



ECONOMIC  
VITALITY



HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES



SUSTAINABLE  
ENVIRONMENT



GOOD  
GOVERNMENT

York Region graphic

York Region council approves \$3.3-billion budget for 2021 to support the region's infrastructure growth and to maintain or replace existing assets.

# YORK REGION COUNCIL APPROVES \$3.3B BUDGET

AILEEN ZANGOUEI  
azangouei@yrmg.com

York Region council has approved a \$3.3-billion budget for 2021, which results in a 1.54-per-cent net tax levy increase for residents.

The 2021 budget, according to the region, reflects the strong ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There will be \$2.6 billion in operating costs going toward supporting the delivery of core regional services.

The remaining \$763 million in capital costs of the budget will go toward supporting new infrastructure.

The tax increase is around \$40 per house with an average assessed value of \$802,000. The approved increase is 1.42 per cent less than the initial outlook tabled on Feb. 25.

The tax levy will be directed to regional capital reserves, which is meant to support the "robust" 10-year capital plan: this includes new infrastructure to support growth, as well as funding to maintain and replace the region's existing assets.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented pressures on our communities, resulting in council to support a 2021 tax levy lower than the projected 2.96 per cent," said York Region Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson.

"During these times, it is especially important we remain steadfast in striking a balance between implementing realistic tax increases and delivering on the critical programs and services our residents and businesses need, expect and deserve," Emmerson said.

The approved 2021 budget supports York Region's four key priority areas of the 2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan: From Vision to Results, which aligns financial resources to regional council's priorities for this term of office.

Some examples of services to be delivered in 2021 to support residents and businesses include:

- Economic vitality with a priority on increasing economic prosperity by continuing to work on the provincial government to advance the Yonge North Subway extension. Also, investing \$3.3 billion over the next 10 years into roads and transit infrastructure.

- Health communities by continuing to lead COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery, as well as, constructing close to 500 new affordable housing units, increasing the housing network to 7,400 units by 2025.

- Sustainable environment by investing \$2.8 billion to grow and maintain the water and wastewater

networks over the next 10 years.

- Good government with a priority to deliver trusted and efficient services by continuing reserve contributions to renew and protect the region's capital asset base, and rescue transportation operating costs to reflect lower transit fare revenue.

The region continues to identify internal operation efficiencies and improvements, while making use of almost \$38 million in recent Safe Restart Agreements from the federal and provincial governments.

In early March, the province announced the region would receive \$21.1 million to help cover COVID-19 operating costs and \$16.7 million for transit-related impacts.

"The four-year multi-year budget process aligns projects with the region's strategic plan to ensure we are meeting the immediate and future needs of our growing and diverse communities," said Vaughan Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua, chair of finance and administration.

"Through an ongoing commitment to our fiscal strategy, these reserves will help us maintain a strong credit rating and fund future infrastructure projects," Bevilacqua said.

For more information visit: [york.ca/regional-services](http://york.ca/regional-services).

## National Volunteer Week 2021

April 18-24, 2021

The value  
and power  
of volunteers  
celebrated

The National Volunteer Week theme for 2021, "The value of one, the power of many" reflects on the abundant acts of kindness by millions of individuals and the positive results when we work together towards a common purpose.

According to Volunteer Canada, during the past year, people have been supporting family, friends, neighbours, and strangers, people standing up to systemic racism, and people sharing insights on how to create a more just and equitable society.

The organizers of National Volunteer Week, April 18 to 24, recognize the value of the caring and compassion that each one has shown another, and the power of people, organizations, and sectors working together.

"The power of people working together can bring about monumental changes. We have

seen people work together on legislative changes related to impaired driving, same sex marriage, and assisted dying," states the organizing body.

The theme is a nod to Volunteer Canada's past, a reflection of its present, and a wink to the future. "The value of one, the power of many" was the theme for National Volunteer Week in 2001, The International Year of Volunteers. It reflects the individual and collective efforts, being seen during the pandemic, and it sets the tone for re-imagining the next 20 years as the value of one act and the power of many enables us to thrive together, according to Volunteer Canada's promotion of the week.

As part of the celebration of volunteers, organizers are inviting submissions related to the theme. Here are some examples...

*"The value of one person calling another to check in. The power of many people working to prevent social isolation."*

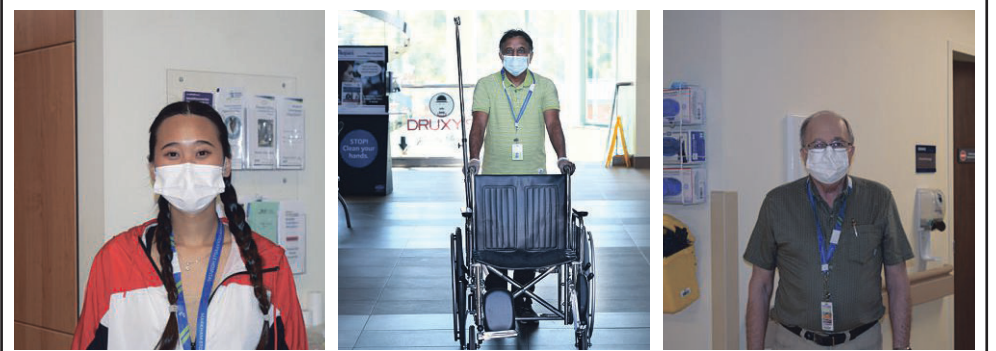
*"The value of one person volunteering at a food bank.*

*The power of many people volunteering on a Food Security Advisory Committee."*

*"The value of one person standing up to transphobia."*

The power of many people calling for the protection of gender diversity."

Send your theme-related couplet to [info@volunteer.ca](mailto:info@volunteer.ca).



National Volunteer Week April 18-24

Volunteers at **Markham Stouffville Hospital** work alongside our staff and physicians to help us deliver an extraordinary experience for patients and families. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic they have played an integral role in keeping the community safe and bringing our Honoured to Care culture to life.

During **National Volunteer Week April 18-24**, we thank our incredible volunteers for the compassion and commitment they bring to our hospital community.