
DATE: March 25, 2011

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, 2011 be proclaimed Canada Health Day in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that the week of May 9 to 15, 2011 be proclaimed National Nursing Week in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that the week of May 15 to 21 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. Our average client satisfaction ratings range from 8.2 to 9.6 out of 10, according to the Region of Peel's 2009 client satisfaction survey.
- Canada Health Day is a day dedicated to celebrating all those who work in the health field.
- National Nursing Week recognizes nurses for their commitment and dedication to providing high quality patient care and promotion of health. This includes nurses working in all settings across the Region including long-term care, public health and occupational health.
- Paramedic Week highlights the high quality, life saving pre-hospital care provided by paramedics.

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

DISCUSSION

1. Background

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

With the founding of Peel Manor in 1898, Peel Long Term Care has been servicing the community for 113 years. With five long term care homes – David Centre, Malton Village, Peel Manor, Sheridan Villa and Tall Pines – and four community support services programs, staff provide care to 703 residents and adult day service participants. According to the 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 65 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 health 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 that Paramedics treated them well.

a) Canada Health Day – May 12, 2011

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 Days 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) National Nursing Week – May 9 – 15, 2011

National Nursing Week is sponsored by the Canadian Nurses Association and is celebrated every year to coincide with Florence Nightingale's birthday. It seeks to recognize the contributions of nurses and the excellent service they provide.

The theme for this year's National Nursing Week is "Nursing – The Health of Our Nation." Its purpose being to increase understanding among the public, policy makers and governments of the many contributions nurses make to the well-being of Canadians.

At the Region, there are nurses working in 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, 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. They are integral to promoting the health of our community.

c) Paramedic Week – May 15 to 21, 2011

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

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

Some of the activities planned fro Paramedic Week include: community CPR training; interactive activities and displays; and meet and greets with Peel Regional Paramedics.

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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, National Nursing Week and Paramedic Week, 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.

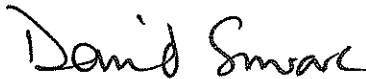


Janette Smith
Commissioner of Health Services



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

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REGION OF PEEL

APPENDIX I

Proclamation

CANADA HEALTH DAY

May 12, 2011

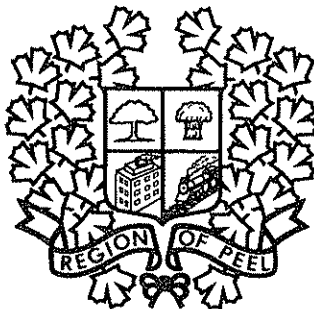
WHEREAS, the Canadian Public Health Association and the Canadian Healthcare Association designated May 12 as Canada Health Day in 1981;

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 employs 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, 2011, 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

NATIONAL NURSING WEEK
"Nursing – The Health of our Nation"

May 9 to 15, 2011

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

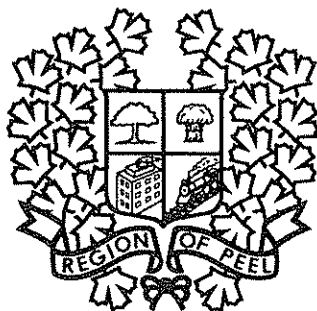
AND WHEREAS, National Nursing Week is a time to celebrate nurses, the history of their profession and where they see the future of nursing going;

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 9 to 15, 2011, be proclaimed "NATIONAL 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 15 to 21, 2011

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;

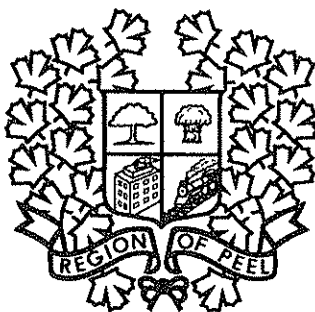
AND WHEREAS, access to quality pre-hospital emergency medical care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury;

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 15 to 21, 2011 be proclaimed "PARAMEDIC WEEK" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



**Emil Kolb
Regional Chair**