

HUMAN SERVICES

February 23, 2005

Dennis Kelly,
Regional Clerk,
Regional Municipality of York,
17250 Yonge St.,
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Kelly,

On behalf of the Human Services Planning Coalition we are forwarding the attached resolution as approved by the HSPC at its meeting of February 16, 2005.

The HSPC was established in 2001 in recognition of the need for long-term, integrated planning and sustainable funding of human services in York Region. The HSPC strives to achieve two outcomes – one is greater efficiency with existing resources and the other is to bring new funding to York Region to address historical under-funding of human services and to meet the challenges of rapid growth in population and diversity.

The HSPC has successfully brokered a number of initiatives (e.g. *It's All Here Employment* project, an ethno-cultural *Inclusivity Action Plan* and the *Our Children* report) to achieve greater efficiency with existing resources.

It has also achieved success in documenting the extent and impact of under-funding of human services. Although it may not be reasonable to attribute success solely to the HSPC, since 2001 an additional \$187.5 million in health care funding has come into York Region – representing a 53% increase in funding while the population grew by 12% during the same period. And yet York Region is still significantly under-funded in many health services compared to the provincial average and to other jurisdictions. Similarly, between 2001 and 2002 an additional \$2.7 million in social services funding came into the region, but we are still significantly under-funded in most social service programs.

The HSPC has recommended the Province of Ontario address historical under-funding and rapid growth in York Region by adopting new models of funding based on per capita or per user allocations. It has also recommended that new funding models should adhere to principles of adequacy, affordability, equity, flexibility, stability and accountability.

And finally, the HSPC has recommended the Province repatriate York Region property dollars being sent to Toronto for social services and redesign the GTA pooling formulae by applying principles of affordability, equity and accountability.

In light of recent discussions on pooling, the HSPC conveys its support of Regional Council's position on pooling and requests approval of the enclosed resolution.

Sincerely,



Regional Councillor Joyce Frustaglio
HSPC Co-Chair



Bill Hogarth
Director of Education, YRDSB
HSPC Co-Chair

Resolution from HSPC

Whereas the Human Services Planning Coalition was established in 2001 to help ensure long-term, integrated planning and funding of human services in York Region,

And Whereas the HSPC partners include representatives from all health, education, social and community service providers in York Region,

And Whereas the HSPC first documented the extent and the impact of historical under-funding of health services in York Region in 2002 in the report *Fair is Fair*,

And Whereas the HSPC first documented the extent and impact of historical under-funding of social services in York Region in 2003 in the report *Towards a New Model for Social Services Funding*,

And Whereas the HSPC recognizes that a greater investment in social services in York Region is needed to keep pace with rapid growth and to catch up to historical under-funding,

And Whereas the HSPC recognizes that **property tax dollars should not be a core revenue source for social services**,

And Whereas the HSPC recommends the repatriation of York Region's property tax dollars being sent to Toronto for social services and a redesign of the GTA pooling formulae by applying principles of affordability, equity and accountability,

And Whereas the Provincial Government has demanded that the Province of Ontario receive its fair share of funding from the Federal Government,

Therefore be it resolved Regional Council **stop sending pooling dollars, that have no accountability to York Region residents**, to support social services and social housing programs in Toronto,

And Be it further resolved that until funding for the implementation of **Provincial social services is removed from property taxation, the Province of Ontario acknowledge that York Region is also entitled to its fair share of funding for the delivery of social services within York Region**,

And be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, all MPPs and Councils of 905 Regions.