



Report of the Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Donation of Decommissioned Paramedic Services Ambulances in 2024

1. Recommendation

Council approve donation of two decommissioned ambulances to Independent First Nations Alliance Regional Fire Rescue.

2. Purpose

This report seeks Council approval to donate two decommissioned ambulances in 2024.

3. Background

Council has approved the donation of 16 decommissioned ambulances since 2014

Ambulances are decommissioned after five years or 250,000 kms to ensure ongoing mechanical readiness and reliability. Annually, Council donates up to two decommissioned ambulances to support organizations and communities in Canada and internationally.

Previous donations have been used to provide volunteer emergency response and training, first aid services at local community events, mobile mental health education, support for international medical centres and medical transportation for communities in the Territory of Nunavut. Donations typically occur in the calendar year following Council approval.

Appendix A lists decommissioned ambulance donations made since 2014.

Donation requests for decommissioned ambulances are evaluated based on Council approved guidelines

In [September 2023](#) Council approved changes to the ambulance donation guidelines. The [guidelines](#) and [application form](#) are available on [York.ca](#). These guidelines set out the application process,

timelines, eligibility criteria and other requirements. Appendix B includes the ambulance donation guidelines.

4. Analysis

Paramedic Services received one request for decommissioned ambulances

Eligible organizations must submit a Request for Consideration of Ambulance Donation (application) by January 31 for annual consideration. The Region received one request, from [Independent First Nations Alliance](#) (IFNA) Regional Fire Rescue. Staff evaluated the application against current guidelines and recommend donating two ambulances to IFNA Regional Fire Rescue.

Independent First Nations Alliance supports five Northern Ontario communities

IFNA Regional Fire Rescue is a humanitarian-aid, non-profit organization with a First Nations-led Tribal Council supporting five communities in northwestern Ontario: Whites and First Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Pikangikum First Nation and Muskrat Dam First Nation.

IFNA Regional Fire Rescue operates Integrated Emergency Services providing 24/7 response through an Emergency Operations Centre and Incident Management Teams. IFNA Regional Fire Rescue's mission is help its member communities advance their priorities and develop healthy sustainable communities, particularly in the areas of health, education, and economic development. Despite the critical need, their emergency services lack funding for ambulances. Donated decommissioned ambulances will improve emergency response across these five communities.

As noted in a [November 2022](#) news article, Pikangikum First Nation received decommissioned ambulances from the Kenora District Services Board with IFNA Regional Fire Rescue's assistance, providing safer medical transportation and shielding residents from harsh weather conditions. In this news article, the Director of IFNA Regional Fire Rescue's Integrated Emergency Services explained, "Sometimes you have a patient in a stretcher, in the back of a pickup truck with the tailgate open, and you have police officers and community members trying to hold onto the patient while rendering medical assistance, whether it was -30C or rain just sitting in the back of a pickup truck waiting for medical attention." With decommissioned ambulances from York Region, additional communities supported by IFNA Regional Fire Rescue will benefit from improved emergency response and medical transportation.

Staff recommend Council approve donation of two decommissioned ambulances to enhance community safety and provide additional medical transportation options for the five First Nation communities supported by IFNA Regional Fire Rescue.

5. Financial Considerations

In 2017, a trade-in program was initiated with the Region's ambulance vendor. Average trade-in value through this program in 2023 was \$19,000 per ambulance. Foregone revenue from donating two decommissioned ambulances is estimated at \$38,000.

The Region also incurs approximately \$4,000 to \$8,000 to inspect and prepare each ambulance for donation in accordance with local regulation. All other expenses, such as shipping and permits, are the responsibility of the recipient.

Disposal of other ambulances is in accordance with the Region's Disposal of Surplus Assets Policy and is reported annually to Regional Council in the Disposal of Surplus Assets Report.

6. Local Impact

There is no direct local municipal impact associated with this report.

7. Conclusion

Paramedic Services recommends that Council authorize donation of two decommissioned ambulances to Independent First Nations Alliance Regional Fire Rescue.

For more information on this report, please contact Lisa Gonsalves, General Manager, Paramedic and Seniors Services at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72090. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



Recommended by:

Katherine Chislett
Commissioner of Community and Health Services



Approved for Submission:

Erin Mahoney
Chief Administrative Officer

April 29, 2024
#16002875

Appendix A – Donation of Ambulances, 2014 – 2023
Appendix B – Ambulance Donation Guidelines

Donation of Decommissioned Ambulances, 2014-2023

Council Approval	Agency/Organization	Purpose	Number of Ambulances
September 28, 2023	UHelpUkraine	Ukrainian civilian medical response	1
	Voice of Vedas	Transportation and mobile clinic for Guyana Dialysis Centre	1
April 28, 2022	Ambulances4NU	Support emergency services in Nunavut	2
May 27, 2021	Emergency Response Team Search and Rescue	Volunteer rescue and flood response	1
	Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team	Emergency response and training	1
April 30, 2020	St. John Ambulance	Local community services	1
	Wounded Warriors Canada	Volunteer medical response and mobile mental health education	1
April 18, 2019	Friends of Ecuador	Hospital Vozandes des Oriente in Quito, Ecuador	1
	Access Centre on behalf of the David Faharlee	Medical Centre in Agago County, Uganda	1
April 19, 2018	Caribbean North Charities Foundation	Princess Margaret Hospital in Dominica following Hurricane Maria	1
June 23, 2016*	Caribbean North Charities Foundation	St. Jude Hospital, St. Lucia	1
	St. John Ambulance	Community events and first aid training	2
January 23, 2014	Friends of Ecuador	Anconcito Parish in the Municipality of Salinas and its hospital in Ecuador	1
September 11, 2014	Chippewas of Georgina Island	Volunteer Emergency Response Team	1
Total Donations			16

*Note: The guidelines permitted more than two donations per year prior to April 2018

York Region Paramedic Services Ambulance Donations - Guidelines

1. All requests received are held up to twelve (12) months. All applications are evaluated against these guidelines by a selection committee within Paramedic and Seniors Services and presented in an annual report to Council for consideration and approval.
2. Application Forms are required to be submitted by January 31 of any calendar year. Any requests submitted after that time will be held for consideration within the following year.
3. A maximum of two ambulances will be available for consideration each year.
4. Any expense for shipping, permits and related costs must be covered by the recipient.
5. If successful in their request, prior to accepting the donation, the recipient will be required to acknowledge, in writing, that the Regional Municipality of York makes no representations or warranties regarding the vehicle and that they are assuming ownership on an “as is” basis.
6. Donations will only occur to registered charitable, not-for-profit, humanitarian aid organizations or other entities in need of donated ambulances for charitable or humanitarian purposes, and who are of sound repute and generally aligned with the services supported by York Region.
7. Applicants must not be affiliated with a political or religious organization and must adhere to and support the Ontario Human Rights Code.
8. All applicants will be notified by Paramedic Services of the outcome of their request after final approval by Council.
9. Paramedic and Seniors Services require a Request for Consideration of Ambulance Donation Form (Application Form) be completed by the requestor, which is available on the York.ca website.
10. A record of all correspondence will be kept on file, including the date requests were acknowledged with the attached Ambulance Donation Form.
11. The Ambulance Donation Form must be signed by a person having authority on behalf of the requestor.