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CBRN CONFERENCE - FEBRUARY 2005

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, December 14, 2004, from the Commissioner of Health Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee and Regional Council receive this report regarding the Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Conference 2005 for information.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee and Regional Council with information about the CBRN Conference. The Emergency Health Services Branch of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has requested that York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) host a two-day conference in York Region from February 23–24, 2005.

3. BACKGROUND

The CBRN Conference, hosted by York Region EMS, will bring together responders from across the province to discuss common concerns and practices associated with response to a CBRN event. A CBRN event is an emergency resulting from chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear hazards.

EMS, police, fire, and public health professionals from across Ontario will attend this “invitation only” event. This is the first time the MOHLTC Emergency Health Services Branch has requested an EMS provider to host a conference of this magnitude. It will be the first event of its kind to take place in the Province of Ontario.

The specific objectives of the educational event are as follows:

- Bring together senior leaders within the first responders community
- Provide a program that is timely and topical
- Provide a venue for enhanced local community and regional relations
- Address leading issues through keynote presentations
- Provide a venue for local economic development

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

York Region EMS believes that hosting the CBRN Conference 2005 will provide an opportunity to profile The Regional Municipality of York and the innovative work of the Health Services Department in recent CBRN events.

4.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The relative roles and responsibilities of York Region EMS and the MOHLTC Emergency Health Services Branch have been determined as follows:

York Region EMS:

- To establish a conference steering committee
- To establish exhibits, program, promotion, facilities and finance committees
- To establish community, regional and provincial liaisons
- To provide administrative support to host committees, as well as all speaker and exhibitor correspondence
- To provide volunteers for planning and operational committees

MOHLTC Emergency Health Services Branch:

- To provide 100% funding for the conference
- To provide guidance and consultation for all conference-related policies and procedures
- To approve final conference budget
- To approve conference site, facility contract, keynote speaker contract

4.2 Conference Participants

At the direction of the Emergency Health Services Branch of the MOHLTC, conference attendance will be by invitation only. Invitations will be extended to senior municipal EMS leaders as well as police, fire and public health officials.

4.3 Vision 2026

The recommendations in this report contribute to the Vision 2026 goals of Responding to the Needs of Our Residents and Engaged Communities and a Responsive Region.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The MOHLTC Emergency Health Services Branch has provided all required funding for the two-day conference. Costs associated with York Region EMS staff time for planning and delivery of the conference will be accommodated within the proposed EMS budget for 2005.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

This conference is the first CBRN conference hosted by a municipal EMS provider in the Province of Ontario. It is anticipated that 300 senior leaders from emergency response communities across Ontario will be in attendance.

Knowledge gained from this conference experience will further enhance the ability of all responders in York Region (EMS, police, fire, public health) to respond to CBRN events.

The MOHLTC Emergency Health Services Branch has determined that the conference venue will be the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North hotel located in Richmond Hill on February 23-24, 2005. It is anticipated that local businesses will benefit from this event.

7. CONCLUSION

York Region EMS is excited about the opportunity to host the CBRN Conference 2005. The steering committee membership profiles extensive EMS experience and leadership capacity. York Region EMS is well positioned to deliver an excellent forum for education enhancement, skill development and networking. The opportunity to promote the programs, services and amenities of York Region will be an added benefit.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.