

# **The Regional Municipality of York**

Committee of the Whole  
Finance and Administration  
May 13, 2021

Report of the Commissioner of Finance

## **2020 Accounts Receivable Write-off and Status Report**

### **1. Recommendations**

Council receive this report for information.

### **2. Summary**

This report is to inform Council of the summary of accounts approved for write-off by the Regional Treasurer in 2020 and the status of the Region's Accounts Receivable as at December 31, 2020, as required by the Collection of Accounts Policy.

Key Points:

- The Regional Treasurer approved the write-off of 56 accounts totalling \$21,890.86 in 2020
- As of December 31, 2020, the Accounts Receivable balance was \$87.7 million after write-offs
- As of March 31, 2021, 83.6% of the year-end Accounts Receivable balance was collected

### **3. Background**

#### **Finance processes all general receivables and Community and Health Services processes Seniors Services (including long-term care) receivables**

General receivables are comprised of billings from Regional departments. Finance processes the billings and works with operating departments to collect outstanding accounts. In 2020, general billings totalled \$423.4M, of which \$372.4M (88.0%) was for municipal water billings.

Seniors Services receivables are comprised of billings for long-term care residents and adult day programs. The Region's Community and Health Services Department processes these accounts and administers the collection of outstanding accounts. In 2020, billings were \$4.9M.

The total general and Seniors Services billings for 2020 were \$428.3M.

The Region also administers the Provincial Offences Act (POA) court program. Collections of fines are managed directly by the Region's Legal and Court Services Department and are outlined in a separate report to Council.

### **Regional staff undertake various initiatives to help facilitate the collection of accounts receivable**

York Region's Collection of Accounts Policy provides for avenues staff may pursue to support the collection of receivables. Staff send a monthly reminder letter and follow up with an email and/or phone call. The Finance Department works with relevant program areas to resolve any outstanding issues. When a receivable reaches 90 days, the issue is forwarded to the Region's Legal Services staff, if there has not been a reasonable response from the customer, or a foreseeable resolution. Legal staff may send a demand letter or pursue legal action, if warranted. An external collection agency may also be considered. When efforts to collect have been exhausted, the receivable will be submitted to the Regional Treasurer or to Council for write-off.

### **The Region's Collection of Accounts Policy outlines requirements for the write-off and reporting of accounts receivable**

The Region's Collection of Accounts policy:

- Authorizes the Regional Treasurer to approve the write-off of uncollectible accounts for amounts up to and including \$25,000
- Requires Regional Council to approve the write-off of accounts in excess of \$25,000
- Requires the Regional Treasurer to report to Council the accounts written-off for the fiscal year
- Requires the Regional Treasurer to report to Council on the status of outstanding accounts receivable as at the end of each fiscal year

## **4. Analysis**

### **The Regional Treasurer approved the write-off of 56 accounts totalling \$21,890.86 in 2020**

Table 1 summarizes the write-offs in 2020 along with comparable details for the preceding year.

**Table 1**  
**Accounts Receivable Write-Off approved by the Regional Treasurer**

2020			2019	
Receivables	# of Accounts	Amount	# of Accounts	Amount
Traffic Collision Claims	51	\$17,206	61	\$18,786
Long-Term Care Facilities	4	3,007	2	10,129
Seniors Services Day Programs	1	1,678	1	260
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$21,891</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>\$29,176</b>
<b>Average</b>		<b>\$391</b>		<b>\$456</b>

Unrecoverable traffic collision claims in the amount of \$17,206 for damages to York Region property are due to insurance agencies not paying:

- Full replacement cost of materials
- All or part of the administration fees
- Unidentified drivers or no insurance coverage

The amounts written off in 2020 represented 0.004% of general billings.

Unrecoverable Seniors Services receivables in the amount of \$4,685 for outstanding accommodation at long-term care facilities and day programs have been written off. Community and Health Services have exhausted all efforts to collect these amounts.

The amounts written off represented 0.095% of Seniors Services' billings.

The number and dollar value of write-offs fluctuate from year to year for both general and Seniors Services receivables, due to varying and unpredictable circumstances. In the previous five years, general receivables write-offs represented anywhere from 0.004% to 0.008% of total billings, while Seniors Services write-offs represented anywhere from 0.072% to 0.277% of total billings.

### **There are no proposed write-offs for accounts greater than \$25,000 in 2020**

In 2020, no accounts greater than \$25,000 have been identified for write-off.

**As of December 31, 2020, the Accounts Receivable balance was \$87.7 million after write-offs**

In 2020, total accounts receivable billings were \$428.3M. Outstanding receivables as of December 31, 2020, were \$87.7M after write-offs, of which only 1.1% were greater than 90 days.

