in a tent, sometimes in an encampment, or living in a car. Locating and helping these people can be challenging. It requires empathy, problem-solving skills, and collaboration.

People in **different population groups**, such as youth, women, families and newcomers to Canada have very different needs and concerns. They may require targeted supports in addition to help in finding housing.

<sup>15</sup> Ontario Living Wage Network, 2023.

<sup>16</sup> Income Explorer, 2021 Census.

<sup>17</sup> York Region Public Health's 2023 Nutritious Food Basket

<sup>18</sup> Please note that as people receive supports and leave the By-Name List, other individuals in urgent need are constantly and consistently being added to the list.

<sup>19</sup>Data source: Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), v4, as of January 25, 2024. Data reflect the number

of unique people experiencing homelessness for at least one day during the calendar month (December 2022 and December 2023), as documented in HIFIS. The data exclude people who are experiencing homelessness in York Region but who are not documented in HIFIS. People who experience homelessness in more than one month are counted in each month they experience homelessness.

<sup>20</sup> Ontario Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness. (2015). A Place to Call Home. Toronto: Province of Ontario.

## KEY BY-NAME LIST STATISTICS FOR 2023:

The chart below outlines the journey of people who were active on the By-Name List in 2023, including inflow (people who become active on the By-Name List) and outflow (people who are housed and people who become inactive for other reasons). While just under one quarter of these individuals obtained housing, nearly 19% were still experiencing homelessness and accessing services at the end of the year, and many more stopped accessing services, their outcomes unknown. By the end of the year, more than 10% (222 individuals) met the definition of chronic homelessness.

OUTCOME	2019		2023	
	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	PER CENT OF THE TOTAL	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	PER CENT OF THE TOTAL
Chronically homeless	86	6.2%	222	12.4%
Deceased	N/A	N/A	8	0.4%
Homeless	364	26.1%	336	18.8%
Housed	190	13.6%	420	23.5%
Inactive/Unknown	547	39.2%	752	42.2%
Transitional housing	208	14.9%	46	2.6%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1395</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: HIFIS, v4

## EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS ARE OPERATING AT CAPACITY



- Average **length of stay** in emergency housing almost **doubled** from 2019 to 2023 increasing from 26.5 to 49.3 days.
- **Families spend more than two months** (on average) in emergency housing (85 days in 2023).
- Individuals spend an **average of 33 days** in emergency housing.
- The number of people moving from emergency housing to long-term housing dropped between 2019 (446) and 2023 (224).

## CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS AND UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS IS ALSO INCREASING IN YORK REGION



The Region began systematically monitoring encampments in 2020, and the Outreach Program has expanded to include a dedicated encampment team to support people who are unsheltered.

- Estimated number of **people experiencing chronic homelessness almost quadrupled** between 2019 to 2023, to total an estimated 473 people.
- The number of **known encampment locations** visited **increased** by approximately three times between 2021 (62 locations) and 2023 (204 locations).

## Homelessness has significant, long-lasting impacts on health and well-being

People experiencing homelessness are at greater risk of physical and mental health issues, and the proportion of people who report addictions or substance use, increases as they experience homelessness for longer periods of time.<sup>21</sup> When a person experiences homelessness, their health may be directly affected by physical conditions such as crowded shelters and exposure to extreme weather. Difficulty in accessing medications, following recommended care, and obtaining treatment increase the risk for adverse health outcomes, and people who experience homelessness may be more likely to use emergency rooms.<sup>22</sup> People who are experiencing homelessness have a greater risk of death compared with housed people of the same age and similar socioeconomic status.<sup>23,24</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Report on addiction, substance use and homelessness. Infrastructure Canada

<sup>22</sup> Public Health Ontario. (2019). Homelessness and Health Outcomes: What are the associations? Toronto: Province of Ontario.

<sup>23</sup> Meyer, B. D., Wyse, A., & Logani, I. (2023). Working paper 31843: Life and Death at the Margins of Society: The Mortality of the US Homeless Population. National Bureau of Economic Research.

<sup>24</sup> Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. (n.d.). Chronic Illness/Disease and Mortality. Retrieved from Homeless Hub.

## LASTING IMPACTS

- Some studies in various Canadian cities have indicated that **between 23% and 67%** of people experiencing homelessness may have **mental illness**<sup>25</sup>
- York Region's 2021 Point-in-Time Count found that rates of **mental health issues** among surveyed people experiencing homelessness **increased** from 48% in 2018 to 64% in 2021
- Among the 192 people who completed the 2021 I Count survey:
  - 39% (74 respondents) self-reported an **illness or medical condition**
  - 64% (122 respondents) self-reported a **mental health condition**
  - 48% (92 respondents) self-reported a **substance use issues**

### Financial assistance is increasingly inadequate or unavailable to help people keep their housing.

- The average amount of financial assistance provided through the Housing Stability Program increased by 74% from \$645 in 2019 to \$1,123 in 2023, and increased by over 60% in the Homelessness Prevention Program from \$1,601 in 2019 to \$2,583 in 2023<sup>26</sup>
- In 2023, 163 applications for the Housing Stability Program were **deemed ineligible** because applicants **could not find housing** they would be able to sustain without ongoing financial assistance

The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) assists people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness find and keep permanent housing. York Region has received funding under the COHB program since it launched in 2020. Provincial allocations were enhanced in fall 2023 to address the housing needs of priority populations, including asylum seekers and people experiencing homelessness. Additional spaces provided under this enhancement were full by December 2023, and no new COHB program spaces are available until the provincial government confirms the Region's allocation for 2024-25. Funding amounts have not been consistent, with multi-year allocations unknown in advance, including the allocation for the 2024-25 program year. This makes planning difficult. COHB is currently funded until March 31, 2029 with no guarantee it could be extended further.

- Households **enrolled in the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit** not receiving social assistance currently **receive** on average **\$860** per month to **help pay rent**
- Households **receiving Ontario Works** enrolled in the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit currently receive about **\$950** per month

<sup>25</sup> Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. (n.d.). Chronic Illness/Disease and Mortality. Retrieved from Homeless Hub.

<sup>26</sup> The Housing Stability Program and Homelessness Prevention Program provide one-time financial assistance for costs such as rent or utility arrears or last month's rent, to help people retain their housing. See Appendix B for more information.

Demand for programs that provide services including social work support, case management and service referrals to people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness has increased significantly since 2019.<sup>27</sup>

- The Integrated Support Program caseload grew from 663 to 788 between 2019 and 2023. Staff report that an **increasing share of their time** with clients is **spent on their housing needs**<sup>28</sup>
- The Outreach Services Program supported **730 people** in 2023, an **increase of almost 80%** from 408 in 2019<sup>29</sup>
- The Community Paramedicine and Outreach Response Team (CPORT)<sup>30</sup> supported almost **900 people** between September 2022 and the present. In 2023:
  - **505 unique clients** were provided with **direct care** through the CPORT program, including **83 living in encampments**
  - **128 people** were provided with **follow-up care** after placing a 911 call
  - **1,741 unique visits/interactions** were completed by the CPORT program in various locations, including encampments

<sup>27</sup> More information about these programs is included in Appendix B.

<sup>28</sup> The Integrated Support Program provides social work support for people with complex needs.

<sup>29</sup> The Outreach Services Program provides short-term intensive case management, service navigation and referrals to people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including a dedicated team to support those living unsheltered/in encampments.

<sup>30</sup> CPORT is a partnership between the Outreach Program, Community Paramedicine and community doctors to provide access to primary care, mental health and substance use support, and social supports.

# Looking Ahead: Forecasted Growth in Homelessness in York Region

*Forecasting in the area of homelessness is relatively new.*

To develop a forecast of homelessness for York Region, the Region worked with a consultant that uses artificial intelligence, mapping and data visualization tools to analyze multiple datasets and trends and develop a forecast for system need, drawing on census data, data on shelter use and homelessness services from the Region’s Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), and other Regional datasets.

The forecast indicated that based on current growth trajectory, if no additional action is taken, the number of people in York Region experiencing homelessness annually will reach between 2,100 and 2,300 by 2030, compared to 1,300 people between January and September 2023.

Using a combination of York Region data and best practices and assumptions where data was not available, the forecasting exercise identified that the Region needs to make significant investments in services for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, both to close the gap between the level of need and current service system capacity and to respond to anticipated growth.

Table 1 summarizes the estimated capacity increases required in some key programs to respond to all people who experience homelessness in York Region and account for projected population growth by 2033.

**TABLE 1: FORECASTED INCREASES IN CAPACITY REQUIRED TO MEET PROJECTED 2033 DEMAND FOR KEY SERVICES**

SERVICE TYPE	CURRENT CAPACITY	CAPACITY INCREASE BY 2023
Emergency Housing	183 beds	300 beds
Transitional Housing	66 units	350 units
Scattered Site Housing with Support Services <sup>31</sup>	126 spaces	500 spaces

<sup>31</sup> Scattered site housing with support services includes the Region’s existing Home Now program, which provides a rent subsidy and intensive case management for people who have complex needs and have experienced chronic homelessness.

## The forecast also identified:

The Region will need to approximately quadruple the caseload capacity in programs that provide case management support such as the Outreach Services Program and Diversion Program, double the capacity in prevention programs that provide short-term financial assistance such as Housing Stability Program and Homelessness Prevention Program, and invest in affordable housing and portable subsidies for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Over the four years of the System Plan, the Region will continue to explore and enhance the use of forecasting and work to refine and validate these projections to support effective service planning.

## Changes in the Population Experiencing Homelessness in York Region



- **Age:** The average age of people accessing homelessness services rose from 34 years in 2019 to 46 years in 2023.
- **Gender:** The share of women accessing services increased from 33% in 2019 to 38% in 2023.
- **Indigenous identity:** Indigenous people are significantly overrepresented among those accessing the homelessness service system, at 6% of people experiencing homelessness but only 0.5% of the total York Region population. This over-representation is consistent with findings from the [2021](#) and [2018](#) Point in Time Counts.
- **Black identity:** the 2018 and 2021 Point in Time Counts also found Black peoples were over-represented among people experiencing homelessness in York Region, at 10% of people experiencing homelessness, despite representing just 2.5% of the total York Region population.

# Feedback from Community Consultations and Research

## PRIORITY 1

### Prevention and Diversion

The experience of losing housing is traumatic and can have long-term impacts on a person's wellbeing. Prevention is a critical component of an integrated homelessness system. Helping people to stay housed, or return to stable housing as quickly as possible, reduces the stress, stigma, trauma and isolation that can result when someone experiences homelessness.

