



## The “Week of Thanks” - Brief for York Regional Council

### About York Health Matters

York Health Matters is a campaign that launched in November 2019 and is dedicated to raising awareness of the high quality service delivery provided by CUPE 905 members in the York Region & Long-term Care (YRLTC) unit. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the significance of their work and we have already seen an [outpouring of support](#) for our members and the important services they provide to our York Region community.

### About the Week of Thanks

Through the York Health Matters campaign, we are launching the “Week of Thanks” for the York Region community to show thanks to those who continue to help keep them safe, healthy and their day-to-day lives running smoothly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Early on in the pandemic, images and drawings of rainbows began popping up in windows around the world and here in York Region. The sharing of rainbows was meant to symbolize hope in uncertain times, a sense of community and a message of thankfulness to front line workers. The “Week of Thanks” builds off this existing initiative by asking those in York Region to place a “thank you” message in the window or door of their home, classroom or business during the week of November 16th. This message is something that children or families can paint, draw or write out themselves, or they can print off a free pre-designed poster from [yorkhealthmatters.ca/week-of-thanks](http://yorkhealthmatters.ca/week-of-thanks).

**The YRLTC Executive would like to formalize this initiative by having Regional Council declare the week of November 16, 2020 as “The Week of Thanks”.** This declaration could be made at the Committee of the Whole’s meeting on November 5 and “The Week of Thanks” could be acknowledged again during the week itself at the Regional Council meeting on November 19.

This will be a valuable opportunity to unite the community and further educate the public about who is helping keep our communities healthy and safe amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, this will help promote the quality services provided to York Region residents every single day.

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### About CUPE 905’s York Region and Long Term Care Unit(s)

CUPE Local 905’s York Region and Long Term Care units are made up of public health, paramedic and long-term care workers, among others, employed by the Region of York. Many of our members are working on the front lines and behind the scenes of the COVID-19 pandemic. These members are performing crucial tasks such as contact tracing, testing residents for COVID-19, taking calls from the public, caring for seniors in the Region’s two public long-term care homes and inspecting facilities across York Region.

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**SUGGESTED MOTION**

**SUBJECT:** Week of Thanks – November 16 – 20, 2020

**DATE:** November 1, 2020

**MOVED BY:**

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of York, along with several other municipalities across Ontario and Canada are currently experiencing a “second wave” of Covid-19; and

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of York recognizes the hard work and dedication of our regional employees and is proud of the commitment and sacrifices that these workers have made in the fight against Covid-19; and

WHEREAS the Week of Thanks is an initiative that recognizes the dedication and commitment of our employees in the fight against Covid-19; and

WHEREAS the Week of Thanks runs from November 16 – 20 in York Region; and

WHEREAS the Week of Thanks encourages residents and business owners to show their appreciation of our regional employees keeping us healthy during these difficult times, by posting ‘thank you’ signs in windows during the week of November 16; and

WHEREAS the York Health Matters (YHM) initiative has launched a media campaign to promote the Week of Thanks in York Region; and

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of York is encouraging York Region residents and business owners to participate in the Week of Thanks, and acknowledges the commitment that everyone has made in the fight against Covid-19;

**IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED:**

That the Regional Municipality of York recognize and participate in the Week of Thanks in York Region, and encourage the public to place a ‘thank you’ sign in their window to show our regional employees that we thank them for their service, and officially recognize the week of November 16 -20 as the Week of Thanks.

**Signed**

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