

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.  
Commissioner of Environmental Services

Date: March 31, 2020

Re: National Public Works Week 2020

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Across North America and in coordination with the Canadian, Ontario and American Public Works Associations, National Public Works Week is celebrated annually during the third week in May. The Regional Municipality of York has also traditionally celebrated National Public Works Week by educating and informing residents about the importance of public works in their communities during this week.

### **The 2020 North American National Public Works Week Theme is “The Rhythm of Public Works”**

This year’s theme celebrates public works staff and residents as a symphony of imperative services, working in concert to create great places to live. This year, with the particular challenges the COVID-19 pandemic brings, National Public Works Week is a unique opportunity to recognize the vital contributions that public works professionals, across all jurisdictions, make towards the health, safety and quality of life that residents in our communities depend on every day.

York Region Transportation Services, Environmental Services, Corporate Services, Paramedic Services, Community and Health Services, the local municipalities and York Regional Police all provide critical services to our residents. While these partnerships support the delivery of services to the community, public works services in Transportation Services, Environmental Services and Corporate Services specifically include:

- Seasonal roads maintenance
- Education and public outreach

- Monitoring traffic control and signal operations
- Building, operating and maintaining Regional roads and infrastructure
- Operating conventional rapid transit and Mobility On-Request services
- Fleet and equipment services
- Facilities operations and maintenance
- Providing safe and clean drinking water
- Wastewater conveyance and treatment
- Source water protection
- Solid waste processing diversion and disposal
- Planting, protecting and enhancing York Region forests and street trees

### **Traditional National Public Works Week activities will not take place this year**

All public events and activities planned for spring 2020 to celebrate National Public Works Week in York Region have been cancelled in alignment with Public Health Ontario direction for physical distancing to help contain the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes the Family Fun Day event that was scheduled to take place on May 23, the National Public Works Week Municipal and Mayors' Challenge on May 20 and the school tours of our facilities from May 20 to 22. Additionally, due to the current closure of all elementary schools, it is not possible to coordinate the annual Paint-a-Plow contest this year.

Although official activities have been cancelled this year, Commissioners and Directors will consider alternate ways to acknowledge the significant contributions and accomplishments of York Region public works staff throughout the month of May. We look forward to continuing our trusted partnerships, planning and coordinating activities to celebrate National Public Works Week with our communities in 2021.

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Paul Jankowski  
Commissioner of Transportation Services

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Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.  
Commissioner of Environmental Services

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Bruce Macgregor  
Chief Administrative Officer

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