Preventing homelessness where possible is also typically less costly than providing emergency resources for someone who is already experiencing homelessness.

In York Region's Homelessness Service System, **Prevention** programs offer a range of supports, including financial assistance and short-term case management, that help people who are at risk of homelessness – for example, because they owe rent arrears or have received an eviction notice – to retain their housing or find a new place to live.

**Diversion** focuses on providing problem solving and flexible support to help people who have lost their housing find a temporary, safe alternative to emergency housing, while connecting them with resources to obtain permanent housing.

## Prevention Requires Provincial and Federal Engagement

Recent research has shown that housing affordability and availability is the most significant predictor of the rate of homelessness in different communities.<sup>32</sup> Other structural factors that can impact the overall risk of homelessness include low income and/or lack of adequate income security.

This finding highlights the importance of prevention strategies that aim to make it less likely any individual will experience homelessness, in addition to supports such as short-term financial assistance to prevent housing loss. Examples of this type of prevention include government policies that increase the supply of affordable housing, as well as ensuring that income security programs like Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Program are increased to match increases in the cost of living.

Community-level actions must focus on advocacy for continued, active engagement and investment by the provincial and federal governments to address these challenges.

<sup>32</sup> Colborn, G., & Aldern, C. (2023). Homelessness is a Housing Problem: How Structural Factors Explain US Housing Patterns. University of California Press.

## WHAT WE LEARNED

Through community engagement and research, the Region learned many people and community organizations are not aware of the programs and services offered across the Region. People at risk of homelessness often do not realize there are supports that can provide financial help and connect them with community services to stay housed.

- Residents who are struggling to pay rent or bills are often not connected with prevention services until they hit a crisis, at which point it may be too late to prevent an eviction.
- Diversion is an emerging approach that has shown promising results in helping families in York Region avoid emergency housing and should continue to be expanded.
- Landlord and tenant education resources, and a comprehensive strategy for eviction prevention and better access to mediation services, are needed to help preserve tenancies.
- There is a need to continue to work with partners in provincial systems, including the health sector and child welfare system, to avoid discharges to homelessness and for improved access to mental health and addictions supports.
- Advocacy for government action on additional social services supports and housing costs is essential to reduce the overall risk of people becoming homeless in York Region.



“When I became homeless, the first priority was to find shelter. Went to the library, searched for shelter in York Region, found out about Central Intake and called... when I arrived, seeing the resources was helpful.”

(Lived Experience Focus Group Participant)



## Feedback from Community Consultations and Research

### PRIORITY 2

### Intervention and Housing Stability

When a person loses their housing, they need access to emergency interventions to meet basic needs for safety, shelter and food in the short-term. At the same time, to end their homelessness, they also need support to obtain housing and connect with longer-term supports to help them remain stably housed.

In York Region’s Homelessness Service System, **Intervention** includes immediate, short-term responses to homelessness, such as emergency

and transitional housing, and case management and system navigation help that focuses on finding housing. Access to these types of services should be immediate when a person becomes homeless and are intended to be time-limited (for example, Emergency Housing is typically meant to be used for a maximum of 30 days).

**Housing stability** supports help people find housing and remain housed. This includes long-term rent assistance and case management to help address physical and mental health needs, increase income stability and food security, and work toward their individual goals for overall wellbeing. Housing stability supports may be temporary (for example, six months to one year) or continue as long as the person requires support (for example, Housing First programs), depending on individual needs and circumstances.

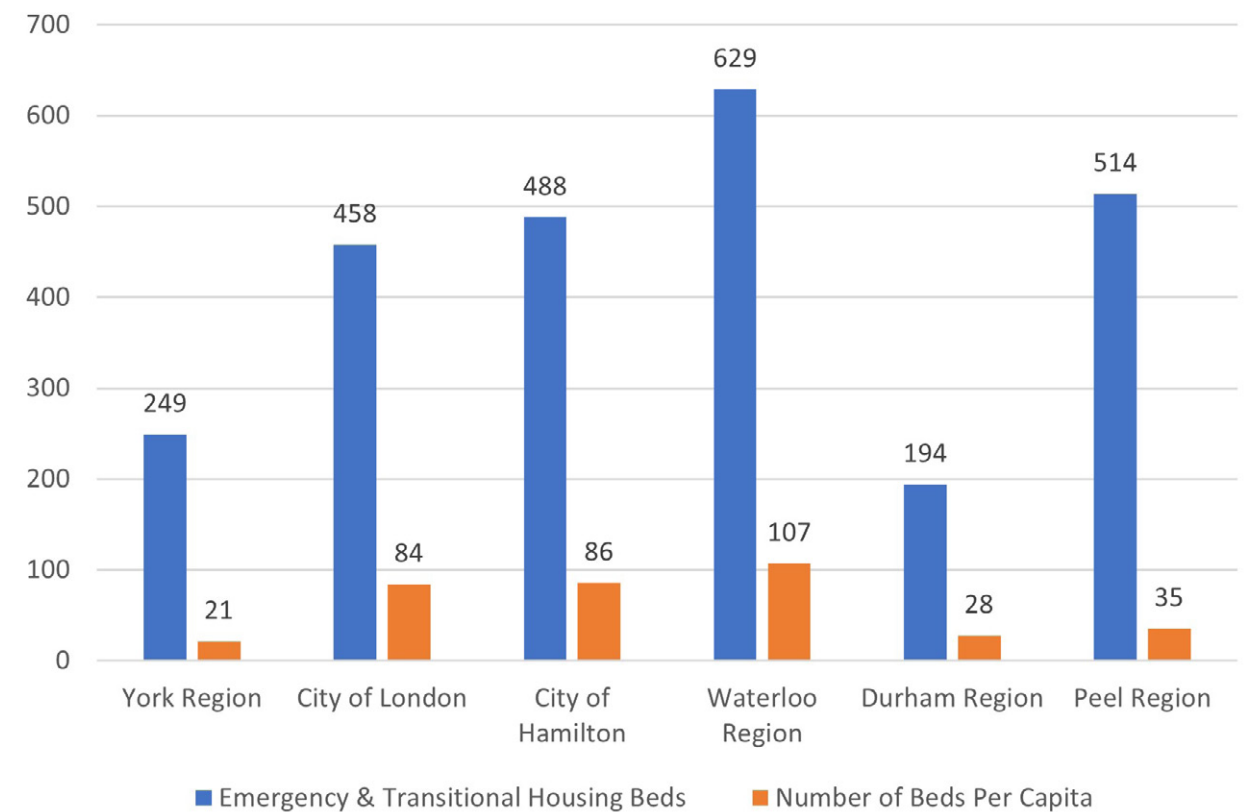
## WHAT WE LEARNED

### Intervention:

- The emergency housing system in the Region is at or near capacity. There is an urgent need for more beds in emergency housing.
- Currently, year-round emergency housing beds for youth are available in the Town of Georgina and City of Richmond Hill, while emergency housing for adult men and women is concentrated in the Towns of East Gwillimbury and Newmarket. Given the distribution of emergency and transitional housing services, residents must often travel long distances to access services. This can take them away from their home communities and natural support networks like family and friends.

As shown in Figure 1 below, York Region has a lower number of emergency and transitional housing beds per capita, compared with other Ontario service areas.

**FIGURE 1: EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING BEDS PER CAPITA**



To address the need for more emergency and transitional housing capacity, the Region will move forward with planning to **add two new emergency and transitional housing sites** with approximately **135 beds**.



Affordable, permanent housing is essential to end homelessness. All consultation participants agreed the main focus of the homelessness service system must be helping people obtain permanent housing, with ongoing support services based on individual needs.

## WHAT WE LEARNED

### *Intervention:*

- More targeted emergency housing options are important to better meet residents' diverse needs, including women and members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community. It is also important to provide low-barrier shelter for people with complex needs, and options that keep couples together and allow people to stay with their pets. This would align with the overall goal of strengthening the Region's human rights-based approach.
- Accessibility for people with disabilities must be considered in all program and service planning, recognizing that barriers to accessibility are intersectional with other systemic barriers.
- People with lived experience emphasized the importance of empathetic staff who can provide support and help them work to find permanent housing, and that staff often have limited time to help each individual.
- Agency leaders stressed the need for emergency housing sites to have sufficient onsite housing specialists and other services to ensure people staying in emergency housing have consistent access to support to find housing and connect with resources to help them stabilize after they leave.
- Affordable, permanent housing options are essential to end homelessness, including chronic homelessness.

### *Housing Stability:*

To help people who experience homelessness find and keep permanent housing, York Region heard through the consultations there is a need for:

- A comprehensive approach and continued investment in resources to provide people who are unsheltered and/or living in encampments with access to safe, appropriate housing and supports that meet their needs. This finding also aligns with the recommendations of the Federal Housing Advocate.<sup>33</sup>
- More rent assistance and long-term intensive case management for people who have experienced chronic homelessness. Existing programs need to be strengthened to align with a Housing First approach and expanded to serve more people.
- More wraparound support services and short- and longer-term rent assistance is also needed for people who have less complex needs, to ensure they can obtain housing and remain stably housed. Case management is critical to help connect people with community resources and supports that help them stabilize in the long term.
- A coordinated landlord engagement strategy to increase the supply of rental units available to people accessing housing stabilization supports. This will help ensure that different programs and service providers are not competing for the same rental units.

<sup>33</sup> Office of the Federal Housing Advocate. (2024). *Upholding dignity and human rights: the Federal Housing Advocate's review of homeless encampments - Final report*. Ottawa: The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate.



## Feedback from Community Consultations and Research

### PRIORITY 3

### Systems Response

Homelessness is a complex issue that involves many different sectors, including health care, housing, employment, and social services. Preventing, reducing and ending homelessness requires a “whole of community” response in which all levels of government, service providers, local businesses and residents each have a role to play in responding to homelessness.

As the provincially designated Service Manager, the Region has a responsibility to identify partnerships, actions and resources required to coordinate a system-level response to homelessness. The Region must also work together with other system leaders to identify shared priorities and opportunities.

The Region is already working to make the system more data-driven, using program data to better understand the level of need and service outcomes and plan accordingly. Tools such as the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) and the By-Name List support this work and the Region and its partners are continuing to enhance their use to improve system planning and support coordinated service delivery.

