

6.1a-1

DATE: April 1, 2011

REPORT TITLE: **PROCLAMATION OF EVENTS**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services
Janette Smith, Commissioner of Health Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the month of June 2011 be proclaimed “Seniors’ Month” in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that June 15, 2011 be proclaimed “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that September 2011 be proclaimed “Literacy Month” in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that October 2011 be proclaimed “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that October 17 to 25, 2011 be proclaimed “Week of the Child” in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that October 21, 2011 be proclaimed “Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Appreciation Day” in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that November 6, 2011 be proclaimed “Community and Social Service Workers Appreciation Day” in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that November 20, 2011 be proclaimed “National Child Day” in the Regional Municipality of Peel;

And further, that November 22, 2011 be proclaimed “National Housing Day” in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

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PROCLAMATION OF EVENTS**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Seniors' Month is an annual celebratory tradition in which the contributions of seniors are acknowledged and honoured throughout the province.
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was launched as a global event in 2006.
- The Region of Peel supports and participates in a wide range of collaborative activities related to support for older adults, including a close working relationship with the Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network.
- For over 40 years, the United Nations International Literacy Day has been celebrated in September. Forty-eight per cent of Canadian adults have low literacy skills.
- Peel Children's Aid joins the Children's Aid Societies across the province to build awareness of the issue of child abuse in our community through the Child Abuse Prevention Campaign.
- The AECEO effectively encourages the community to participate in Week of the Child through its "Krayons for Kids" campaign.
- The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) requests that early childhood educators be recognized through Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day.
- The National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) has made a commitment to raise the profile of Community Social Service (CSS) workers as they are essential to building strong communities and making life better for families and individuals.
- Canada's National Child Day is commemorated on November 20th each year, as enacted by the Parliament of Canada. It ensures that the voices of children are taken into account in all Canadian economic, social and political decisions.
- National Housing Day reminds Canadians to recognize and reflect on the issue of affordable housing.

DISCUSSION**1. Background**

Through the proclamation of events, the Region of Peel demonstrates its commitment to educating the public and building awareness of the importance of social issues.

The Human Services and Health Departments take lead roles in celebrating and proclaiming these event weeks through their commitments to strengthening individual, family and neighbourhood capacity; investing in human services; and providing accessible, high quality and client centred services.

Seniors' Month is a time when seniors are acknowledged and honoured throughout the province. June 2011 is the 27th anniversary of Seniors' Month in Ontario. The Region of Peel plays a key role in helping older adults and seniors in our community to maintain their active lifestyles and contributions consistent with our Mission. This report provides information about the older adult population and outlines some of the key Regional services and programs that benefit older adults.

The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse launched World Elder Abuse Awareness Day as a global event on June 15, 2006. At that time, Council supported a proclamation. The proclamation of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Peel Region will raise awareness and support activities that will continue to address the goal, mission and key messages developed by the International Network. Peel Region supports and participates in a wide range of collaborative activities related to support for older adults, including a close working relationship with the Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network.

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The United Nations International Literacy Day has been celebrated annually in September for over 40 years. The objective of this celebration is to emphasize the importance of literacy and to applaud the efforts made by literacy practitioners and volunteers. Since 2005, Regional Council has approved the Human Services Department's request to proclaim September as Literacy Month in the Region of Peel. The month is used to showcase the wealth of literacy related programs and services offered throughout Peel.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is coordinating the United Nations Literacy Decade under the slogan "Literacy As Freedom". Launched in 2003 and ending in 2012, the Decade aims to increase literacy levels and empower all people everywhere. As part of this work, UNESCO launched the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment as a framework for achieving the Decade's goals focussing on policy driven research, capacity building and advocacy. The "Education for All" objective of increasing literacy rates by 50 per cent by 2015.

The Peel Children's Aid is a partner in the Peel community in providing leadership on issues that affect vulnerable children and to ensure child protection services are carried out in a responsible manner. Peel Children's Aid also provides care for children and youth who cannot remain in their own homes; however, only after significant efforts to support children in their family home have been attempted. Peel Children's Aid joins Children's Aid Societies across the province in building awareness of the issue of child abuse in Peel through the Child Abuse Prevention Campaign.

During the month of October, Peel partners recognize children through the celebration of the Week of the Child. Week of the Child is a time within our Peel communities to reflect on the rights and needs of our children, which is in keeping with Peel's Children's Charter of Rights; renew our commitment to improve the quality of opportunities for all children; and review how well we care for and educate the future adults, parents and leaders in Peel.

