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For Immediate Release

## The Regional Municipality of York offers condolences following the death of former York Region Chairman Garfield Wright

**NEWMARKET** – York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch and members of York Regional Council express their condolences to the family of York Region's first Chairman, Garfield Wright, who passed away yesterday. Flags are lowered to half-mast in his honour.

Mr. Wright was a former warden for York County, who was appointed as York Region Chairman by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario for the period of 1971 to 1974. He was elected for two subsequent terms from 1975 to 1976 and 1977 to 1978.

As York Region Chairman, Mr. Wright sat on all Regional Committees and also served on the York Regional Police Services Board from 1973 to 1975.

"As the first Chairman of The Regional Municipality of York, Garfield Wright created a lasting legacy for our community, founded on the principles of strong leadership, good governance and commitment to our residents," said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. "Garfield always had a firm sense of civic pride and it showed through his ongoing dedication to our residents throughout his life. He believed in what York Region could do for our community and remained active in municipal affairs over the years, attending every York Regional Council inauguration since his time as Chairman."



Mr. Wright had a long and distinguished career in public service, serving as a local councillor on the East Gwillimbury Township Council from 1958 to 1961, Deputy Reeve from 1961 to 1962, Reeve from 1964 to 1969 and Warden for York County in 1968.

At the inaugural meeting of York Regional Council held in the auditorium of Bayview Secondary School in the Town of Richmond Hill and attended by The Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Honourable W. Darcy McKeough, Mr. Wright gave opening remarks that set the tone for his tenure as Chairman:

*"Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish tonight to pledge my service, that of the Regional Council members and Regional officers and staff to making a success of this new government. Its prime objective will be to build a better community for the people of the Region. This requires a full spirit of co-operation with our area municipalities. It demands mutual understanding of the challenges and the interests common to ourselves and our neighbours. To accomplish this, the Council must work in partnership with the Provincial government. But, in this partnership, the Region must clearly and forcefully make known its legitimate interests if it is to conscientiously uphold the expectation of its residents."*

Mr. Wright was very active in the community, serving as a Lion's Club member in the community of Mount Albert and member of the Royal Canadian Legion No. 26 in the Town of Newmarket. His name graces Garfield Wright Boulevard in the Town of East Gwillimbury in his honour.

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

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