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DATE: September 9, 2009

REPORT TITLE: **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) DAY  
NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

FROM: Dan Labrecque, Commissioner of Environment, Transportation  
and Planning Services  
R. Kent Gillespie, Commissioner of Employee and Business Services

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## RECOMMENDATION

**That November 18, 2009 be proclaimed "Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day" in the Region of Peel.**

### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The purpose of GIS Day is to promote awareness of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as an enabling technology.
- To recognize the fact that GIS is currently being used by many departments and organizations in Peel.
- To showcase GIS technology by agencies and students to educate and promote jobs in the public sector.
- Proclamation of GIS Day in the Region of Peel (Appendix I).

## DISCUSSION

### 1. Background

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day is an event to highlight the many uses of GIS technology. GIS is a system of hardware and software used for storage, retrieval, mapping, and analysis of geographic data.

GIS Day 2009 is being held on November 18, during Geography Awareness Week (November 15-21, 2009). This is the eleventh annual GIS Day event being held in Peel. GIS Day provides an international forum for users of GIS technology to demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference in our society. More than 80 countries will participate in holding local events such as corporate open houses, hands-on workshops, community expos and career fairs.

GIS Day is principally sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the Association of American Geographers, University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, the United States Geological Survey, The Library of Congress, Sun Microsystems, Hewlett-Packard, and ESRI. The National Geographic Society has sponsored Geography Awareness Week since

September 9, 2009

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1987 to promote geographic literacy in schools, communities, and organizations, with a focus on the education of children.

The Region of Peel is participating in GIS Day by organizing an event with the Peel District School Board. Representatives from the Region of Peel, other outside agencies and students will highlight the use of GIS applications and data, while promoting careers in GIS.

**CONCLUSION**

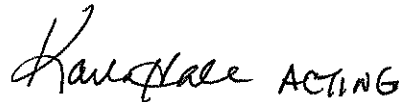
Celebrating GIS Day will:

- Provide an educational opportunity for teachers and high school students in the Region of Peel;
- Highlight the use of GIS technology for the preservation of the natural environment;
- Showcase the contribution GIS has made to numerous departments at the Region of Peel; and
- Draw attention to advances made in GIS technology.

In order to educate students and adults about the importance of GIS, it is recommended that November 18, 2009 be proclaimed Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day in the Region of Peel.

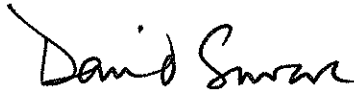


Dan Labrecque  
Commissioner of Environment, Transportation  
and Planning Services



R. Kent Gillespie ACTING  
Commissioner of Employee  
and Business Services

**Approved for Submission:**



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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c. Legislative Services



**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) DAY IN PEEL**

**November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**WHEREAS, the week of November 15 - 21, 2009 is being promoted by the National Geographic Society, the Association of American Geographers, University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, the United States Geological Survey, The Library of Congress, Sun Microsystems, Hewlett-Packard and ESRI as Geography Awareness Week;**

**AND WHEREAS, November 18, 2009 has been targeted as a worldwide GIS Day;**

**AND WHEREAS, there will be many worldwide activities with the goal being to engage people in learning and caring about geography;**

**AND WHEREAS, the purpose of GIS Day is to promote the awareness and appreciation for how important Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is as an enabling technology;**

**AND WHEREAS, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is being used by many departments and organizations in Peel;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT November 18, 2009 be proclaimed "GIS DAY" in the Region of Peel.**

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**Emil Kolb  
Regional Chair**