### What makes an integrated Homelessness Service System?

An integrated Homelessness Service System involves collaboration and coordination among different programs, agencies and sectors to respond to homelessness efficiently and effectively and connect people experiencing homelessness with the right supports for each person or family. This means a constant exchange of information and data to ensure people receive the supports they need wherever they are in the Region, and that supports can be tailored to their needs. An effective system can better respond to homelessness if it can be flexible and aimed to achieve specific outcomes. Ensuring that people are not required to re-tell their story is also critical to delivering person-centred, trauma-informed services.



“Why isn’t there a central place to keep all of our information so that we don’t have to retell our stories?”

(Lived Experience Focus Group Participant)



## WHAT WE LEARNED

Through consultation and engagement work, York Region heard that to continue to build an integrated systems response to homelessness, the Region needs to:

- Build on existing partnerships to establish a system leadership table to help set direction and shared priorities for a whole of community response to homelessness.
- Improve data collection and data use to support continuous improvement and service system planning, and work with partners to better integrate and share data across different systems.
- Continue working with United Way Greater Toronto and other partners to build the Coordinated Access System to improve the way people are prioritized, matched and referred to available services.
- Work with community service providers to invest in training to build staff capacity and review staffing models. People with lived experience highlighted the importance of staff who engage with empathy, work with them to set goals and help with system navigation.
- Engage the community and continue to build relationships with a broad range of organizations.
- Increase integration and coordination among different Regional program areas to provide more effective and consistent support to shared clients.



# Feedback from Community Consultations and Research

## PRIORITY 4

### Advocacy and Engagement

Homelessness is a complex problem. Although housing is critical to end a person's homelessness, helping a person find and keep housing is dependent on many different factors. Policies that determine where and how much housing will be built, and how much of it will be affordable to people with lower incomes, education and employment opportunities, income security policies, access to appropriate health and mental health supports, and more, play interconnected roles in responding to homelessness and enabling people to remain stably

housed.

Three priority areas were initially identified to organize actions within the System Plan. Through the consultation activities in the first quarter of 2024, York Region heard that there are many issues that need to be addressed by other levels of government. Community voices highlighted the importance of the Region engaging in advocacy to address these foundational needs, and to do so in partnership with the community. As a result, a fourth Priority Area was added to the System Plan - Advocacy and Engagement.

## WHAT WE LEARNED

Throughout the consultations, participants identified opportunities for the Region to be a partner in ongoing advocacy to other levels of government to address structural factors that could support the larger goal of ending homelessness.

- Advocate for investment in upstream prevention to address the root causes of homelessness, such as family breakdown, domestic abuse, mental health and addictions.
- Advocate for collective action to address the cost of living and increases to social assistance rates, which are no longer sufficient to secure adequate housing.
- Call on the Provincial and Federal governments to invest in housing and income supports, with sustained dedicated funding.
- Advocate for improvements in access to mental health care as a primary care service.
- Support advocacy efforts related to long-term care capacity.



# MOVING OUR PRIORITIES FORWARD FOR 2024 TO 2027



The following sections outline objectives and activities to move the Priority Areas forward over the next four years. Activities include actions that will be undertaken between 2024 and 2027 to build a strong foundation to respond to homelessness. Milestones set out tangible tasks associated with each activity, and performance measures will help monitor the impact. A detailed implementation plan, with timelines for the activities and milestones, is set out in Appendix C.



**“It doesn’t make sense to make people wait to get help until they’ve been homeless for months. That’s when depression, mental health, substance use come in.”**

(Lived Experience Focus Group Participant)



## PRIORITY AREA 1



### Prevention and Diversion

Activities under Priority Area 1 will focus on enhancing prevention programs to help more people stay housed. The Region will expand and enhance diversion, and advocate for the systemic and structural changes to reduce the overall risk of homelessness in the community.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
1. People who are at risk of homelessness remain housed	1.1 Improve eviction prevention	Identify opportunities to support and enhance eviction prevention programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># and % of people supported through Housing Stability Program and Homelessness Prevention Program who retain their housing after six months</li> <li># and % of people supported through Housing Stability Program and Homelessness Prevention Program who retain their housing after 12 months</li> <li># of people accessing York Region-funded homelessness prevention programs</li> <li># of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who are connected to the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit</li> <li># of visits to the york.ca prevention website</li> <li>Toolkit developed</li> <li># of partnerships identified</li> <li># of households assisted with simple furnishings (pending approval of funding/program)</li> </ul>
		Work with partners to develop a broader eviction prevention strategy for the Region	
	1.2 Strengthen homelessness prevention programs	Evaluate Region-delivered homelessness prevention programs and identify opportunities to strengthen these programs, including enhanced case management	
		Increase awareness of homelessness prevention resources to a broad range of residents, including strengthening partnerships with community tables	
		Develop a “prevention toolkit” to provide an information resource for community service providers and residents	
		Research new and emerging homelessness prevention practices to identify new approaches	
	Explore options and partnerships to help people access simple furniture and home goods and/or provide storage for belongings to increase housing retention		

## PRIORITY AREA 1



# Prevention and Diversion

Activities under Priority Area 1 will focus on enhancing prevention programs to help more people stay housed. The Region will expand and enhance diversion, and advocate for the systemic and structural changes to reduce the overall risk of homelessness in the community.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
2. More people are diverted from emergency housing and connected with alternate supports	2.1 Enhance emergency housing diversion programs to help people connect with alternatives to emergency housing	Evaluate Region-delivered Emergency Housing Diversion program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># and % of people seeking emergency housing who are successfully diverted from emergency housing</li> </ul>
		Identify options to enhance the Diversion program including flexible supports	
		Engage service providers to explore options to deliver diversion supports to people seeking emergency housing	
	2.2 Strengthen homelessness diversion for people with complex needs	Develop partnerships to facilitate appropriate referrals for individuals with higher needs seeking emergency housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of partnerships</li> <li># of people with complex needs diverted to appropriate community supports</li> </ul>
Enhance ongoing collaboration with provincial systems, including health and mental health care, to reduce discharges into homelessness			

The activities identified under Priority Area 1 will build on the successes of York Region's current prevention and diversion programs. It is expected that by increasing awareness of available supports and services, including understanding of eligibility, more people will be able to access prevention supports and maintain stable housing.

## PRIORITY AREA 2



# Intervention and Housing Stability

To advance Priority Area 2, the Region will focus on strengthening and expanding the core programs that help people experiencing homelessness meet their short-term needs, obtain housing quickly, and provide individualized supports and financial assistance to stay housed.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
1. People who experience homelessness have access to high-quality supports focused on housing stability	1.1 Provide more wraparound supports including system navigation, housing-focused case management, and service referrals to help people find and keep housing and access long-term support	Enhance Outreach supports for people who are living unsheltered/in encampments by expanding hours and adding services and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># and % of unsheltered people who move to long-term housing after Outreach support</li> <li># and % of unsheltered people who are supported to move to emergency or transitional housing after Outreach support</li> <li>% of service provider staff trained to deliver housing-focused services</li> <li># of supports to people provided by CPORT Program in encampments and elsewhere</li> <li># of 911 calls diverted through CPORT</li> <li>Encampment Protocol developed and in place</li> </ul>
		Develop a protocol through engagement with all local municipalities including bylaw, police, fire, and other community agencies to coordinate the response to people who are unsheltered/in encampments	
		Provide training and resources to increase capacity to deliver consistent housing services across all emergency and transitional housing programs	
		Develop options to enhance the drop-in service delivery model and expand drop-in services for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness	
		Develop and enhance health care for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including increasing capacity of the Community Paramedicine and Outreach Response Team (CPORT) starting summer 2024	
Explore options to enhance the service delivery model for seasonal and overnight shelter programs			

**PRIORITY AREA 2**

**Intervention and Housing Stability**



OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
1. People who experience homelessness have access to high-quality supports focused on housing stability	1.2 Provide housing programs for people with high needs and complex barriers, including individuals experiencing chronic homelessness	Strengthen and expand Housing First approaches to programs to support people with complex needs, such as Home Now, including increasing capacity starting in 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># and % of people experiencing chronic homelessness who are housed</li> <li># of people in York Region-funded housing and support programs who retain housing after six months, 12 months and 24 months</li> <li># of staff who participate in training</li> </ul>
		Work with partners to consider identifying principles and best practices to support people who use substances into program standards, as appropriate, and provide education and training for service providers	
Explore options to enhance the Housing with Supports program			
2. People who experience homelessness have access to emergency shelter	2.1 Increase emergency housing capacity to reflect need	Add 30 beds in existing emergency and transitional housing facilities starting Summer 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of new emergency housing beds</li> <li>% change of seasonal and overnight shelter spaces</li> <li>% change of the occupancy rate for emergency and transitional housing</li> <li>Reduced length of stay</li> </ul>
		Add 34 beds in hotels starting Summer 2024	

**PRIORITY AREA 2**

**Intervention and Housing Stability**



OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
2. People who experience homelessness have access to emergency shelter	2.1 Increase emergency housing capacity to reflect need	Explore options to increase Emergency and Transitional Housing capacity, including the use of hotels and adding at least two new Emergency and Transitional Housing sites with approximately 135 beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of new emergency housing beds</li> <li>% change of seasonal and overnight shelter spaces</li> <li>% change of the occupancy rate for emergency and transitional housing</li> <li>Reduced length of stay</li> </ul>
		Add up to 75 additional seasonal shelter beds starting October 2024	
		Continue to identify options to maintain and expand the availability of seasonal and overnight shelter programs	
		Partner with local municipalities to identify locations and options to expedite new Emergency and Transitional Housing	
		Develop new emergency housing, pending confirmation of capital funding and planning approvals	
Explore options to increase emergency housing options to serve diverse populations, including newcomers, 2SLGBTQI+ communities, racialized communities, people with disabilities, women, youth and seniors			
		Investigate options to increase access to low-barrier emergency shelter	

## PRIORITY AREA 2

# Intervention and Housing Stability



OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>2. People who experience homelessness have access to emergency shelter</b>	2.1 Increase emergency housing capacity to reflect need	Move forward with redevelopment of three existing emergency and transitional housing sites (Porter Place, Leeder Place and Sutton Youth Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># and % of Regional and service provider staff participating in anti-racism and inclusion training</li> </ul>
<b>3. Services are responsive to diverse communities</b>	3.1 Respond to over-representation of priority populations (including Indigenous, Black, and 2SLGBTQI+, as well as people with disabilities) among people experiencing homelessness	Enhance and build relationships with communities and organizations to strengthen the response to priority populations who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness in York Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of new emergency housing beds</li> <li>% change of seasonal and overnight shelter spaces</li> <li>% change of the occupancy rate for emergency and transitional housing</li> </ul>
		Invest in training and resources for service providers to increase knowledge of Anti-Racism practices, prejudice and unconscious bias, and inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced length of stay</li> </ul>

The activities and milestones identified for Priority Area 2 will enable more people who experience homelessness in York Region, including people who are living unsheltered or in encampments, to access emergency and transitional housing, help to find long-term housing, and support services to help stabilize and remain housed.

