Media Advisory

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Human service providers to commemorate progress of ethno-cultural inclusivity actions

HSPC's Inclusivity Action Plan celebrates a Year in Review

NEWMARKET – The Human Services Planning Coalition (HSPC) will showcase the progress made over the last year by six working groups involving 88 participants from 47 human service organizations, in making York Region a more ethno-culturally inclusive community.

Billed as "A Year in Review," the event on Thursday will be hosted by the Steering Committee of the York Region Inclusivity Action Plan, an initiative of the HSPC.

The morning will begin with a short drama entitled *The Faces of Freedom*, performed by students attending Richmond Green Secondary School in the Town of Richmond Hill. In addition, York Region staff will present highlights from *Community Snapshots: Recent Immigrants Living in York Region*, a Regional report on immigration.

WHEN: Thursday, June 8th at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Varley Art Gallery of Markham, 216 Main Street, Unionville

PARTICIPANTS:

- Town of Markham Regional Councillor Frank Scarpitti, Chair of the Inclusivity Action Plan Steering Committee
- City of Vaughan Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio, HSPC Co-Chair
- Policy & Program Support Services Branch Director Cordelia Abankwa-Harris, York Region Community Services & Housing Department

BACKGROUND:
The Inclusivity Action Plan is a community initiative to invest in York Region's capacity to welcome and integrate immigrants and create social capital for a vibrant economy, a highly skilled labour force and an enviable quality of life.

A truly inclusive community promotes equal opportunity for everyone. Diversity can take many forms, including disability, gender, sexual orientation, faith, race, colour and culture. The Inclusivity Action Plan places a special focus on ethno-cultural inclusivity due to the impact of rapid growth in the number of immigrants in York Region.

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We are the winds of change
YORK REGION INCLUSIVITY ACTION PLAN