The OCBC (Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care) has requested that October 21, 2011 be a day to celebrate Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day for the many people who are dedicated to providing early learning and child care to the young children in Peel.

November 6, 2011 marks the fourth year that the contributions made by Community and Social Service Workers are recognized for providing crucial services that help improve the quality of life for individuals and families which contributes to a stronger and more stable community.

In 1993, the Government of Canada enacted Bill C-371, also known as the *Child Day Act*, and designated November 20th each year as National Child Day. The day celebrates the adoption of the United Nations of two landmark documents concerning the rights of children and youth. On November 20, 2011, Canadian children will be honoured and the rights and responsibilities of children will be protected in the two documents: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1959, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1989.

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National Housing Day (November 22, 2011), reminds Canadians to recognize and reflect on the issue of affordable housing. There are approximately 1.3 million families, or more than four million Canadians currently living in substandard housing. With an average household income of under \$20,000 - nearly 75 per cent below the national average - these men and women, mothers and fathers, are forced to make difficult choices between adequate shelter and other basic necessities of life like food, clothing, education, medical and dental expenses.

2. Actions in Support of Events

To support these events, the Region of Peel has endorsed the following activities, including, but not limited to:

a) Seniors' Month (June 2011)

Since its inception in 2001, the Peel Advisory Working Group on Older Adults' Housing (PAWGOAH) has conducted research on housing needs for older adults and regularly delivers presentations to community groups to promote a variety of housing options for the 55-plus age group. In Peel there are more than 2940 market rent and rent geared-to-income units designated for seniors.

b) World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15, 2011)

The Region of Peel supports and participates in a wide range of collaborative activities including a close working relationship with the Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network. The Peel Elder Abuse Prevention Network includes 49 organizations in Peel, including representation from Peel Human Services, Long Term Care and the Peel Regional Police.

c) Literacy Month (September 2011)

The Region of Peel Human Services Department and community partners support an array of free literacy based programs and services for children and families. These services include the Family Literacy Program offered at 94 sites across the Region. Ontario Works in Peel in partnership with the Peel-Halton-Dufferin Adult Learning Network provides in-dept literacy screening and referral services for its participants and the Peel Youth Village homework club offers youth ages 12-18 years assistance with improving their literacy skills.

d) Child Abuse Prevention Month (October 2011)

Each year, Peel Children's Aid joins Children's Aid Societies across the province in educating the public and building awareness of the problem of child abuse in our community through the Child Abuse Prevention campaign. Community leaders, organizations, school and the public are asked to help prevent child abuse and wear the *purple ribbon, wristband or button, the symbol behind the campaign* to demonstrate support to end child abuse in our community.

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e) **Week of the Child (October 15 to 23, 2011)**

During the Week of the Child, the Peel Branch of the AECEO effectively encourages the community to participate through its "Krayons for Kids" campaign. This campaign for craft materials and monetary donations has benefited several local organizations, such as the Gardenvue Ontario Early Years Centre, Victims Witness Program of the Brampton Ontario Court House of Justice, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel, Hospital for Sick Kids, Peel Family Shelter, Armagh House and the William Osler Centre's Child Life Worker Program and most recently Interim Place.

Each year, the Human Services Department recognizes the Week of the Child through various planned children's events, including activities at the Regional Learn.Play.Care. Centres, and in turn, encouraging family and staff engagement.

f) **Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day (October 21, 2011)**

The Human Services Department recognizes each staff member for their dedication and commitment to children on an annual basis. The Region of Peel shares common objectives with the OCBCC who believes in investing in early childhood educators and caregivers through ongoing professional development; assessing needs of children and providing supports to meet those needs; informing parents and families about the services available in the Region of Peel; educating parents and families about the importance of early learning and child care; and supporting collaboration within the community.

g) **Community and Social Service Workers Appreciation Day (November 6, 2011)**

The Region of Peel provides a wide variety of community programs that are vital to the quality of life in our community. The Peel Family Shelter provides shelter, food and clothing for homeless families while staff helps them to regain their independence and connect to community agencies for additional supports. Ontario Works Employment Services assist clients with employment supports and provide them the tools needed to obtain and retain employment. The Learning in Our Neighbourhood initiative makes early childhood education available to families living in new high-growth neighbourhoods that lack the infrastructure necessary to provide permanent services.

h) **National Child Day (November 20, 2011)**

The Region of Peel offers a variety of supports and services to families and children. Many of these services uphold the rights of the children, including:

i) **Peel Charter of Rights**

Endorsed by Regional council on May 27, 2007, the Charter helps to raise awareness in the community of the need to support the rights and views of children and to educate children about their rights and responsibilities.