## PRIORITY AREA 3

# Systems Response



Activities under Priority Area 3 will focus on working with partners to continue to build an integrated system to respond to homelessness.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>1. The homelessness response in York Region is coordinated across a strong network of partners</b>	1.1 Collaborate with partners to effectively manage the service system	Establish a homelessness system leadership table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>System leadership table established</li> </ul>
		Work with United Way Greater Toronto to strengthen coordination between roles as Service Manager and Community Entity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of campaign activities</li> <li># of Point-in-Time Counts conducted</li> </ul>
		Complete Point-in-Time Counts required by provincial and federal governments	
	1.2 Strengthen and build partnerships to respond to homelessness	Engage other Greater Toronto Area Service Managers on responses to homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of engagement activities</li> <li># of training activities for local municipal staff</li> </ul>
	Explore interest and opportunities to deepen partnerships with other organizations, including faith-based groups and community groups that may support people experiencing homelessness		
	Work collaboratively with York Regional Police, York Region Transit and local municipal staff to support people experiencing homelessness, including people who are unsheltered.		

**PRIORITY AREA 3**

**Systems Response**



OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>1. The homelessness response in York Region is coordinated across a strong network of partners</b>	1.3 Strengthen internal partnerships to support people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness	Provide educational activities to increase awareness of homelessness services across Community and Health Services Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of staff who participate in education activities</li> <li>• # of referral processes established</li> <li>• # of information sessions on Regional programs provided</li> </ul>
		Work with internal partners to identify opportunities to identify and support clients who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness	
		Increase awareness of Regional services, such as Transit Assistance Programs and Children’s Services, to help people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness	
	1.4 Improve coordination and planning across the service system to connect people to appropriate and available services	Implement and expand prioritization for housing programs targeted toward people experiencing homelessness, in collaboration with the Coordinated Access Governance Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritization framework is established</li> <li>• # of organizations participating in the prioritization process</li> <li>• # and % of people matched to housing and support through the prioritization process</li> <li>• People with lived experience are engaged in program development and evaluations</li> </ul>
Evaluate Emergency Housing Central Intake Line to identify opportunities for continuous improvement and performance measures			
Explore options to increase integration of case management functions across different internal and external services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness			

**PRIORITY AREA 3**

**Systems Response**



OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>2. The Homelessness Service System has increased capacity to plan to meet existing and emerging needs</b>	2.1 Enhance use of tools and data to support system planning and set service targets, using a continuous improvement lens	Strengthen Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) data collection and analysis capacity to inform system planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of York Region-funded agencies and programs using HIFIS</li> <li>• # of continuous improvement activities</li> </ul>
		Monitor and report regularly on emergency housing and seasonal shelter capacity to meet demand	
		Develop public data dashboards for reporting and community partner use	
		Explore and expand use of data forecasting for long-term system planning	
	2.2 Engage people with lived experience in all program development and evaluation activities	Collaborate with United Way Greater Toronto to support a lived experience advisory committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement standards are developed</li> <li>• # of engagements with people with lived experience</li> </ul>
		Develop standards for lived experience engagement	
Identify options to obtain ongoing feedback from people who use homelessness services			
2.3 Strengthen the capacity, capability and competency of the service system and service providers	Enhance training for frontline staff and service providers to support integration of best practices and new innovations into the service system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of staff who participate in training</li> <li>• Funding model review completed</li> </ul>	
	Review funding and staffing models and identify options to improve staff retention and recruitment		

Activities under Priority Area 3 will allow York Region to strengthen the homelessness service system and a whole of community approach to respond to homelessness. Activities will result in a more coordinated network of service providers and community agencies that can adapt quickly to changes in homelessness data trends.



**PRIORITY AREA 4**



# Advocacy and Engagement

Activities under Priority Area 4 will focus on identifying opportunities to engage and advocate to other levels of government, working in partnership with the community.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>1. Other levels of government and the broader community are engaged in responding to homelessness</b>	1.1 Develop and implement an agenda to guide advocacy to the Provincial and Federal governments to address structural and system issues	Develop an advocacy agenda to guide advocacy to the Provincial and Federal governments to address structural factors including income security and housing affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy agenda developed</li> <li>• # of advocacy actions taken</li> </ul>
		Advocate, alongside community partners, for sustainable funding for employment and education programs that reduce homelessness	
		Advocate for improved access to trauma-informed mental health, substance use and culturally appropriate wellness supports	
		Continue to advocate for sustained federal and provincial funding and policy changes to increase the supply and access to affordable housing of all types	
		Advocate for predictable, long-term investment in portable housing benefits, including for people who are experiencing homelessness	
Advocate to the Provincial government to increase social assistance rates			

**PRIORITY AREA 4**



# Advocacy and Engagement

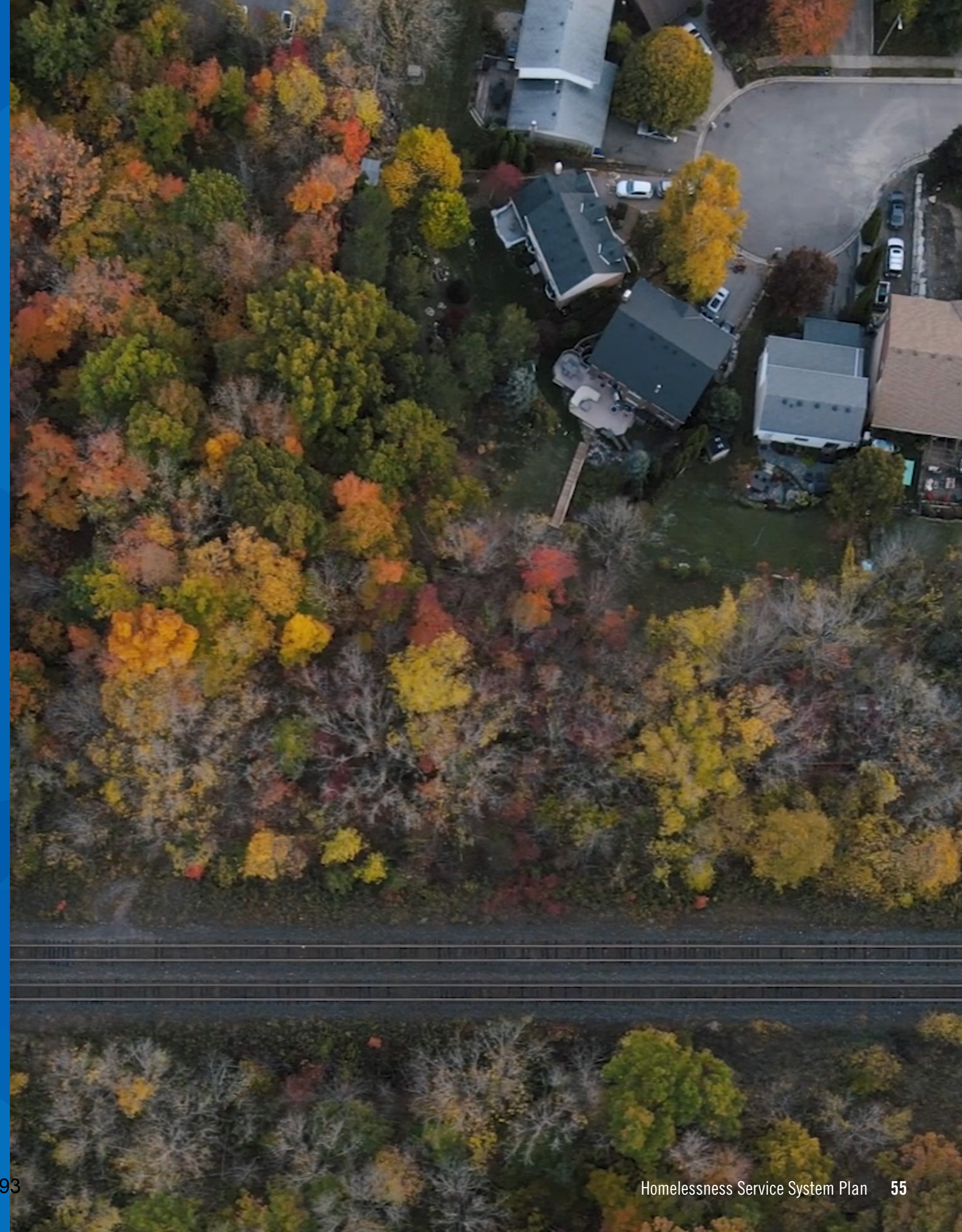
OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
<b>1. Other levels of government and the broader community are engaged in responding to homelessness</b>	1.2 Increase community knowledge and awareness of homelessness in York Region	With community partners, develop a coordinated information campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign developed</li> <li>• # of hits to campaign page on york.ca</li> <li>• # of campaign activities</li> </ul>

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Continued advocacy with service providers, community partners, services managers, and municipalities to call for increased provincial and federal funding to support the homelessness response is critical. Municipalities cannot respond to homelessness alone and require significant supports from other levels of government.

## ACCOUNTABILITY METHODS

Measuring and reporting on progress toward the goals and actions identified in this Plan is critical to ensure the Region is moving forward and making a difference for residents. Performance measures have been identified for each activity. Progress toward the Homelessness Service System Plan actions and the performance measures will be reported through the annual Progress Report for the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.





## CONCLUSION

York Region is working to address the challenges of homelessness, which is increasing across Ontario. The homelessness service system must continue to evolve to more effectively support residents who are experiencing homelessness today and ensure there is capacity to respond to new and emerging needs in the future.

Preventing, reducing and ending homelessness is important. By helping people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find and keep stable housing, the Region and its partners are supporting these individuals' and families' long-term well-being. This work in turn supports Council's Vision for York Region as a strong, caring, and safe community.

The System Plan is flexible and will enable the Region and its partners to continue to adapt to meet the changing needs of people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, as well as shifts in federal and provincial priorities. There is also a commitment to continued engagement with people with lived and living experience of homelessness to support future planning, ensuring that the service system will be responsive.

