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NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) WEEK 2006

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, March 20, 2006, from the Commissioner of Community Services, Housing and Health Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council recognize May 14–20, 2006 as “National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week 2006”.
2. Regional staff be authorized to contact the local municipalities to request support to recognize May 14–20, 2006 “National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week 2006”.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to obtain support from Regional Council to recognize the value and accomplishment of EMS Paramedics during “National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week 2006”.

3. BACKGROUND

In the past, EMS week has been recognized at different times throughout the country. However, since last year, the Paramedic Association of Canada and the EMS Chiefs of Canada have agreed to recognize the same week nationally and share the same week as the United States.

Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honour the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine’s “front line” and raise public awareness about health and safety issues, including how to prevent injuries and what to do in a medical emergency.

For 2006 the international theme of National EMS Week is “EMS: Serving on Health Care’s Front Line”. This slogan was chosen to remind the public that EMS is truly an extension of emergency medicine, as well as injury and illness prevention. Week-long

events will honour the men and women who provide daily lifesaving services and educate the public about injury prevention, safety awareness and medical emergencies.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Emergency Medical Services providers recognize the growing need for on going public education in the following areas:

- What/Who is EMS
- When to call EMS/911
- What to do until help arrives

A calendar of events is being developed with activities planned in preparation for the week including: Paramedic for a Day Contest, Mall Displays, Recognition Event Evening and Media Rides-out, etc.

4.1 Relationship to Vision 2026

York Region EMS continues to support the Vision 2026 goals of Responding to the Needs of Our Residents and Supporting a Safe and Healthy Community.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the planned activities will be accommodated within the current 2006 EMS operating budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The nine local municipalities will benefit from the initiative through increased public education and awareness of York Region Emergency Medical Services and the skill, dedication and professionalism of York Region EMS Paramedics.

7. CONCLUSION

Recognizing National EMS Week provides an excellent opportunity to increase public awareness regarding the quality of services EMS Paramedics provide in our communities

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.