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DATE: February 29, 2012

REPORT TITLE: **PROCLAMATION OF VARIOUS EVENTS**

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

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That March 21, 2012 be proclaimed "International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination" in the Regional Municipality of Peel;**

**And further, that May 1 to 7, 2012 be proclaimed "National Youth Week" in the Regional Municipality of Peel;**

**And further, that September 2012 be proclaimed "Literacy Month" in the Regional Municipality of Peel;**

**And further, that October 2012 be proclaimed "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.**

### **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- In 2010, the Region of Peel took a significant step towards promoting a more inclusive community and preventing racism and discrimination by declaring March 21<sup>st</sup> as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- National Youth Week is dedicated to the celebration of youth and their active participation in their community and is a time to honour their involvement.
- 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.

### **DISCUSSION**

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 Services departments take lead roles in celebrating and proclaiming these event days, weeks and months through their commitments to strengthening individual, family and community; investing in community-based services; and providing accessible, high quality and client-centred services.

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**PROCLAMATION OF VARIOUS EVENTS****International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

In 1966, the United Nations General Assembly honoured the victims of the Sharpeville massacre by designating March 21<sup>st</sup> as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. A symbolic Regional proclamation in support of this cause and condemning extreme examples of violent racism would be simple. But racism exists in many forms. More than half of Peel's population now belongs to what Census Canada calls a "visible minority." Efforts to address racial discrimination are essential to the future harmony of our community and an essential part of efforts to nurture mutual respect among all the dimension of diversity in our increasingly diverse region.

**National Youth Week**

National Youth Week is held May 1 – 7 every year. It is dedicated to the celebration of youth and their active participation in their community. Whether it is recreation, drama, sport, dance, civic engagement, art, volunteerism or leadership, every day young people are involved in meaningful activities during their discretionary time. Young people in their teenage years are an important asset to Canadian communities. The activities, in which youth participate, outside of work or school, teach them to successfully bridge the developmental gap between childhood and adulthood.

**Literacy Month**

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 goals focussing on policy driven research, capacity building and advocacy. The "Education for All" objective is to increase literacy rates by 50 per cent by 2015.

**Child Abuse Prevention Month**

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.

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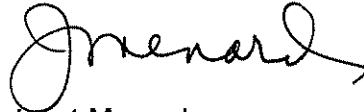
**PROCLAMATION OF VARIOUS EVENTS**

**CONCLUSION**

Proclaiming important dates and supporting events which honour and support Human Services and Health Services programs that help provide a higher quality of life in the community, builds awareness and understanding about our collective roles and responsibilities. The proposed proclamations are attached as Appendix I to IV.



Janette Smith  
Commissioner of Health Services



Janet Menard  
Commissioner of Human Services

**Approved for Submission:**



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D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

*For further information regarding this report, please contact Lisa Duarte at extension 4862 or via email at [lisa.duarte@peelregion.ca](mailto:lisa.duarte@peelregion.ca)*

# Proclamation

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

MARCH 21, 2012

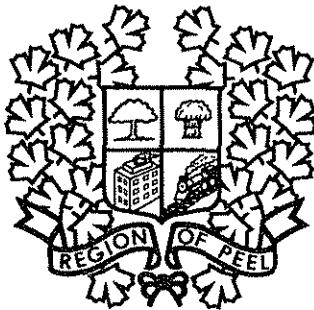
WHEREAS, in 1966, Canada supported the United Nations General Assembly resolution to honour the victims of the Sharpeville massacre by designating March 21 as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

AND WHEREAS, racism destroys the fabric of society, creating barriers to opportunities, prosperity, fairness and democracy, divides communities and erodes the human spirit;

AND WHEREAS, racism combined with factors including but not limited to gender, differing ability, sexual orientation and place of origin compound the discrimination faced by individuals and communities who seek full and equitable participation in the region's political, social, economic and cultural life;

AND WHEREAS, it is everyone's duty to work towards the elimination of racism and discrimination to achieve a civil society where we all have the right to live in conditions of dignity, respect and peace;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that March 21, 2012, be proclaimed "INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



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Emil Kolb  
Regional Chair

# Proclamation

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

MAY 1 TO 7, 2012

**WHEREAS, National Youth Week is dedicated to the celebration of youth and their active participation in their community;**

**AND WHEREAS, every day young people are involved in meaningful activities whether it is recreation, drama, sport, dance, civic engagement, art, volunteerism or leadership;**

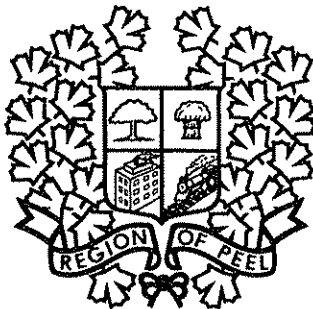
**AND WHEREAS, youth, in their teenage years, are an important asset to Canadian communities;**

**AND WHEREAS, through activities, such as recreation and art, youth learn five basic life skills, which include social, moral, ethical, physical and cognition competence;**

**AND WHEREAS, through their involvement, young people are meeting the seven developmental needs such as self-definition, physical activity, meaningful participation, mastery and achievement, positive interaction with adults and peers, structure and clear limits, and creative expression;**

**AND WHEREAS, in 2006 a resolution was created by a network of Intentional Youth Development Workers from across the country and presented to the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA), an organization representing more than 2,600 members across the country and passed unanimously;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that May 1 to 7, 2012, be proclaimed "NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.**



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Emil Kolb  
Regional Chair

# Proclamation

LITERACY MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2012

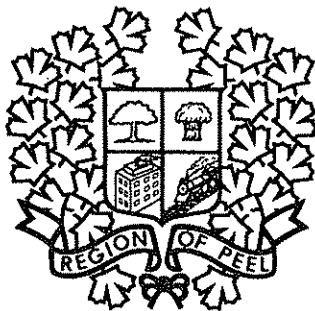
WHEREAS, the Region of Peel – Human Services Department is committed to raising awareness of events promoting literacy and lifelong learning in Peel throughout the month of September 2012;

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 2012, be proclaimed "LITERACY MONTH" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



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Emil Kolb  
Regional Chair

# Proclamation

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

OCTOBER 2012

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;

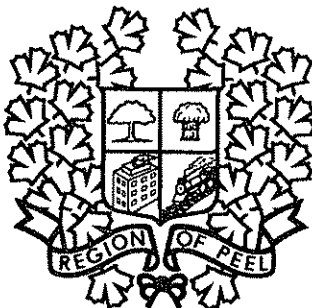
AND WHEREAS, the Region of Peel, through its many programs and services, including Children's Services, Ontario Works, Peel Living, Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, Child and Reproductive Health Programs, and Peel Regional Police Services and our responsibility to Peel's Children's Charter of Rights and Peel's Youth Charter 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;

AND WHEREAS, 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 2012, be proclaimed "CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



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Emil Kolb  
Regional Chair