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ii) Strategic Management of Current Issues

The Region of Peel actively examines the issues facing children and youth, and works collaboratively with stakeholders to address these issues. For example, the Region of Peel has recently opened an inclusive nursery school for children 0 to 6 years of age, which collaborates with community service providers to support special needs inclusion.

iii) Region of Peel Programs

Human Services operates 12 Learn.Play.Care Centres, providing inclusive early learning and child care through 850 licensed child care spaces. Family literacy programs engage the community at over 97 school and community sites to inform about the benefits of early learning experiences. The Families First program provides a holistic approach to supports for sole support parents and their children. This Ontario Works program is delivered in partnership with Public Health. The Neighbourhood Capacity Building Strategy coordinates programs that help people participate in community programs – further engaging families and increasing capacity.

i) National Housing Day (November 22, 2011)

The Peel Housing Corporation currently provides housing for 16,230 tenants in 7300 units throughout the Region of Peel.

On November 22, 2011, staff will reflect on the progress made in creating affordable housing in Peel and discuss the development of plans for the future.

CONCLUSION

Participating in events which honour and support Human Services programs that help provide a higher quality of life in the community builds awareness and understanding about our collective roles and responsibilities.

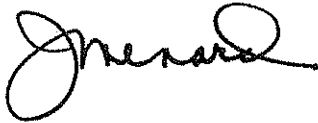
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In support of this, the following dates should be proclaimed by the Regional Municipality of Peel:

- Seniors' Month – June 2011
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15, 2011
- Literacy Month – September 2011
- Child Abuse Prevention Month – October 2011
- Week of the Child – October 15 to 23, 2011
- Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day – October 21, 2011
- Community and Social Service Workers Appreciation Day – November 6, 2011
- National Child Day – November 20, 2011
- National Housing Day – November 22, 2011

Please see proclamation details in Appendices I – IX



Janet Menard
Commissioner of Human Services



Janette Smith
Commissioner of Health Services

Approved for Submission:



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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Authored By: Ralph Martin

c. Legislative Services

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APPENDIX I

Proclamation

SENIORS' MONTH

JUNE 2011

WHEREAS, Seniors' Month is an annual nation-wide celebration;

AND WHEREAS, seniors have contributed and continue to contribute immensely to the life and vibrancy of this community;

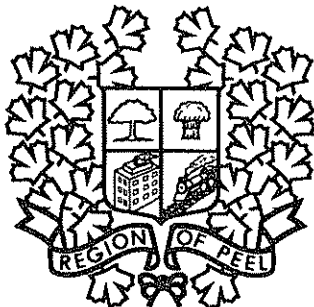
AND WHEREAS, seniors continue to serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers and important and active members of this community;

AND WHEREAS, their contributions past and present warrant appreciation and recognition and their stories deserve to be told;

AND WHEREAS, the well-being of seniors is in the interest of all and further adds to the health and well-being of the community;

AND WHEREAS, the knowledge and experience seniors pass on to us continues to benefit all;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the month of June, 2011 be proclaimed "SENIORS' MONTH" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

Proclamation

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

JUNE 15, 2011

WHEREAS, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse has designated that June 15, 2006 be the first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day as a time to share information about the state of elder abuse and to encourage older adults to seek support if they are experiencing a form of abuse;

AND WHEREAS, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood (article 1);

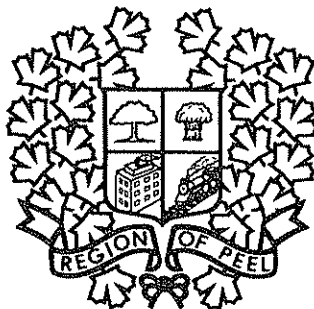
AND WHEREAS, The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms recognizes that "Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability" (section 15.1); and that "Everyone has the right not to be subjected to any cruel and unusual treatment or punishment"; (section 12);

