



Office of the Commissioner
Transportation Services Department
Environmental Services Department

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 17, 2021

Re: National Public Works Week May 16 to 22, 2021

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

This memo provides an update on proposed virtual activities for 2021 including Regional Council's acknowledgement of public works staff.

National Public Works Week will take place May 16 to 22, 2021

York Region is following the Ontario Government's immediate order to prohibit organized events to help contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, York Region Transportation Services and Environmental Services will continue to participate in NPWW at a Regional and local level. All activities will be virtual to align with public health guidelines and mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Virtual events can be hosted with minimal cost while reaching a broad audience.

The City of Richmond Hill is part of this year's committee and will participate in Regional activities. A vehicle media tour with the City of Vaughan is also planned.

“Stronger Together” is the 2021 theme for National Public Works Week

This year’s theme is *Stronger Together* and engages public works staff and residents to think about their communities and imperative services, working together to create great places to live.

Public works staff will be highlighted and recognized throughout the week in acknowledgment of their efforts to deliver essential services to our residents every day. Staff worked diligently throughout last year to ensure public and worker safety while maintaining continuity of services through the following:

- Providing safe and clean drinking water
- Roads maintenance
- Monitoring traffic control and signal operations
- Building, operating and maintaining Regional roads and infrastructure within COVID guidelines
- Operating conventional, rapid transit and Mobility On-Request services following Public Health guidelines and protocols to keep residents and staff safe
- New Fleet and equipment cleaning practices to meet Public Health guidelines
- Safe space (processes, signage and education for Regional buildings)
- Work protocols supporting facility operations and maintenance such as single vehicles for all field staff and appropriate personal protective equipment at all times
- Proactively ensuring the health and safety of staff, and continuing safe operation and ground-breaking work to sample for traces of COVID-19 at our wastewater treatment facilities
- Source water protection
- Working with our waste depot contractors to ensure COVID-19 protocols were in place, protecting residents’ health and safety when using our facility
- Ensuring physical distancing with enhanced monitoring of the York Region Forest, creating a safe space for all residents to enjoy
- Planting, protecting and enhancing York Region forests and street trees

A series of virtual activities are planned for students and the community

York Region is following the Ontario Government's guidelines to contain the spread of COVID-19 by offering virtual activities to celebrate this year's Public Works week. The following activities are being considered by this year's committee:

- Online speaker series open to residents across the Region
- Bus wash and snow plow virtual simulations
- Virtual toolkits that align with the Province of Ontario's elementary school curriculum
- Social media spirit week to engage all residents about public works
- Paint-a-plow contest with students creating digital designs for the Region's snow plows

Strong collaboration will continue to make National Public Works Week a success

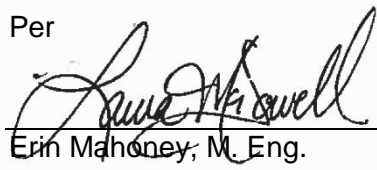
National Public Works Week is an important way to acknowledge the contributions of public works staff and engage the community. Although this year's activities will look different, Commissioners and Directors will continue to acknowledge the significant contributions and accomplishments of York Region public works staff throughout the month of May.

Staff look forward to continuing our trusted partnerships, planning and coordinating activities to celebrate National Public Works Week virtually in 2021.



Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Transportation Services

Per



Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.
Commissioner of Environmental Services



Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

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