The System Plan will continue to strengthen the Region's role as Service Manager, developing capacity to plan, administer, and deliver services and building on existing partnerships with system leaders including United Way Greater Toronto, as well as community-based agencies, local municipal parks and bylaw enforcement staff, library workers, and many others. The federal and provincial governments must continue to play their roles, investing in long-term sustainable funding for communities.

Homelessness impacts the whole community. Working together, the Region and its partners can and will build a responsive service system that enables residents who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find and keep housing and provide long-term stability.



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## Appendix A – Common Terms and Definitions

TERM	DESCRIPTION
<b>Chronic Homelessness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chronic homelessness describes people who have been experiencing homelessness for six months or longer in the past year, or people who have experienced homelessness for more than 18 months in the past three years.</li> </ul>
<b>Coordinated Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinated Access brings consistency to how people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness access housing and related services, within a geographic area.</li> <li>It uses a By-Name list to streamline their connection to services. It helps organizations and service providers work together to achieve shared goals.</li> <li>Some essential elements include a shared database, shared assessment and triage process to match people to appropriate services. It includes an integrated governance structure to oversee the process and use of the database.</li> </ul>
<b>By-Name List</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A By-Name List counts the number of unique individuals who experience homelessness on at least one day each month. It provides real-time data to support coordinated access and set priorities for helping individuals and families. People are added to the list (inflow) when they begin accessing homelessness services, and are removed from the list (outflow) if they obtain housing or stop accessing services. At a system level it shows overall homeless inflow and outflow, making it valuable for assessing system performance and providing evidence of needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Prevention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention refers to policies, practices, and interventions that reduce the likelihood that someone will experience homelessness. Immediate prevention programs can include providing short-term financial assistance for costs such as rent or utility arrears, housing mediation and legal assistance to prevent evictions.</li> </ul>
<b>Diversion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversion refers to assistance designed to immediately address the needs of someone who has just lost their housing. Diversion is a client-driven approach. It helps the person or household find safe alternative housing immediately, rather than enter shelter or experiencing unsheltered homelessness. It ensures that the homeless experience is as brief as possible, to prevent unsheltered homelessness, and to avert stays in shelter.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing First</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing First is a service model targeted at people who have complex needs and barriers in their experience with chronic homelessness. The key principles include immediate access to housing with no pre-conditions, choice and self-determination, recovery orientation (including harm reduction), individualized and person-driven supports, and social and community integration. (Mental Health Commission of Canada, 2014).</li> </ul>



## Appendix B – Homelessness Programs and Services

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
<b>Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and other housing costs, and up to six months of wraparound supports to York Region residents, to help people maintain stable housing.</li> </ul>
<b>Diversion Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists people to find safe alternative housing options, including temporary stays with friends or family, to prevent the need to enter emergency housing. The program provides rapid response for residents who are at imminent risk of homelessness or who may be experiencing homelessness.</li> </ul>
<b>Outreach Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides short-term intensive case management, service navigation, referrals to health and social services, and crisis support to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find and/or keep stable housing. Outreach staff provide support to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, where they are sheltering (e.g. encampments).</li> <li>Outreach workers also collaborate with community agencies, emergency medical services, police, local municipal by-law and the public to achieve improved client outcomes including health, housing stability, personal and community safety.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Paramedicine Outreach Response Team (CPORT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A partnership between the Region’s Homelessness Community Programs Outreach team and Community Paramedicine, and two local doctors. CPORT, outreach workers and community paramedics work in partnership to provide primary care, mental health and substance use, and social supports to people where they reside, including encampments.</li> </ul>
<b>Cold Weather Response and Heat Relief Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>York Region’s <b>Cold Weather Response Plan</b> provides services for people experiencing homelessness during the cold weather season. Expanded services are provided to safeguard people experiencing homelessness from cold weather, alert people experiencing homelessness and other members of the public that cold weather conditions are expected or currently exist, and to support community members to take appropriate precautions.</li> <li>York Region’s <b>Heat Relief Plan</b> provides expanded supports and services to people experiencing homelessness during the hot weather season, such as drop-in programs, municipal cooling centres, community meal programs, and cooling kits to help mitigate the effects of extreme heat.</li> </ul>

## Appendix B – Homelessness Programs and Services

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
<b>Drop-In Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drop-in programs provide people who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness with meals, personal supplies, access to shower and laundry facilities, support to find housing and obtain referrals, and warm transfers to health and other social services. York Region funds drop-by programs and operates them in partnership with community partners and local municipalities across the Region.</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency and Transitional Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>York Region provides oversight and operational funding for nine emergency and transitional housing facilities delivered by community agencies that offer temporary housing, drop-in/drop-by services, case management, life stabilization support, and assistance to develop individual housing plans.</li> </ul>
<b>Home Now Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This program provides people experiencing chronic homelessness with wrap around supports to find and keep long-term housing and remain stable in the community. Households in the Home Now program receive rent subsidies and supports to find and maintain housing, as well as wraparound supports related to mental health, substance use, budget management and employment.</li> </ul>
<b>Homes with Supports Program (HWS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides supports with daily living including lodging, meals, etc., to low-income residents who may have a mental health diagnosis or are elderly and frail and are unable to live independently. Referrals are accepted from a variety of sources, including hospitals and community agencies.</li> </ul>
<b>Homemakers and Nurses Services (HNSA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides homemaking services and foot care to low-income residents so they can remain in their home when they have a temporary or permanent illness or disability. This program is partially funded by the Ministry of Health.</li> </ul>
<b>Integrated Support Program (ISP)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides social worker support to people with complex needs. Support can include short-term counselling, case management, and community referrals.</li> </ul>

**PRIORITY 1**

**Prevention and Diversion**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMELINES				
				2024	2025	2026	2027	
<b>1. People who are at risk of homelessness remain housed</b>	1.1 Improve eviction prevention	Identify opportunities to support and invest in eviction prevention programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># and % of people supported through Housing Stability Program and Homelessness Prevention Program who retain their housing after six months</li> <li># and % of people supported through Housing Stability Program and Homelessness Prevention Program who retain their housing after 12 months</li> <li># of people accessing York Region-funded homelessness prevention programs</li> <li># of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who are connected to the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit</li> <li># of visits to the york.ca prevention website</li> <li>Toolkit developed</li> <li># of partnerships identified</li> <li># of households assisted with simple furnishings (pending approval of funding/ program)</li> </ul>		●	●		
		Work with partners to develop a broader eviction prevention strategy for the Region, including landlord/tenant education				●	●	
	1.2 Strengthen homelessness prevention programs	Evaluate Region-delivered homelessness prevention programs and identify opportunities to strengthen these programs, including enhanced case management			●	●		
		Increase awareness of homelessness prevention resources to a broad range of residents, including strengthening partnerships with community tables			●	●	●	●
		Develop a “prevention toolkit” to provide an information resource for community service providers and residents				●		
		Research new and emerging homelessness prevention practices to identify new approaches					●	
		Explore options and partnerships to help people access simple furniture and home goods and/ or provide storage for belongings to increase housing retention				●	●	●

**PRIORITY 1**

**Appendix C**

**Prevention and Diversion**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMELINES				
				2024	2025	2026	2027	
<b>2. More people are diverted from emergency housing and connected with alternate supports</b>	2.1 Enhance emergency housing diversion programs to help people connect with alternatives to emergency housing	Evaluate Region-delivered Emergency Housing Diversion program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># and % of people seeking emergency housing who are successfully diverted from emergency housing</li> </ul>	●	●			
		Identify options to enhance the Diversion program including flexible supports				●	●	
		Engage service providers to explore options to deliver diversion supports to people seeking emergency housing			●	●	●	
	2.2 Strengthen homelessness diversion for people with complex needs	Develop partnerships to facilitate appropriate referrals for individuals with higher needs seeking emergency housing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of partnerships</li> <li># of people with complex needs diverted to appropriate community supports</li> </ul>		●	●	
					Enhance ongoing collaboration with provincial systems, including health and mental health care, to reduce discharges into homelessness	●	●	●



**PRIORITY 2**

**Appendix C**

**Housing Stability and Intervention**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMELINES			
				2024	2025	2026	2027
<b>1. People who experience homelessness have access to high-quality supports focused on housing stability</b>	1.1 Provide wraparound supports when and where they're needed to help people find and keep housing and access long-term support	Enhance Outreach supports for people who are living unsheltered/in encampments by expanding hours and adding services and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># and % of unsheltered people who move to long-term housing after Outreach support</li> <li># and % of unsheltered people who are supported to move to emergency or transitional housing after Outreach support</li> <li>% of service provider staff trained to deliver housing-focused services</li> <li># of direct care provided by CPORT Program in encampments and elsewhere</li> <li># 911 calls diverted through CPORT</li> <li>Encampment protocol in place</li> </ul>	●	●		
		Develop a protocol through engagement with all local municipalities including bylaw, police, fire, and other community agencies to coordinate the response to people who are unsheltered/in encampments		●	●	●	●
		Provide training and resources to increase capacity to deliver consistent housing services across all emergency and transitional housing programs			●	●	●
		Identify options for a drop-in service delivery model and expanded drop-in services for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness			●	●	●
		Develop and enhance health care for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including increasing capacity of the Community Paramedicine and Outreach Response Team (CPORT) starting summer 2024		●	●	●	●
		Explore options to enhance the service delivery model for seasonal and overnight shelter programs			●	●	

**PRIORITY 2**

**Appendix C**

**Housing Stability and Intervention**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMELINES				
				2024	2025	2026	2027	
1. People who experience homelessness have access to high-quality supports focused on housing stability	1.2 Provide housing programs for people with high needs and complex barriers, including individuals experiencing chronic homelessness	Strengthen and expand Housing First approaches to programs to support people with complex needs, such as Home Now, including increasing capacity starting in 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># and % of people experiencing chronic homelessness who are housed</li> <li># of people in York Region-funded housing and support programs who retain housing after six months, 12 months and 24 months</li> <li># of staff who participate in training</li> </ul>	●	●	●	●	
		Work with partners to consider identifying principles and best practices to support people who use substances into program standards, as appropriate, and provide education and training for service providers		●	●	●	●	
		Explore options to enhance the Housing with Supports program				●	●	
	1.3 Provide medium- and long-term rent assistance for people who are experiencing homelessness	Evaluate and enhance rent assistance programs for people exiting emergency housing			●	●		
		Work with partners to develop a landlord engagement and retention strategy			●	●	●	
		Explore options to share housing resources and information across service providers			●	●	●	

**PRIORITY 2**

**Housing Stability and Intervention**

**Appendix C**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMELINES			
				2024	2025	2026	2027
2. People who experience homelessness have access to emergency shelter	2.1 Increase emergency housing capacity to reflect need	Add 30 beds in existing emergency and transitional housing facilities starting Summer 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of new emergency housing beds</li> <li>% change of seasonal and overnight shelter spaces</li> <li>% change of the occupancy rate for emergency and transitional housing</li> <li>Reduced length of stay</li> </ul>	●			
		Add 34 beds in hotels starting summer 2024		●			
		Explore options to increase Emergency and Transitional Housing capacity, including the use of hotels and adding at least two new Emergency and Transitional Housing sites with approximately 135 beds		●	●	●	●
		Add up to 75 additional seasonal shelter beds starting October 2024		●			
		Continue to identify options to maintain and expand the availability of seasonal and overnight shelter programs			●	●	●
		Partner with local municipalities to identify locations and options to expedite new Emergency and Transitional Housing		●	●	●	●
		Develop new emergency housing, pending confirmation of capital funding and planning approvals				●	●
		Explore options to provide emergency housing options that serve diverse populations, including newcomers, 2SLGBTQI+ communities, racialized communities, people with disabilities, women, youth and seniors			●	●	
		Investigate options to increase access to low-barrier emergency shelter			●	●	

**PRIORITY 2**

**Appendix C**

**Housing Stability and Intervention**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMELINES			
				2024	2025	2026	2027
2. People who experience homelessness have access to emergency shelter	2.1 Increase emergency housing capacity to reflect need	Move forward with redevelopment of three existing emergency and transitional housing sites (Porter Place, Leeder Place and Sutton Youth Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of new emergency housing beds</li> <li>% change of seasonal and overnight shelter spaces</li> <li>% change of the occupancy rate for emergency and transitional housing</li> <li>Reduced length of stay</li> </ul>	●	●	●	●
3. Services are responsive to diverse communities	3.1 Respond to over-representation of priority populations, including Indigenous, Black, and 2SLGBTQI+, and people with disabilities, among people experiencing homelessness	Enhance and build relationships with communities and organizations to strengthen the response to priority populations who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness in York Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#/% of Regional and service provider staff participating in anti-racism and inclusion training</li> </ul>	●	●	●	●
		Invest in training and resources for service providers to increase knowledge of Anti-Racism practices, prejudice and unconscious bias, and inclusion			●	●	●

**PRIORITY 3**

**Systems Response**

**Appendix C**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMELINES			
				2024	2025	2026	2027
1. The homelessness response in York Region is coordinated across a strong network of partners	1.1 Collaborate with partners to effectively manage the service system	Establish a homelessness system leadership table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>System leadership table established</li> <li># of campaign activities</li> <li># of Point-in Time Counts conducted</li> </ul>			●	●
		Work with United Way Greater Toronto to strengthen coordination between roles as Service Manager and Community Entity		●	●	●	●
		Complete Point-in-Time Counts required by provincial and federal governments		●		●	
	1.2 Strengthen and build partnerships to respond to homelessness	Engage provincial systems and other Greater Toronto Area service managers on responses to homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of engagement activities</li> <li># of training activities for local municipal staff</li> </ul>	●	●	●	●
		Explore interest and opportunities to deepen partnerships with community-based organizations and faith-based groups and community groups that may support people experiencing homelessness		●	●		
		Work collaboratively with York Regional Police, York Region Transit and local municipal staff to support people experiencing homelessness, including people who are unsheltered and/or living in encampments		●	●	●	●
	1.3 Strengthen internal partnerships to support people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness	Provide educational activities to increase awareness of homelessness services across Community and Health Services Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of staff who participate in education activities</li> <li># of referral processes established</li> <li># of information sessions on Regional programs provided</li> </ul>		●	●	●
		Work with internal partners to identify opportunities to identify and support clients who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness			●	●	●
		Increase awareness of Regional services, such as Transit Assistance Programs and Children’s Services, to help people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness access additional resources			●	●	●

**PRIORITY 3**

**Systems Response**

**Appendix C**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMELINES			
				2024	2025	2026	2027
<b>1. The homelessness response in York Region is coordinated across a strong network of partners</b>	1.4 Improve coordination and planning across the service system	Implement and expand prioritization for housing programs for people experiencing homelessness in collaboration with the Coordinated Access Governance Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritization framework is established</li> <li>• # of organizations participating in the prioritization process</li> <li>• # and % of people matched to housing and support through the prioritization process</li> <li>• People with lived experience are engaged in program development and evaluations</li> </ul>	●	●	●	●
		Evaluate Emergency Housing Central Intake Line to identify opportunities for continuous improvement and performance measures		●	●		
		Explore options to increase integration of case management functions across different internal and external services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness				●	●
<b>2. The homelessness service system has increased capacity to meet existing and emerging needs</b>	2.1 Enhance use of tools and data to support system planning and set meaningful service targets, using a continuous improvement lens	Strengthen Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) data collection and analysis capacity to inform system planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of York Region-funded agencies and programs using HIFIS</li> <li>• # of continuous improvement activities</li> <li>• # people on the By-Name List by inflow, outflow and ongoing</li> </ul>	●	●	●	●
		Monitor and report regularly on emergency housing and seasonal shelter capacity to meet demand		●	●	●	●
		Develop public data dashboards for reporting and community partner use				●	●
		Explore and expand use of data forecasting for long-term system planning		●	●	●	

**PRIORITY 3**

**Systems Response**

**Appendix C**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMELINES				
				2024	2025	2026	2027	
2. The homelessness service system has increased capacity to meet existing and emerging needs	2.2 Engage people with lived experience in all program development and evaluation activities	Collaborate with United Way Greater Toronto to support a lived experience advisory committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement standards are developed</li> <li># of engagements with people with lived experience</li> </ul>	●	●	●	●	
		Develop standards for lived experience engagement			●			
		Identify options to obtain ongoing feedback from people who use homelessness services			●	●		
	2.3 Strengthen the capacity, capability and competency of the service system and service providers	Invest in and enhance training for frontline staff and service providers to support integration of best practices and new innovations into the service system		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of staff who participate in training</li> <li>Funding model review completed</li> </ul>	●	●	●	●
					Review funding and staffing models and identify options to improve staff retention and recruitment		●	●

**PRIORITY 4**

**Advocacy and Engagement**

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	TIMELINES				
				2024	2025	2026	2027	
<b>1. Other levels of government and the broader community are engaged in responding to homelessness</b>	1.1 Develop and implement an agenda to guide advocacy to the Provincial and Federal governments to address structural and system issues	Develop an advocacy agenda to guide advocacy to the Provincial and Federal governments to address structural factors including income security and housing affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy agenda developed</li> <li>• # of advocacy actions taken</li> </ul>		●	●	●	
		Advocate, alongside community partners, for sustainable funding for employment and education programs that reduce homelessness		●	●	●	●	
		Advocate for improved access to trauma-informed mental health, substance use and culturally appropriate wellness supports		●	●	●	●	
		Continue to advocate for sustained federal and provincial funding and policy changes to increase the supply and access to affordable housing of all types		●	●	●	●	
		Advocate for predictable, long-term investment in portable housing benefits, including for people who are experiencing homelessness		●	●	●	●	
		Advocate to the Provincial government to increase social assistance rates		●	●	●	●	
		1.2 Increase community knowledge and awareness of homelessness in York Region		With community partners, develop a coordinated information campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign developed</li> </ul>		●	●





**Minutes**  
**Audit Committee**

June 13, 2024  
Electronic Meeting

Members: W. Emmerson, G. Chan, M. Chan, N. Davison, S. Del Duca,  
A. Ho, S. Pellegrini

Staff: I. Agyemang, C. Atkari, D. Basso, L. Bigioni, J. Casaert, P. Casey,  
S. Di Virgilio, L. Gonsalves, C. Goodeve, B. Ikram, W. Kemp,  
R. Leest, C. Letea, J. Li, E. Mahoney, C. Martin, L. McDowell,  
L. Mirabella, M. Morris, A. Parsram, K. Paulino, L. Rabeau,  
M. Russell, M. Sangoi, C. Spearen, C. Taglione, R. Walker

Other: C. Bernier, Canary Trap; K. McBride, Canary Trap;  
M. Khoushnood, KPMG

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**A. Call to Order**

The Audit Committee meeting was called to order at 1 p.m.

**B. Land Acknowledgement**

Regional Councillor M. Chan provided the following land acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations.

Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land.

We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.

**C. Disclosures of Interest**

None

**D. Presentations**

**D.1 The Regional Municipality of York - Audit Findings Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Audit Committee received the presentation by Maria Khoushnood, KPMG LLP.

**D.2 2023 Financial Statements**

Audit Committee received the presentation by Laura Mirabella, Commissioner of Finance & Regional Treasurer and Jason Li, Director, Controllershship Office & Deputy Treasurer.

(See Item E.1)

**E. Communications**

**E.1 2023 Financial Statements and Auditor's Report**

Audit Committee recommends receipt of the memorandum dated June 3, 2024 from Laura Mirabella, Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer.

**E.2 Audit Services Branch Report**

Audit Committee recommends receipt of the memorandum dated June 13, 2024 from Michelle Morris, Director of Audit Services.

**F. Reports**

None

**G. Other Business**

None

**H. Private Session**

At 1:38 p.m. Audit Committee resolved into Private Session to consider the following:

**H.1 Private Attachment 1 to Item E.2 - Audit Services Branch Report - Status of Management Action Plans Report - Security of Property and Labour Relations**

Audit Committee recommends receipt of the private attachment. Attachment remains private.

**H.2 Private Attachment 2 to Item E.2 - Audit Services Branch Report - Cybersecurity and SCADA Audit - Network Penetration Testing - Security of Property**

Audit Committee recommends receipt of the private attachment. Attachment remains private.

At 1:43 p.m. Audit Committee reconvened in Public Session.