AND WHEREAS, there are citizens in Peel, and other communities across the Province, who are experiencing or have experienced some form of elder abuse;

AND WHEREAS, Canada, Ontario and the Region of Peel are actively involved with networks to combat this serious problem;

AND WHEREAS, the Regional Municipality of Peel supports and collaborates in a range of activities that support health and well-being of older adults;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that June 15, 2011, be proclaimed "WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

Proclamation

LITERACY MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2011

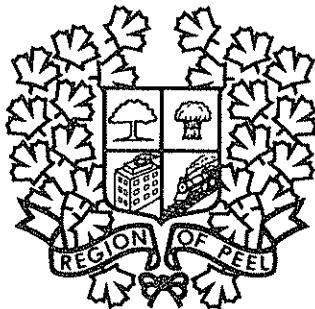
WHEREAS, The Region of Peel – Human Services Department is committed to raising awareness of events promoting literacy and lifelong learning in Peel throughout the month of September 2011;

AND WHEREAS, each year the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) celebrates International Literacy Day on September 8 to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and society;

AND WHEREAS, participation in initiatives which promote the growth and development of children displays the ongoing endorsement of the Peel Children's Charter of Rights, specifically The Right to Education;

AND WHEREAS, the regional values include a supportive and respectful environment, teamwork and quality of service which are integral in partnerships and in providing quality literacy services throughout the Region;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the month of September 2011, be proclaimed "LITERACY MONTH" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

Proclamation

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

OCTOBER 2011

WHEREAS, the month of October is child Abuse Prevention Month in Ontario and Canada;

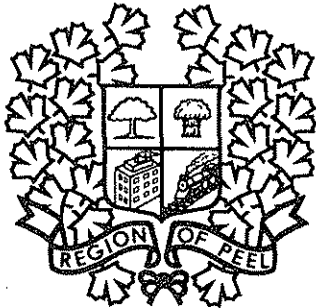
AND WHEREAS, public education and prevention are the best ways to end the neglect and abuse of children;

AND WHEREAS, the Region of Peel, through it's many programs and services, including Children's Services, Ontario Works, Peel Living, Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, Child and Reproductive Health Programs, and Peel Regional Police Services and our responsibility to Peel's Children's Charter of Rights demonstrates a commitment to the safety and well being of all children of the Region of Peel;

AND WHEREAS, the purple ribbon, the symbol of Child Abuse Prevention Month, is a reminder that the problem of child abuse continues. Everyone needs to be involved in keeping children safe and healthy;

AND WHEREAS, children are vital to the growth and spirit of communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the month of October 2011 be proclaimed "CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

Proclamation

WEEK OF THE CHILD

OCTOBER 17 TO 25, 2011

WHEREAS, the Region of Peel, Human Services provide leadership in the effective planning, management, development and delivery of a range of high quality child care services in the Region of Peel;

AND WHEREAS, the Region of Peel operates 12 Learn.Play.Care. Child Care Centres with 850 licensed spaces throughout Brampton and Mississauga, providing financial assistance so that families can access high quality licensed early learning and child care, and support programs throughout Peel;

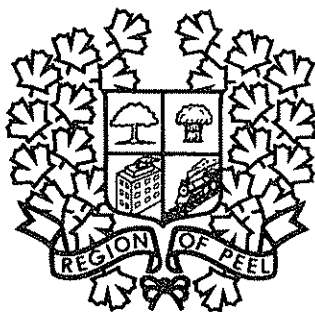
AND WHEREAS, the Region of Peel's Learn.Play.Care Child Care Centres offer children an inclusive learning environment where they develop intellectually by receiving early learning opportunities in all aspects of the program;

AND WHEREAS, access to and informed choices about child care allow parents to participate in the workforce or increase skills through training and education;

AND WHEREAS, children are vital to the growth and spirit of communities;

AND WHEREAS, Regional Council accepted, endorsed and supported the Peel Children's Charter of Rights, presented by Success by Six on May 24, 2007.

AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the week of October 17 to 25, 2011 be proclaimed "WEEK OF THE CHILD" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

Proclamation

CHILD CARE WORKER AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR APPRECIATION DAY

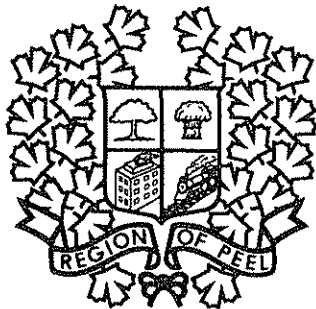
OCTOBER 21, 2011

WHEREAS, Research confirms the benefits of high quality early learning and child care for young children's intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development and later life outcomes;

AND WHEREAS, child care promotes the well-being of children and responds to the needs of parents, child care workers and the broader community by supporting quality of life so that citizens can fully participate in and contribute to the economic and social life of their community;

AND WHEREAS, recent studies show trained and knowledgeable child care workers are the most important element in quality child care, and further that good wages and working conditions are associated with higher job satisfaction and morale, lower staff turnover, all of which predict higher quality child care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that October 21, 2011 be proclaimed the tenth annual "CHILD CARE WORKER AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR APPRECIATION DAY" in the Regional Municipality of Peel in recognition of the influence, dedication and commitment of child care workers and early childhood educators to children, their families, and the quality of life of the community.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

Proclamation

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS APPRECIATION DAY

NOVEMBER 6, 2011

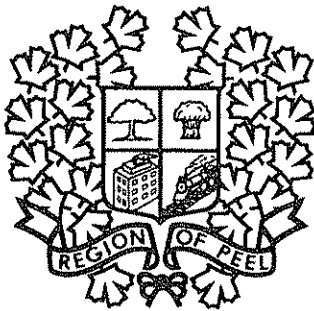
AND WHEREAS, community and social service workers provide crucial services to families and children, people with disabilities, respite care, people and families dealing with substance abuse, women and their children in transition houses as well as services to new Canadians;

AND WHEREAS, the quality of these services depends largely on the dedication of trained workers who provide these services;

AND WHEREAS, the availability of these services helps improve the quality of life for everyone, while making our communities stronger and more stable;

AND WHEREAS, the Region of Peel is committed to delivering quality social services to the people of Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that November 6, 2011 be proclaimed "COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS APPRECIATION DAY" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

Proclamation

NATIONAL CHILD DAY

NOVEMBER 20, 2011

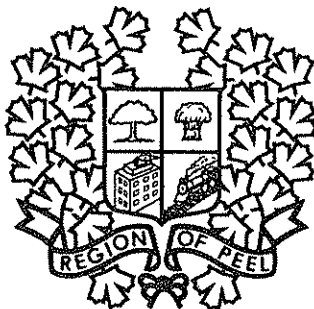
WHEREAS, on November 20, 1959 the General Assembly of the United Nations Proclaimed by Resolution 1/86 the Declaration on the Rights of the Child and on November 20, 1989 adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

AND WHEREAS, National Day is held November 20th each year as enacted by the Parliament of Canada in 1993 in Bill C-371, otherwise known as The Child Day Act;

AND WHEREAS, Regional Council accepted, endorsed and supported Peel's children's Charter of Rights, presented by Success By 6 Peel on May 24, 2007, including that November 20 be proclaimed National Child Day in the Region of Peel;

AND WHEREAS, the National Child Day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of the basic human rights to which children (under the age of 18) everywhere are entitled; and to celebrate children as actors in their own lives as active citizens who can and should meaningfully contribute to decision-making as we create a Canada fit for children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that November 20, 2011 be proclaimed "NATIONAL CHILD DAY" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair

APPENDIX IX

Proclamation

NATIONAL HOUSING DAY

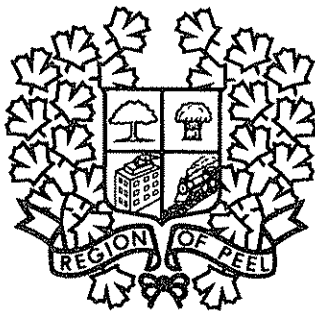
NOVEMBER 22, 2011

WHEREAS, The Regional Municipality of Peel, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other organizations across Canada have recognized that the homelessness and the lack of affordable housing continue to be an issue of great concern;

AND WHEREAS, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is advocating for a National Housing Strategy, and as a member of FCM, the Regional Municipality of Peel endorses and supports a National Housing Strategy;

AND WHEREAS, it is important that all levels of government, organizations and communities work together to provide adequate and affordable housing that will make a real difference in the lives of many men, women and children who require shelter;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that November 22, 2011 be proclaimed "NATIONAL HOUSING DAY" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair