



Office of the Regional Solicitor
Legal and Court Services Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Joy Hulton
Regional Solicitor

Date: September 10, 2019

Re: Peter J. Marshall Innovation Award

This memo advises Committee of the Whole that York Region has been awarded the 2019 Peter J. Marshall Innovation Award by the Association of Municipalities Ontario's (AMO) for the Remote Video Testimony project.

The Peter J. Marshall Municipal Innovation Award recognizes those municipal governments demonstrating excellence in the use of innovative approaches to improve capital and/or operating efficiency and to generate effectiveness through alternative service delivery initiatives and partnerships. The Award's objective is to showcase instances where Ontario municipalities have implemented and can point to tangible, measurable outcomes from new, more cost effective ways of providing public services and facilities.

The Remote Video Testimony project introduced the capability for officers from York Regional Police #5 District Headquarters in Markham to testify in cases at the Newmarket Provincial Offences Court via video conference. It has since been implemented in three additional YRP districts.

This capability was introduced by leveraging the Ministry of the Attorney General's Government's Justice Video Network (JVN), a video conferencing, audio-visuals and converged communication service that has been in use in Ontario Courts of Justice for 20 years. This is the first time a video conferencing capability has been introduced in a Municipal Provincial Offences Court in Ontario.

Despite considerable challenges, the project was completed on time and on budget in November 2018. The result of this project was a sustainable long-term solution supported by strong processes and business policies. Residents will enjoy increased public safety due to a

heightened police presence on the streets as officers will spend less time travelling to and from court appearances.

Many internal departments and external organizations were involved in bringing the Remote Video Testimony project to completion, including Information Technology Services, Legal Services, Court Services, as well as York Regional Police, Justice Video Network and the Ministry of the Attorney General. The project has been in use since late 2018 and both Court Services and the York Regional Police are very happy with the solution and are already looking at ways to expand and mature this capability.

Joy Hulton
Regional Solicitor

Bruce Macgregor
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