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YORK REGION EMS COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS SCOUTS CANADA/ST. JOHN AMBULANCE

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, August 12, 2003, from the Commissioner of Health Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee and Regional Council approve the sponsorship of a local Scout group by York Region EMS.
2. Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee and Regional Council approve a community affiliation between St. John Ambulance and York Region EMS to provide residents of The Regional Municipality of York with improved special event coverage and emergency medical and first aid services.
3. In the event that agreements are necessary to formalize the affiliations with the local scout group and St. John Ambulance, the Commissioner of Health Services be authorized to execute these Agreements on behalf of the Region.

2. PURPOSE

This report is to inform Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee and Regional Council about the affiliation opportunities that York Region EMS wishes to engage in with Scout Canada Medical Venturer and St. John Ambulance programs.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Scouts Canada Medical Venturer Program

Scouts Canada is a national organization devoted to the development of youth. Scouts Canada has developed and evolved vocational venturing opportunities as an integral component of its youth development curriculum. This program provides an opportunity for youth, 14–18 years of age, to become associated with professional organizations, such as Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and law enforcement agencies. The youth are exposed to professional work environments and receive training relevant to the profession affiliated with their vocational program. The “Medical Venturer” program provides a comprehensive multi-disciplined training program ranging from standard first aid and wilderness survival to EMS operations orientation.

3.2 St. John Ambulance

St. John Ambulance Canada is a worldwide, non-denominational charitable organization, dedicated to the service of others. Community services volunteers include nearly 13,000 members who provide first aid services. More than 7,000 instructors, volunteers and staff provide first aid and CPR training and products.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Scouts Canada Medical Venturer Program:

The objectives of Medical Venturing are to encourage youth to obtain basic medical training and education, and to foster an interest in EMS as a career. The Medical Venturers are encouraged to participate in community events such as fairs, parades and EMS displays in coordination with EMS staff while remaining active participants in the regular scouting program.

4.2 St. John Ambulance

The York Region Branch, Community Services, Central Ontario District of St. John Ambulance has proposed that York Region EMS become involved in an arrangement that will assist both organizations in providing the community with improved special event coverage and emergency medical/first aid, expanded event planning and deployment.

It will also provide economic and operational efficiencies. The layout of medical supplies and equipment inside St. John Ambulance vehicles will be configured similar to that of York Region EMS vehicles to assist emergency medical personnel from both organisations. To achieve vehicle standardization York Region EMS will supply the initial medical equipment and supplies. York Region EMS will also provide St. John's Ambulance with options for ongoing purchase of supplies and equipment, which will allow for regular rotation of inventory.

Opportunities for shared training sessions, including disaster-training exercises, will enhance the level of education for St. John Ambulance personnel, as well as provide local development and community awareness of the EMS profession.

4.3 Relationship to 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". Building these relationships with local Scout groups and St. John Ambulance will foster effective working relationships between EMS and community agencies and organizations, and encourage participation in community events.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

These affiliations will allow York Region EMS to participate in local youth development while enhancing community awareness of the EMS profession with minimal financial impact.

5.1 Scouts Canada Medical Venturer Program

Monetary funds are raised by the youth through membership dues and participation in fundraising events. York Region EMS would be required to support the Medical Venturer program through the provision of medical supplies, equipment, training facilities and volunteer instructors. It is anticipated that 15-25 Medical Venturers will volunteer for the first year of the program. The Medical Venturers will be involved in the 20-30 community-based events in which EMS usually participate in on an annual basis.

5.2 St. John Ambulance

Any costs associated with this affiliation are included in the Emergency Medical Services 2003 operating budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The training and education received by the youth of both the Scouts Canada Medical Venturer and St. John Ambulance programs is intended to increase self confidence and foster a further interest in the community and public service.

7. CONCLUSION

The EMS Branch of the Health Services Department has an opportunity to pioneer a Medical Venturer program with Scouts Canada and foster a unique collaborative relationship with St. John Ambulance. This will enhance understanding of the EMS profession, and promote succession planning and community awareness across The Regional Municipality of York.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.