



To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: November 9, 2023
From: Laura Mirabella
Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer
Re: **Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

This memo is to advise Council of the results of the Finance Department's 2023 submission to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award program. For the nineteenth consecutive year, the GFOA gave the Regional Municipality of York the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2023 Budget document.

For the 19th consecutive year, the Region's budget received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The GFOA is a professional association serving more than 20,000 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program is the highest form of recognition in government budgeting and the only widely recognized award program of its kind.

This award is recognition of the commitment of Council and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In its correspondence to the Region, the Association noted:

"The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting."

To receive this award, a government must publish a budget document that satisfies nationally recognized guidelines for effective presentation of the budget as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

York Region's budget also received Special Capital and Special Strategic Goals and Strategies Recognitions

In addition to receiving the award, York Region's budget also received Special Recognition in two areas: "Capital" and "Strategic Goals and Strategies." Special Recognition is awarded when all three independent reviewers rate the budget document as "outstanding" in an area.

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program allows the public finance profession an opportunity to recognize those governments that have succeeded in preparing a high-quality budget document. This recognition can be viewed positively by credit rating agencies and others interested in the professionalism of a government's finance function.

Upon approval of the Region's 2024 Budget, we plan to reapply for the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

York Region was awarded a special Triple Crown medallion by the GFOA in March 2023

In March 2023, the Region was awarded a special Triple Crown medallion by the GFOA in recognition of receiving all three GFOA awards for the 2021 fiscal year. The three awards are the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting, Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, and Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award. GFOA refers to this achievement as a testament to the Region's commitment to producing high-quality financial reports which demonstrate the constructive spirit of full disclosure designed to clearly communicate the municipality's financial story and to motivate potential users and user groups to read the reports.

I would like to thank staff in all Regional departments for their contribution to delivering high quality financial documents.

For more information on this memo, please contact Kelly Strueby, Director, Office of the Budget and Deputy Treasurer, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71611. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



Laura Mirabella
Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer



Erin Mahoney
Chief Administrative Officer

October 26, 2023
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