

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

For Immediate Release

The Regional Municipality of York recognized again as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers and Top 50 in the GTA

York Region's investment in our employees has benefit for taxpayers

NEWMARKET – For the second straight year, The Regional Municipality of York has been named as one of the top 100 companies to work for in Canada and one of the top 50 in the Greater Toronto Area by Mediaport Canada Inc.

The listing of “Canada’s Top 100 Employers” appears in this week’s *Maclean’s Magazine* and will be included in a special editorial feature in the *Toronto Star* on Saturday, October 13th.



“York Regional Council is to be commended for their commitment to excellence and for helping to make York Region one of the best places to work in Canada,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “The Top 100 Employers in Canada and Top 50 in the GTA designations demonstrate that York Region residents and businesses continue to be well served by our staff and the high quality programs and services they receive.”

“This recognition is a reflection of York Region’s positive work culture and our investment in our employees,” added York Region Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Macgregor. “Our ability to retain a highly talented and skilled workforce is beneficial to our corporation and to York Region taxpayers.”

“Employee job satisfaction and business performance are strongly linked,” said Jim Davidson, York Region’s Commissioner of Corporate Services. “Our continuing goal is to create an environment where people are excited to come to work. That’s why we are constantly striving to deliver the best employee experience possible through innovative corporate and human resource initiatives and programs.”

York Region is conducting an employee satisfaction survey in November to gauge how staff rate different aspects of their workplace experience. The data gathered will help the Region augment existing corporate strengths as well as help identify additional areas for enhancement.

Since the last employee satisfaction survey was conducted in 2003, York Region has introduced several initiatives in response to survey feedback, such as enhanced employee communication, employee flex-time and an improved employee Intranet site.

Last year York Region launched a staff recognition program to recognize employees that go above and beyond, an employee workplace wellness program to help support healthy lifestyles (including exercise and proper diet) and a career development and training program, including career counselling and corporate mentoring.

... Continued on Page 2

Background:

- Mediacorp Canada Inc. reviewed the recruitment histories of over 60,000 employers across Canada, of which 10,000 employers were invited to apply for the Top 100 Employers distinction and approximately 1500 employers submitted their application.
- York Region was evaluated on: physical workplace, work and social atmosphere, health benefits, financial benefits and compensation, family-friendly benefits, vacation policy and time off, internal communications, performance management, continuing education and professional development and community involvement.
- The Regional Municipality of York is the fifth largest employer in York Region with more than 4,600 employees, including approximately 2,900 full-time and part-time Regional staff (plus approximately 1,770 uniform and civilian members of the York Regional Police Service).
- York Region employs an ethno-culturally diverse workforce with a myriad of professional backgrounds, including, but not limited to: public health professionals, doctors, lawyers, engineers, nurses, social workers, journalists, law enforcement officers, clerks, graphic artists, policy analysts, accountants, and computer engineers.
- One of six Regional Governments in Ontario (encompassing nine local municipalities), York Region is responsible for the following 13 key businesses and services: Transit and Rapid Transit, Roads, Solid Waste, Police Services, Water/Wastewater, Emergency Medical Services, Long Term Care, Public Health, Social Assistance, Family and Children's Services, Housing, Planning and Economic Development, and Court Services.
- York Region's services and workforce are growing to keep pace with a rapidly growing population – close to 965,000 people – expected to reach 1.5 million people by 2031
- With the growing demands on municipal government, York Region's Corporate Mission (York Region staff are committed to providing cost effective, quality services that respond to the needs of our rapidly growing communities) and Corporate Values (Integrity, **C**ommitment, **A**ccountability, **R**espect, and **E**xcellence) are at the heart of everything York Region employees do.

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

- 30 -

Media Contact: Ken Turriff, Corporate Communications, York Region
Phone: (905) 830-4444 / toll-free 1-877-464-9675, Ext. 1226
Cell: (905) 251-6415 / Email: ken.turriff@york.ca