**I. Adjournment**

The Audit Committee meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

## THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

### BYLAW NO. 2024-28

A bylaw to amend Bylaw 2023-34 being a bylaw to prohibit or regulate parking and stopping on Regional roads

WHEREAS on May 18, 2023, Regional Council passed Bylaw No. 2023-34 being a bylaw to prohibit or regulate parking and stopping on Regional roads;

AND WHEREAS Schedule “D”, Table 3 of Bylaw 2023-34, as amended and including its schedules (“Bylaw 2023-34”), sets out the sections of highway where stopping is prohibited in the Township of King;

AND WHEREAS the Township of King passed a motion to request the Region to assume four kilometres of Keele Street, improve the intersection at Keele Street and King Road, install a pedestrian crosswalk on Keele Street south of King Road and introduce stopping prohibitions on Keele Street;

AND WHEREAS on January 25, 2024, Regional Council approved the assumption of four kilometres of Keele Street from Lloydtown/Aurora Road to Davis Drive such that they are added to the Regional road system effective June 1, 2024;

AND WHEREAS on June 27, 2024, Regional Council authorized an amendment to Bylaw 2023-34 to prohibit or regulate parking and stopping on Regional roads to add parking controls on Keele Street south of King Road in the Township of King;

AND WHEREAS to accommodate the intersection improvements and pedestrian signal installation, it is necessary and desirable to prohibit stopping on Keele Street between King Road and Elizabeth Grove;

The Council of The Regional Municipality of York enacts as follows:

1. Table 3 of Schedule “D” to Bylaw No. 2023-34 is repealed and replaced with Schedule “A” of this bylaw.
2. Except as modified by this bylaw, all provisions of Bylaw 2023-34 are, and shall continue to be, in force and effect.
3. Schedule “A” shall form part of this bylaw.

ENACTED AND PASSED on June 27, 2024.

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Regional Clerk

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Regional Chair

*Authorized by Item G.2.2 of the Committee of the Whole dated June 13, 2024,  
adopted by Regional Council at its meeting on June 27, 2024*

**SCHEDULE “A” TO BYLAW NO. 2024-28**

<b>TABLE 3 - STOPPING PROHIBITED</b>			
<b>COLUMN 1 (Highway)</b>	<b>COLUMN 2 (Side)</b>	<b>COLUMN 3 (Limits)</b>	<b>COLUMN 4 (Times/Days)</b>
Keele Street (Y.R. 6)	east	From the north limit of Elizabeth Grove to 400 metres north of the north limit of Elizabeth Grove	7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday
Keele Street (Y.R. 6)	West	From the south limit of King Road (Y.R. 11) to the north limit of Elizabeth Grove	7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Monday to Friday
Keele Street (Y.R. 6)	East	From 150 metres south of the south limit of King Road (Y.R. 11) to the south limit of King Road (Y.R. 11)	Any time
King Road (Y.R. 11)	south	From the west limit of Dufferin Street (Y.R. 53) to 200 metres west of the west limit of Dufferin Street (Y.R. 53)	any time
King Road (Y.R. 11)	both	From the east limit of Royal Avenue to 46 metres east of the east limit of Lynwood Crescent	7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday
Wellington Street (Y.R. 15)	both	From the east limit of Dufferin Street (Y.R. 53) to 700 metres east of the east limit of Dufferin Street (Y.R. 53)	any time
Lloydtown/Aurora Road (Y.R. 16)	north	From the west limit of 7 <sup>th</sup> Concession to the east limit of Edward Pottage Crescent	any time

Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38) in the Town of Aurora and Township of King	both	From the north limit of Highland Gate to the south limit of Kennedy Street	any time
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## THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

### BYLAW NO. 2024-29

#### A BYLAW TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO ONTARIO INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDS CORPORATION (“OILC”) FOR FINANCING CERTAIN CAPITAL WORK OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA; AND TO AUTHORIZE LONG-TERM BORROWING FOR SUCH CAPITAL WORK THROUGH THE ISSUE OF DEBENTURES BY THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK (THE “UPPER TIER MUNICIPALITY”) TO OILC

WHEREAS the *Municipal Act, 2001* (Ontario), as amended, (the “**Act**”) provides that a municipal power shall be exercised by bylaw unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Georgina (the “**Lower-tier Municipality**”), a lower-tier municipality that forms part of The Regional Municipality of York (the “**Upper-tier Municipality**”) for its purposes has requested the Upper-tier Municipality to authorize the issue of debenture for the certain capital work described in column (2) of Schedule “A” (the “**Capital Work**”) attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw (**Schedule “A”**) in the amount of the respective estimated expenditure set out in column (3) of Schedule “A”, subject in each case to approval by OILC of the financing for such Capital Work requested by the Lower-tier Municipality in the Application as hereinafter defined;

AND WHEREAS before the Council of the Lower-tier Municipality approved the Capital Work in accordance with section 4 of Ontario Regulation 403/02 (the “**Regulation**”), the Council of the Lower-tier Municipality had its Treasurer calculate an updated limit in respect of its most recent annual debt and financial obligation limit received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (as so updated, the “**Updated Lower-tier Limit**”), and, on the basis of the authorized estimated expenditure for the Capital Work or for each Capital Work, as the case may be, as set out in column (3) of Schedule “A” (the “**Authorized Expenditure**” for any such Capital Work) the Treasurer calculated the estimated annual amount payable in respect of the Capital Work or each Capital Work, as the case may be, (collectively the “**Estimated Annual Amount Payable**”), and determined that the Estimated Annual Amount payable did not cause the Lower-tier Municipality to exceed the Updated Lower-tier Limit, and accordingly the approval of the Ontario Land Tribunal pursuant to the Regulation was not required before any such Capital Work was authorized by the Council of the Lower-tier Municipality;

AND WHEREAS subsection 405(1) of the Act provides, amongst other things, that a municipality may authorize temporary borrowing to meet expenditures made in connection with a work to be financed in whole or in part by the issue of debentures if, the municipality is a lower-tier municipality in a regional municipality and it has approved the work and the upper-tier municipality has approved the issue of debentures for the work;

AND WHEREAS subsection 401(1) of the Act provides that a municipality may incur a debt for municipal purposes, whether by borrowing money or in any other way, and may issue debentures and prescribed financial instruments and enter prescribed financial agreements for or in relation to the debt;

AND WHEREAS subsection 401(3) of the Act provides that a lower-tier municipality in a regional municipality does not have the power to issue debentures;

AND WHEREAS subsection 403(1) of the Act provides that a bylaw of an upper-tier municipality authorizing the issuing of debentures for the purposes or joint purposes of one or more of its lower-tier municipalities may require those lower-tier municipalities to make payments in each year to the upper-tier municipality in the amounts and on the dates specified in the bylaw;

AND WHEREAS the Act also provides that a municipality shall authorize long-term borrowing by the issue of debentures or through another municipality under section 403 or 404 of the Act and subsection 403(7) of the Act provides that all debentures issued under a bylaw passed by an upper-tier municipality under section 403 are direct, joint and several obligations of the upper-tier municipality and its lower-tier municipalities;

AND WHEREAS OILC has invited Ontario municipalities desirous of obtaining temporary and long-term debt financing in order to meet capital expenditures incurred on or after the year that is five years prior to the year of an application in connection with eligible capital work to make application to OILC for such financing by completing and submitting an application in the form provided by OILC;

AND WHEREAS the Lower-tier Municipality requested the Upper-tier Municipality to issue debentures for the Capital Work and in this connection the Upper-tier Municipality and the Lower-tier Municipality completed and submitted or is in the process of submitting an application to OILC, as the case may be (the “**Application**”) to request financing for the Capital Work by way of long-term borrowing pursuant to section 403 of the Act through the issue of debentures to OILC by the Upper-tier Municipality and by way of temporary borrowing by the Lower-tier Municipality from OILC pending the issue of such debentures;

AND WHEREAS OILC has accepted and has approved or will notify the Upper-tier Municipality only if it accepts and approves the Application, as the case may be;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Council of the Upper-tier Municipality hereby approves the issue of debentures for the Capital Work in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$20,000,000.00 and the Council of the Upper-tier Municipality hereby confirms, ratifies and approves the execution by the Regional Treasurer of the Application and the submission by such authorized official of the Application by the Upper-tier Municipality, duly executed by such authorized official, to OILC for the financing of the Capital Work through the issue of debentures in such maximum aggregate

principal amount substantially in the form of Schedule “B” hereto and forming part of this Bylaw, with such changes thereon as such authorized official may hereafter approve, such execution and delivery to be conclusive evidence of such approval.

2. The Regional Chair and the Regional Treasurer are hereby authorized to negotiate and enter into, execute and deliver for and on behalf of the Upper-tier Municipality a financing agreement (a “**Financing Agreement**”) with OILC that provides for long-term borrowing from OILC under the authority of this Bylaw in respect of the Capital Work on such terms and conditions as such authorized officials may approve, such execution and delivery to be conclusive evidence of such approval.
3. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement and such other terms and conditions as OILC may otherwise require, the Regional Chair and the Regional Treasurer are hereby authorized to long-term borrow for the Capital Work and to issue debentures to OILC on the terms and conditions provided in the Financing Agreement and on such other terms and conditions as such authorized officials may agree (the “**Debentures**”); provided that the principal amount of the Debentures issued in respect of the Capital Work or of each Capital Work, as the case may be, does not exceed the Authorized Expenditure for such Capital Work and does not exceed the related loan amount set out in column (4) of Schedule “A” in respect of such Capital Work.
4. In accordance with the provisions of section 25 of the *Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation Act, 2011*, as amended from time to time hereafter, the Upper-tier Municipality is hereby authorized to agree in writing with OILC that the Minister of Finance is entitled, without notice to the Upper-tier Municipality, to deduct from money appropriated by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for payment to the Upper-tier Municipality, amounts not exceeding the amounts that the Upper-tier Municipality fails to pay to OILC on account of any unpaid indebtedness of the Upper-tier Municipality to OILC under any Debentures (the “**Obligations**”) and to pay such amounts to OILC from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.
5. For the purposes of meeting the Obligations the Upper-tier Municipality shall, in accordance with the Act, provide for raising in each year as part of the general upper-tier levy, the amounts of principal and interest payable in each year under any Debenture outstanding pursuant to the Financing Agreement, to the extent that the amounts have not been provided for by any other available source including other taxes or fees or charges imposed on persons or property by a bylaw of any municipality.
6. (a) The Regional Chair and the Regional Treasurer are hereby authorized to enter into, execute and deliver the Financing Agreement and to issue the Debentures, one or more of the Regional Clerk and the Regional Treasurer are hereby authorized to generally do all things and to execute all other documents and papers in the name of the Upper-tier Municipality in order to perform the Obligations of the Upper-tier Municipality under the Financing Agreement and to issue the Debentures, and the Regional Treasurer is authorized to affix the Upper-tier Municipality’s municipal seal to any such documents and papers.

- (b) The money realized in respect of the Debentures, including any premium, and any earnings derived from the investment of that money, after providing for the expenses related to their issue, if any, shall be delivered to the Lower-tier Municipality on the basis that the Lower-tier Municipality will apportion and apply such money to the respective Capital Work and to no other purpose except as permitted by the Act.

7. This Bylaw takes effect on the day of passing.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 27th day of June, 2024.

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Christopher Raynor  
Regional Clerk

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Wayne Emmerson  
Regional Chair

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK  
SCHEDULE "A" TO BYLAW NO. 2024-29  
(Capital Work)**

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<u>Capital Work Number/Bylaw Number</u>	<u>Description of Capital Work</u>	<u>Estimated Expenditure</u>	<u>Loan Amount</u>
		\$	\$
<b>Capital Work of The Corporation of the Town of Georgina</b>			
2024-0040 (BA-1)	Building a new stand-alone Replacement Civic Centre (RCC) and the demolition of the existing Civic Centre building	54,160,000.00	20,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>20,000,000.00</b>

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK  
SCHEDULE "B" TO BYLAW NO. 2024-29**

**OILC Application**

## Webloans Loan Application PDF

**FA Number** 1909

**Application for** Georgina, The Corporation of the Town of

### Projects

Loan Application ID	Project Name	Construction/Purchase Start	Construction/Purchase End	Project Cost	OILC Loan Amount
909	Replacement Civic Center	05/08/2024	12/31/2025	\$54,106,000.00	20,000,000.00

### Details of Project Replacement Civic Center

**Project Category** Recreation Infrastructure

**Work Type** Muni Indoor & Outdoor Cap Infr

**Project Name** Replacement Civic Center

**Construction/Purchase Start** 05/08/2024

**Construction/Purchase End** 12/31/2025

**Energy Conservation**

**Project Address 1** 26557 Civic Center Rd.

**Project Address 2**

**City / Town** Keswick

**Province** ON

**Postal Code** L4P 3G1

**Description**

Building of a new stand-alone Replacement Civic Centre (RCC) and the demolition of the existing Civic Centre building. The new RCC building will provide:

- Improved efficiency, space utilization and energy usage
- Enhanced environmental system sustainability such as variable frequency drive controlled mechanical equipment, LED lighting, etc.
- Safe ecosystem for staff and the public to protect against unknowns such as COVID
- HVAC system to allow for better airflow distribution
- Easily meet current legislative requirements, including AODA
- Provide a healthy and fully accessible building and work environment, fostering increased

Comments and/or Special Requests

[Empty text area for comments and/or special requests]

Useful Life of Asset (Years)

50

### Project Financial Information

Type of Financing

Construction/Short-term and Long-Term

Payment Frequency

Semiannually

Project Cost (A)

\$54,106,000.00

#### Other Project Funding / Financing (B):

Description	Timing	Amount
Existing Reserves / Tax Levies	Existing	\$34,106,000.00
<b>Other Project Funding/Financing Total (B)</b>		<b>\$34,106,000.00</b>
<b>OILC Loan Amount (A-B)</b>		<b>\$20,000,000.00</b>

#### Only include long-term borrowing in this section

Required Date	Amount	Term	Type
12/31/2025	\$20,000,000.00	10	Amortizing
<b>Long-term Borrowing Total</b>		<b>\$20,000,000.00</b>	

### Debt and Re-payments Summary

Has there been any new/undisclosed debt acquired since last FIR was submitted?  Yes  No

Loan Purpose	Initial Amount Borrowed	Outstanding Amount	Annual Interest Rate	Date Borrowed	Maturity Year	Summary Pledges	Payment Plan	Payment Amount	Payment Frequency
IO loan (FA 1647) - Multi-use Rec. Complex	\$0.00	\$0.00	4.5700	02/01/2024	2049	-	Blended	\$0.00	Semiannually

Please describe any re-financing plans for any existing "interest only" debt, if applicable.

[Empty text area for re-financing plans]

### Non Re-payments of Loans or Debenture

In the last 10 years, has the borrower ever failed to make a loan payment or debenture repayment on time to any lender, including the Provincial Government?

If yes, please provide details.

[Empty text area for details]

### OILC Loan Repayment Information

Please indicate the source(s) of revenue you plan to use to repay the OILC Loan



<b>Taxation</b>	100.00
<b>User Fees</b>	0.00
<b>Service Charges</b>	0.00
<b>Development Charges</b>	0.00
<b>Connection Fees</b>	0.00
<b>Repayment Subsidies</b>	0.00
<b>Other</b>	
<b>Total</b>	100.00%

## Documentation and Acknowledgements

Please ensure all required documents are submitted with the signed application. OILC requires originals as noted below to be mailed or couriered. Also, please retain a copy of all documents submitted to OILC for your records.

To obtain templates for documents see listed below.

- Loan Application Signature Page signed and dated by the appropriate individual (original to be submitted)
- Certificate and sealed copy of OILC template By-law authorizing project borrowing and applying for a loan (original with seal)
- Certificate of Treasurer Regarding Litigation using the OILC template (original, signed & sealed)
- Updated Certified Annual Repayment Limit Calculation (original)

I acknowledge and agree that all of the above referenced documents must be submitted in the form required by OILC and understand that the application will not be processed until such documents have been fully completed and received by Infrastructure Ontario.

**Please note: OILC retains the right to request and review any additional information or documents at its discretion.**

**Confidential Information**

OILC is an institution to which the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Ontario) applies. Information and supporting documents submitted by the Borrower to process the loan application will be kept secure and confidential, subject to any applicable laws or rules of a court or tribunal having jurisdiction.

## Infrastructure Ontario

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**Application ID:** 909

**Printed Date:** 04/09/2024  
**Application Submit Date:** 04/09/2024

I/We acknowledge that a Loan Application has been submitted to Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation (OILC) containing the following information.

Eligible Category	Loan Amount
Recreation Infrastructure	\$20,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	\$20,000,000.00

**Name of Borrower:** York, The Regional Municipality of  
**Address:** 17250 Yonge Street L3Y6Z1 ON

**Name of Treasurer's (or equivalent):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ID:** 19000

The undersigned certifies that he/she has read the OILC loan program guidelines and all information provided to OILC is accurate and complete. The undersigned acknowledges that some information provided may be shared with the line ministries to provide technical expertise to OILC. Applicant agrees to provide OILC with additional information as required in order to process the loan.

**Treasurer's (or equivalent) Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK**

**BYLAW NO. 2024-30**

A bylaw to stop up and close a portion  
of Highway 11/Yonge Street (Y.R. 1) and Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38),  
Town of East Gwillimbury

The Council of The Regional Municipality of York enacts as follows:

1. That part of Highway 11/Yonge Street (Y.R. 1), described as Part of Lot A, Block 1, Registered Plan 16 and Part of the Road Allowance between Lots 110 and 111, Concession 1 West of Yonge Street, in the Town of East Gwillimbury in The Regional Municipality of York, designated as Parts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 13 on Plan 65R-40805, are hereby stopped up and closed as a public highway.
2. That part of Bathurst Street (Y.R. 38), described as Part of Lot A, Block 1, Registered Plan 16, in the Town of East Gwillimbury in The Regional Municipality of York, designated as Part 1 on Plan 65R-40805, is hereby stopped up and closed as a public highway.

ENACTED AND PASSED on June 27, 2024.

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Regional Clerk

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Regional Chair

*Authorized by Clause 10 of Report 9 of the Finance and Administration Committee,  
adopted by Council at its meeting on November 17, 2011.*

#16189294

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK**

**BYLAW NO. 2024-31**

A bylaw to establish a public highway

The Council of The Regional Municipality of York enacts as follows:

1. The land described as Part of Lot 7, Registered Plan 211, in the Town of Georgina in The Regional Municipality of York, designated as Part 2 on Plan 65R-38153, is hereby established as public highway and declared to form part of The Queensway South (Y.R. 12).

ENACTED AND PASSED on June 27, 2024.

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Regional Clerk

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Regional Chair

*Authorized by Clause 10 of Report 9 of the Finance and Administration Committee, adopted by Council at its meeting on November 17, 2011.*

#16083764

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK**

**BYLAW NO. 2024-32**

A bylaw to remove a portion of Major Mackenzie Drive West (Y.R. 25) from the Regional Road System, in the City of Vaughan

WHEREAS Regional Council at its meeting on June 27, 2024 will be presented with a Report of the Commissioner of Corporate Services, being Item K.2.10 of the Committee of the Whole dated June 13, 2024, for adoption (the “Report”);

AND WHEREAS the Report recommends that a portion of the original Major Mackenzie Drive West (Y.R. 25) alignment be removed from the Regional road system;

AND WHEREAS it is appropriate that the said lands be removed from the Regional road system;

AND WHEREAS subsection 52(4) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001 (the “Act”) provides that an upper-tier municipality may remove a highway from its system;

AND WHEREAS subsection 52(5) of the Act provides that if a highway is removed from an upper-tier highway system, it is under the jurisdiction of the lower-tier municipality in which the highway is located.

NOW THEREFORE, The Council of The Regional Municipality of York enacts as follows:

1. The lands described in Schedule “A” be removed from the Regional road system and shall be under the jurisdiction of The Corporation of the City of Vaughan.
2. Schedule “A” attached shall form part of this bylaw.

ENACTED AND PASSED on June 27, 2024.

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Regional Clerk

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Regional Chair

*Authorized by Item K.2.10 of the Committee of the Whole dated June 13, 2024, adopted by Council at its meeting on June 27, 2024.*

#16191865

**SCHEDULE “A”**

Lands in the City of Vaughan in The Regional Municipality of York being composed of:

**FIRSTLY:** Part of the Road Allowance between Lots 20 and 21, Concession 9, City of Vaughan, designated as Part 1 on Plan 65R-40420;

**SECONDLY:** Part of Lot 20, Concession 9, City of Vaughan, designated as Parts 3 and 4 on Plan 65R-40420;

**THIRDLY:** Part of the West Half of Lot 20, Concession 9, City of Vaughan, designated as Parts 7 and 8 on Plan 65R-35530.

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

**BYLAW NO. 2024-33**

A Bylaw to confirm the proceedings of  
Council at its Meeting held on June 27, 2024

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The action of Council in respect of each motion, resolution and other action passed and taken by the Council at its meeting of June 27, 2024, is, except where the prior approval of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal is required, hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed.
2. The Regional Chair and the proper officers of the Municipality are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to Council's action or to obtain approvals where required, and, except where otherwise provided, the Regional Chair, or another Member of Regional Council designated by the Regional Chair, and the Regional Clerk are hereby directed to execute all documents necessary in that behalf, and the Regional Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to affix the corporate seal of the Municipality to all of these documents.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 27th day of June, 2024

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Regional Clerk

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Regional Chair

#16214132