
DATE: March 30, 2010

REPORT TITLE: **RECOGNIZING CANADA HEALTH DAY, NURSING WEEK AND
PARAMEDIC WEEK IN THE REGION OF PEEL**

FROM: Janette Smith, Commissioner of Health Services
David L. Mowat, MBChB, MPH, FRCPC, Medical Officer of Health

RECOMMENDATION

That May 12, 2010 be proclaimed Canada Health Day in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that the week of May 10 to 16, 2010 be proclaimed Nursing Week in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that 2010 be proclaimed International Year of the Nurse in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that the week of May 16 to 22, 2010 be proclaimed Paramedic Week in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that all Health Services staff be commended for their dedication to providing long-term care, pre-hospital emergency medical services and public health programs to over 1.2 million residents in Peel.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 2300 Health Services staff provide a wide range of vital health and emergency services that benefit every resident in Peel; 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Health services are delivered by knowledgeable staff who regularly go the extra mile to provide client-focused care. According to the Region of Peel's 2009 client satisfaction survey, 90 per cent of Health Services' clients were very satisfied with the service they received.
- Canada Health Day is a day dedicated to celebrating all those who work in the health field.
- Nursing Week recognizes nurses working in settings across the Region including long-term care, public health and occupational health.
- 2010 International Year of the Nurse acknowledges the centennial year of the death of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.
- Paramedic Week highlights the high quality, life saving pre-hospital care provided by paramedics.

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DISCUSSION

1. Background

During the month of May we recognize Health Services staff through the celebration of three significant events: Canada Health Day, Nursing Week and Paramedic Week.

With the founding of Peel Manor in 1898, Peel Long Term Care has been servicing the community for 112 years. With five long term care homes – Davis Centre, Malton Village, Peel Manor, Sheridan Villa and Tall Pines – staff provide care to 703 residents and adult day service clients. According to results from the Region of Peel's 2009 client satisfaction survey, 85 per cent of Peel Long Term Care residents are "very satisfied" with the overall quality of care received at their centre.

The first Public Health Unit was established in 1946. Throughout the past 64 years, Public Health staff have been involved in a number of important health initiatives including vaccinations and immunizations, chronic disease and injury prevention, food and water safety, health status and communicable disease surveillance, promotion of healthy pregnancy and child development, and H1N1 response. In 2009, 93 per cent of Public Health clients perceived staff as being knowledgeable and competent as well as making a real effort to ensure clients got what they needed.

On December 1, 2004 Peel Region assumed direct delivery of paramedic services. Peel Regional Paramedic Services (PRPS) responds to over 80,000 paramedic response calls annually, providing critical life saving emergency medical care. Through its involvement in a variety of outreach events and activities, PRPS has been continually raising public awareness of pre-hospital emergency medical services, the profile of Paramedics and promoting injury prevention throughout the Peel community. In 2009, 90 per cent of clients agreed that Paramedics arrived in a timely manner, and 92 per cent of clients felt Paramedics treated them with respect.

a) Canada Health Day – May 12, 2010

Canada Health Day is a day dedicated to celebrating all those who work in the health field, both health professionals and all the support services staff. It is a time to recognize exciting new developments in public health and reflect on past accomplishments that have advanced the quality of life for all citizens.

The Region of Peel takes pride in its employees and the health services they offer to the community and we believe it is important to show our appreciation. We use this day to thank those who dedicate themselves every day to enhance the health of others.

Canada Health Day was established by the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) and the Canadian Healthcare Association in 1981, and is celebrated on May 12 by hundreds of health services, agencies, organizations and public health units across the country every year.

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b) Nursing Week – May 10 – 16, 2010

National Nursing Week is sponsored by the Canadian Nurses Association and is celebrated every year to coincide with Florence Nightingale's birthday. This is the centennial year of the death of Florence Nightingale and given she is the founder of modern nursing, 2010 is also being celebrated worldwide as International Year of the Nurse. It seeks to recognize the contributions of nurses globally and to engage nurses in the promotion of world health.

The theme for this year's 2010 Nursing Week is "Nursing – You Can't Live Without It!" It is a time to celebrate nurses, the history of their profession and where they see the future of nursing going.

At the Region there are nurses working in the long-term care centres, in public health and in the occupational health program. Many of our nurses provide direct client care daily. They assist with the activities of daily living and develop care plans for each resident in long-term care. Public health nurses provide immunizations, coordinate service plans with other agencies, and provide health teaching to individuals and groups. Health promotion, disease prevention, and reducing health inequities are hallmarks of our public health nursing workforce. Our nurses also work behind the scenes by tracking health trends and communicable diseases, coordinating community health events and contributing to a healthy work environment.

c) Paramedic Week – May 16 to 22, 2010

Paramedic Week is a national celebration that highlights the essential services provided every day, under any circumstance, by the thousands of paramedics who serve their communities. Paramedic Week is designated by the Canadian and Ontario EMS Chiefs, the Ontario Paramedic Association and other associated Paramedic organizations.

Over 400 Peel Regional Paramedics provide high quality pre-hospital care aimed at saving lives, decreasing suffering and promoting community safety.

Some of the activities planned for Paramedic Week include: community CPR training; interactive activities and displays; and Community / Charitable Assistance day.

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CONCLUSION

Over 2300 Health Services staff provide a wide range of vital health and emergency services that benefit over 1.2 million residents in Peel; 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Canada Health Day, Nursing Week, Paramedic Week, and this year, International Year of the Nurse, are important opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of all our health services staff and recognize their commitment to help individuals, families and communities in Peel live healthier lives.

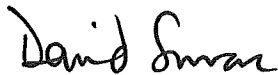


Janette Smith
Commissioner of Health Services



David L. Mowat, MBChB, MPH, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

Approved for Submission:



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

For further information regarding this report, please contact Janette Smith at extension 4902 or via email at janette.smith@peelregion.ca

c. Legislative Services

RECOGNIZING CANADA HEALTH DAY, NURSING WEEK AND PARAMEDIC WEEK IN THE
REGION OF PEEL

APPENDIX I

Proclamation

CANADA HEALTH DAY

May 12, 2010

WHEREAS, the Canadian Public Health Association and the Canadian Healthcare Association designated May 12 as Canada Health Day in 1981;

AND WHEREAS, hundreds of health facilities and agencies, community health organizations and public health units across Canada celebrate Canada Health Day every year;

AND WHEREAS, the Region of Peel currently employees over 2,300 staff, who provide a wide range of health and emergency services that benefit over 1.2 million residents of Peel, 24 hours a day, seven days a week;

AND WHEREAS, Peel Health Services staff in Long Term Care, Paramedic Services, Public Health, and Internal Support Services are dedicated to preventing diseases and injuries, promoting health, saving lives and improving the quality of life in our communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT May 12, 2010 be proclaimed "CANADA HEALTH DAY" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

RECOGNIZING CANADA HEALTH DAY, NURSING WEEK AND PARAMEDIC WEEK IN THE REGION OF PEEL

APPENDIX II

Proclamation

NURSING WEEK

May 10 to 16, 2010

WHEREAS, National Nursing Week is sponsored by the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) and is celebrated every year to coincide with Florence Nightingale's birthday;

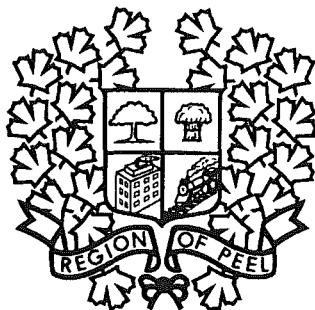
AND WHEREAS, National Nursing week is a time to celebrate nurses, the history of their profession and where they see the future of nursing going;

AND WHEREAS, nurses are the largest group of health-care providers in Canada, representing more than one-third of the health-care workforce;

AND WHEREAS, at the Region there are nurses working in long term care centres providing direct client care daily; in public health preventing illness and promoting health for residents of all ages; and in human resources contributing to a healthy work environment;

AND WHEREAS, nurses demonstrate excellence and innovation in public health while striving to improve the health of our community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT May 10 to 16, 2010 be proclaimed "NURSING WEEK" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

RECOGNIZING CANADA HEALTH DAY, NURSING WEEK AND PARAMEDIC WEEK IN THE
REGION OF PEEL

APPENDIX III

Proclamation

PARAMEDIC WEEK

May 16 to 22, 2010

WHEREAS, each year Peel Regional Paramedic Services responds to over 80,000 emergency calls for assistance;

AND WHEREAS, the Paramedics of Peel Regional Paramedic Services are ready to provide life saving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week;

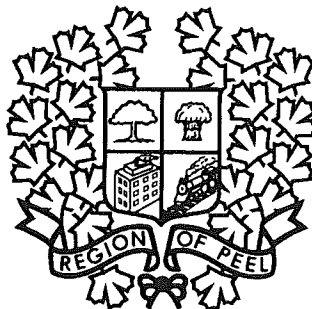
AND WHEREAS, access to quality pre-hospital emergency medical care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury;

AND WHEREAS, Paramedics, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing medical education to enhance their life saving skills and abilities;

AND WHEREAS, Paramedics often find themselves in dangerous and traumatic situations requiring urgent critical decisions;

AND WHEREAS, Paramedics provide a vital, valuable pre-hospital emergency medical service to the residents of Peel;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the week of May 16 to 22, 2010 be proclaimed "PARAMEDIC WEEK" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

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REGION OF PEEL

APPENDIX IV

Proclamation

2010 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE NURSE

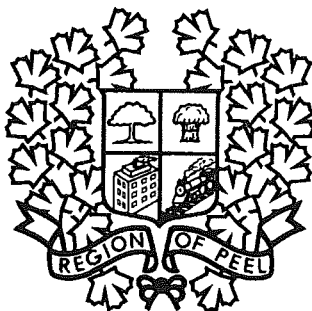
WHEREAS, Nurses living and working in the Region of Peel recognize the 2010 International Year of the Nurse as the Centennial Year of the death of the Founder of Modern Nursing – Florence Nightingale (1820-1910);

AND WHEREAS, Nurses are actively involved in the promotion of health for the citizens of our Region, during this historic milestone and beyond;

AND WHEREAS, Nurses join the World’s nursing community – estimated to be more than 15 million – in a celebration of commitment to bring health to all people, locally, worldwide;

AND WHEREAS, Nurses honour the legacy of Florence Nightingale and other nurses, midwives and healthcare workers of the past and present, who have shown how personal actions can make a world of difference;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Year 2010 be proclaimed “2010 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE NURSE” in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair