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NATIONAL EMS WEEK 2004

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, March 10, 2004, from the Commissioner of Health Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee and Regional Council recognize the week of May 17–21, 2004 as “National EMS Week”.
2. Regional staff be authorized to request local municipalities to proclaim the week of May 17–21, 2004 as “National EMS Week” (*see Attachment I*).

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee and Regional Council to recognize the value and accomplishments of EMS paramedics during National EMS Week, May 17–21, 2004.

3. BACKGROUND

Over the past few years, National EMS Week has been recognized throughout the industry. This year the Association of Municipal Emergency Medical Services of Ontario (AMEMSO) has identified the need to recognize the week of May 17–21, 2004, provincially. The Ontario Paramedic Association (OPA) has also endorsed the celebration of National EMS Week throughout Canada during May 17–21, 2004.

For 2004, the international theme of National EMS Week is “There When You Need Us”. Across Canada, weeklong 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

During the week of May 17–21, 2004, numerous activities are planned throughout York Region and within the Regional Administrative Centre including the opening of new Paramedic Response Stations in King City and Markham.

The Regional Administrative Centre will host a week of activities which include “Lunch and Learn Sessions.” In these sessions, Regional employees will have the opportunity to

learn several first aid skills and receive general information about health emergencies and how to best react to them. The week will draw to a close with a full day of activities at the Administrative Centre, including demonstrations of emergency medical equipment and EMS paramedic skills, information displays, and a display featuring the different types of EMS vehicles.

The recognition of a National EMS Week is an effective means to increase public understanding of emergency medical services and the role of paramedics.

4.1 Relationship to Vision 2026

Recognizing York Region EMS through National EMS Week supports the Vision 2026 goals of Responding to the Needs of Our Residents and Supporting a Safe, Caring and Healthy Community.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the planned activities for National EMS Week have been included in the 2004 EMS operating budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

National EMS Week is an opportunity for local municipalities to recognize 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.

(A copy of the attachment referred to in the foregoing is included with this report and is also on file in the Office of the Regional Clerk.)