Table 2 summarizes the outstanding accounts receivable balance at year-end and provides a comparison with 2019.

**Table 2**  
**York Region Accounts Receivable as at December 31, 2020**

Receivables	0 – 90 Days	90+ Days	Total
Local Municipalities	\$77,376,829	\$565,712	\$77,942,541
Other Municipalities	1,520,016	-	1,520,016
Federal & Provincial	1,513,786	434	1,514,220
Local Boards	1,062,444	-	1,062,444
Sundry <sup>1</sup>	4,858,435	365,654	5,223,660
Long-Term Care Facilities	440,494	12,582	453,076
Adult Day Programs		2,945	2,945
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$86,772,004</b>	<b>\$946,899</b>	<b>\$87,718,903</b>
<b>% of Total Receivable</b>	<b>98.9%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>2019 Comparison</b>	<b>\$94,143,736</b>	<b>\$279,574</b>	<b>\$94,423,310</b>
<b>% of Total Receivable</b>	<b>99.7%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Sundry receivables refer to accounts that do not fall into other categories. These may include invoices for traffic collision claims, road maintenance, waste disposal and police paid duty.

**As of March 31, 2021, 83.6% of the year-end Accounts Receivable balance was collected**

Of the \$87.7M outstanding at year-end, payments totalling \$73.3M (83.6%) were received as of March 31. Table 3 shows the portion of 2020 outstanding receivables collected by March 31.

Receivables from municipalities and senior levels of governments are anticipated to be collected and most of the accounts under sundry and Seniors Services receivables are

expected to be resolved as part of normal collection efforts. However, a relatively small percentage under sundry (mostly traffic collision claims) may not be collected due to various reasons and will form part of the accounts submitted for write-off for 2021.

Collections for 2020 have not been significantly affected due to COVID-19.

Tax levy to local municipalities are not billed and therefore the outstanding tax payments from local municipalities are not included in the billings for accounts receivable. On April 30, 2020, Council directed that an interest waiving program be implemented to support York Region's local municipalities in their efforts to provide tax payment flexibility to residents and businesses in response to COVID-19. The Region has collected 99.9% of total 2020 tax levy.

**Table 3**  
**December 31, 2020, York Region Accounts Receivable Outstanding**  
**as of March 31, 2021**

Receivables	Dec 2020 Balance	Collected as of March 31, 2021	Remaining Balance
Local Municipalities <sup>2</sup>	\$77,942,541	\$66,006,946	\$11,935,595
Other Municipalities	1,520,016	1,520,016	-
Federal & Provincial	1,514,220	1,514,763	(542)
Local Boards	1,062,444	1,062,444	-
Sundry <sup>1</sup>	5,223,660	2,762,148	2,461,512
Seniors Services	456,021	435,131	20,890
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$87,718,903</b>	<b>\$73,301,448</b>	<b>\$14,417,455</b>

<sup>1</sup>Sundry receivables refer to accounts that do not fall into other categories. These may include invoices for traffic collision claims, road maintenance, waste disposal and police paid duty.

<sup>2</sup> Four invoices remain outstanding for cost sharing on road construction, additional information was provided to the municipalities and payment approval has been authorized on \$8M. Additional details are provided in the attachment on Schedule 4.

Details of the Region's receivables at December 31, 2020 are included in Attachment 1 of this report.

## 5. Financial

The Regional Treasurer approved accounts for write-off totalling \$21,890.86. The write-offs were recognized as a bad debt expense and were deducted from the Region's accounts receivables for the 2020 Financial Statements. After write-offs, the Accounts Receivable balance as at December 31, 2020 was \$87.7M, of which 83.6% was collected as of March 31, 2021. The Finance Department continues to work closely with the operating departments and Legal Services as part of regular collection efforts.

## 6. Local Impact

As of December 31, 2020, local municipalities owed \$77.9M of the \$87.7M accounts receivable. Water billings account for \$62.9M (80.7% of Local Municipalities), of which 99.4% was received as of March 31, 2020. Regional staff continue to work with partners from the local municipalities as part of the collection process.

## 7. Conclusion

The Regional Treasurer approved a write-off of 56 accounts totalling \$21,890.61 in 2020.

Of the \$87.7M receivables outstanding at December 31, 2020, \$73.3M or 83.6% was collected as of March 31, 2020.

---

For more information on this report, please contact Michelle Grover, Acting Director, Strategy and Transformation and Deputy Treasurer, at 1-877-464-9675 ext.77201. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by:

*Laura Mirabella*

**Laura Mirabella, FCPA, FCA**

Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer

Approved for Submission:



**Bruce Macgregor**

Chief Administrative Officer

April 29, 2021

Attachments (1)

12473086