

AGREEMENTS WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, August 13 , 2003, from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and the Commissioner of Health Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee and Regional Council authorize the Health Services Department to enter into agreements with colleges and universities for the placement of students in the Health Services Department to provide these students with clinical and/or practical experience.
2. Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee and Regional Council authorize the Commissioner of Health Services and Medical Officer of Health to execute the agreements with the colleges and universities.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek authorization for the Commissioner of Health Services and Medical Officer of Health to enter into agreements with colleges and universities to accept short term placements of students to provide them with clinical and practical experience.

3. BACKGROUND

On July 5, 2000, Regional Council authorized the Emergency Medical Services Branch of the Health Services Department to enter into agreements with community colleges for the placement of paramedic students in order to provide them with clinical experience. This has been highly successful in terms of not only providing students with a practical experience which would not otherwise be gained in a traditional classroom setting, but also in terms of developing a qualified paramedic workforce.

The Health Services Department has been approached on different occasions about student placement and is now seeking to formally expand the placement of students into other branches of the Health Services Department.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The agreements with colleges and universities for the placement of students in the Health Services Department provide advantages to both the student and the Health Services Department. The student gains practical and clinical experience which would otherwise not be gained in a traditional classroom setting. Often this practical or clinical experience is required as part of the curriculum prior to students being entitled to graduate.

The placement of students will raise the profile of the Health Services Department as a supporter of the development of quality health care professionals. Participating in student placement arrangements will assist in the development of qualified health care professionals not only for The Regional Municipality of York but the Province of Ontario.

Generally, both CUPE and ONA have been supportive of student placements provided students are placed to gain practical and clinical experience and not to engage in bargaining unit work. Any provisions under the collective agreements related to such matters as workload will be taken into consideration and complied with when placements are considered.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Students are not paid or compensated by the Region to participate in the student placement program. Agreements with colleges and universities will explicitly state that the Region is not to be deemed the employer of the students and the students are not deemed to be employees of the Region for any purpose whatsoever including for purposes of the *Canada Pension Plan Act*, the *Employment Insurance Act*, the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act*, the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, the *Pay Equity Act* or the *Health Insurance Act*.

Therefore, there is no additional cost to The Regional Municipality of York related to the execution or implementation of the agreements with colleges and universities related to student placement.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The implementation of this report will provide an opportunity for students to be provided with clinical and practical experience. This will in turn benefit the community through the training of qualified health care professionals.

7. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Health Services Department be authorized to execute agreements with colleges and universities for the placement of students in the Health Services Department to provide these students with clinical and practical experience.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.