

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

REPORT NO. 1 OF THE REGIONAL CHAIR

**For Consideration by
The Council of The Regional Municipality of York
on March 26, 2009**

**1
APPOINTMENTS – ACTING REGIONAL CHAIR**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council appoint each Member of Council as an Acting Regional Chair on a monthly rotating basis for the term of Council; and
2. Council pass a by-law appointing each Member of Council as Acting Regional Chair and Alternate Acting Regional Chair on a monthly rotational basis for the remainder of this term of Council.

2. PURPOSE

This report seeks Council's approval for the appointment of an Acting Regional Chair on a monthly rotational basis.

3. BACKGROUND

The Municipal Act gives Regional Council the authority to Appoint an Acting Regional Chair

Section 242 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality may, by by-law or resolution, appoint a member of council to act in the place of the head of council when

the head of council is absent or refuses to act or the office is vacant. It further provides that the acting head of council, while acting in this capacity, has all the powers and duties of the head of council. These powers include presiding over council meetings, signing agreements, representing the Region at official functions and declaring emergencies under the Region's Emergency Plan.

Regional Council has Appointed an Acting Regional Chair in the Past

York Region's Council, unlike the councils of the other regional municipalities, has never passed a general by-law or resolution to appoint an Acting Regional Chair for the term of Council. There have been a number of instances, particularly in the 1970s and 1980s, when Regional Council appointed an Acting Regional Chair for a very limited time period while the Chair was ill, out of town or attending high-level meetings that conflicted with Council meetings. These situations have been ad hoc and in reaction to specific circumstances.

Regional Council has an Opportunity to Appoint an Acting Regional Chair in Advance

The *Municipal Act* gives Council the opportunity to take a more planned approach to appointing an Acting Regional Chair by appointing a member or members of council in advance. This is the approach taken by the other regional municipalities. It ensures that an Acting Regional Chair is in place in the event that the Regional Chair is absent or should unforeseen circumstances arise. One of the prime roles of the Acting Regional Chair, under normal circumstances, would be to sign Regional agreements of a time-sensitive nature in the absence of the Regional Chair.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

There are various options available to Regional Council as set out below.

Regional Council could keep the Status Quo

As indicated above, to this point Regional Council has not passed a by-law or resolution appointing an Acting Regional Chair in circumstances other than when previous Regional Chairs have been ill, out of town for a limited period or unable to attend a particular Council meeting. These circumstances have been relatively rare, in the order of 10 or 15 over the 38-year history of the Region. There have been no such circumstances over the past 10 years. The Region has been fortunate that none of the five Regional Chairs in its history has taken ill suddenly and been unable to fulfill the duties of the position.

Regional Council Could Appoint one Member of Council as Acting Regional Chair for the Term of Council

Regional Council could appoint one Member of Council as the Acting Regional Chair for the term of council or the remainder of the term of council in this case. There may be risk to the Region in not having an Acting Regional Chair when that person is out of town or is occupied with the business of their local municipality. This would be the case, for instance, in the case of an emergency affecting one or more of the local municipalities.

Regional Council Could Appoint Various Members of Council in advance on a Rotational Basis

Regional Council could also appoint various Members of Council as Acting Regional Chair in advance on a rotational basis. This is the approach taken by the other regional municipalities. Durham, for instance, appoints its eight mayors for three months at a time on a rotational basis for the term of council. Niagara similarly appoints the co-chairs of its committees as Acting Regional Chair. Peel and Waterloo, on the other hand, appoint all members of their councils as Acting Regional Chair on a monthly basis for the term of council. This has worked successfully in Peel since 1977 and in Waterloo since 1992.

The approach taken by Peel and Waterloo seems to be the one most suited to York Region. It would give each Member of Council an opportunity to be the Acting Chair of Council with advance notice. Each Member of Council could be appointed once for the remainder of this term of Council on an alphabetical basis in accordance with the schedule shown in Attachment 1. The schedule also provides for an Alternate Acting Regional Chair for each month in case the Acting Regional Chair is unavailable.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising out of the adoption of the recommendations in this report.

7. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There would be very limited impact on Members representing the local municipalities as fulfillment of the duties of the Acting Regional Chair would be confined to the relatively rare circumstances in which the Regional Chair is unable to act.

Respectfully submitted,

**March 19, 2009
Newmarket, Ontario**

**B. Fisch
Regional Chair**

(Report No. 1 of the Regional Chair was adopted without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting on March 26, 2009.)

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Date	Acting Regional Chair	Alternate Acting Regional Chair
April 2009	Mayor D. Barrow	Mayor M. Black
May 2009	Mayor M. Black	Mayor W. Emmerson
June 2009	Mayor W. Emmerson	Regional Councillor M. Ferri
July 2009	Regional Councillor M. Ferri	Regional Councillor J. Frustaglio
August 2009	Regional Councillor J. Frustaglio	Mayor R. Grossi
September 2009	Mayor R. Grossi	Regional Councillor J. Heath
October 2009	Regional Councillor J. Heath	Regional Councillor B. Hogg
November 2009	Regional Councillor B. Hogg	Mayor L. Jackson
December 2009	Mayor L. Jackson	Regional Councillor J. Jones
January 2010	Regional Councillor J. Jones	Regional Councillor G. Landon
February 2010	Regional Councillor G. Landon	Mayor P. Morris
March 2010	Mayor P. Morris	Regional Councillor G. Rosati
April 2010	Regional Councillor G. Rosati	Mayor F. Scarpitti
May 2010	Mayor F. Scarpitti	Regional Councillor V. Spatafora
June 2010	Regional Councillor V. Spatafora	Regional Councillor J. Taylor
July 2010	Regional Councillor J. Taylor	Mayor T. Van Bynen
August 2010	Mayor T. Van Bynen	Regional Councillor D. Wheeler
September 2010	Regional Councillor D. Wheeler	Regional Councillor T. Wong
October 2010	Regional Councillor T. Wong	Mayor J. Young
November 2010	Mayor J. Young	Mayor D. Barrow