



To: Committee of the Whole

Meeting Date: April 10, 2025

From: Lisa Gonsalves
Commissioner of Community and Health Services
Dr. Sarah Erdman
Acting Medical Officer of Health

Re: **Canadian Public Health Week, April 7 to 11, 2025**

This memorandum provides an overview of York Region Public Health's (Public Health) planned activities for recognizing 2025's Canadian Public Health Week.

The Regional Municipality of York celebrates Canadian Public Health Week annually to recognize the value and contributions of public health and our staff. Canadian Public Health Week provides an opportunity to educate our partners and residents about the role and importance of public health in improving community health outcomes. This year marks the fourth Canadian Public Health Week which will be celebrated April 7 to 11, 2025.

Theme for Canadian Public Health Week 2025 is The People of Public Health

This year's theme for Canadian Public Health Week is "The People of Public Health" which builds on last year's theme ("We Are Public Health") by spotlighting Public Health's diverse and passionate professionals, both front line and administrative staff. Chosen by our Public Health staff, this theme will be highlighted in both our internal and external facing activities, celebrating the collective expertise and dedication of these individuals. Through storytelling, we will share the important, impactful and inspiring stories of those who support health and wellbeing of our community.

In-person and virtual activities are planned to celebrate Canadian Public Health Week 2025

- **Public Health Exhibit:** Following Committee of the Whole on April 10, York Regional Council, as the Board of Health, is invited to visit the atrium of 17150 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket. Board of Health members will have the opportunity to explore informative displays on Public Health as part of an exhibit that will be set up from April 7 to May 2. In line with the theme "The People of Public Health," representatives from Public Health's four divisions and members of the Public Health Leadership Team will be available to discuss current public health topics and programs

- **Social media campaign:** A multiday campaign will be launched through York Region’s social media channels, highlighting this year’s theme, “The People of Public Health,” and staff’s efforts to support health and well-being of York Region residents
- **Staff recognition:** Daily appreciation messages from senior Public Health leaders who will acknowledge and celebrate important contributions of staff
- **Knowledge exchange series:** Public Health will host a staff event series exchanging knowledge through participating and/or sharing recent conference presentations, publications, updates on branch priorities, panel discussions, topic related trends and initiatives and other knowledge exchange activities to increase learning across the branch while recognizing important contributions of all Public Health staff. There will be a mix of in-person and virtual formats and forums to support staff participation
- **Coffee connections:** Staff will have the opportunity to connect on a personal level with Public Health leaders to learn more about them, their journey and what drives them towards making Public Health a workforce of champions
- **Public Health Matters:** Canadian Public Health Week will be featured in Public Health’s monthly e-newsletter for health care professionals, to promote awareness and understanding of the field of public health and its many intersections with primary care and the health system
- **Public Health Team Walks:** Leveraging the concept of “[Walk with a Doc](#),” this activity will host outdoor staff walks with the Medical Officer of Health and Associate Medical Officers of Health at York Region’s regional buildings during Canadian Public Health Week and will serve as an opportunity to promote physical activity, well-being and to support rich discussions on public health topics
- **Public Health All Staff Event:** All Public Health staff will meet for half a day to celebrate Public Health’s accomplishments and participate in a variety of activities, team building and group learning

Canadian Public Health Week continues to emphasize the importance of Public Health in our communities and supports York Region’s mission of working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow.

For more information on this memo, please contact Dr. Sarah Erdman, Acting Medical Officer of Health, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 78863. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



Dr. Sarah Erdman
Medical Officer of Health (Acting)



Lisa Gonsalves
Commissioner of Community and Health Services



Erin Mahoney
Chief Administrative Officer

March 24, 2025
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