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DATE: March 26, 2012

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

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That May 12, 2012 be proclaimed Canada Health Day in the Regional Municipality of Peel;**

**And further, that the week of May 7 to 13, 2012 be proclaimed Nursing Week in the Regional Municipality of Peel;**

**And further, that the week of May 20 to 26, 2012 to be proclaimed Paramedic Week in the Regional Municipality of 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. The average client satisfaction ratings with services offered by Health Services were 8.8 out of 10 according to the Region of Peel's 2011 client satisfaction survey.
- Paramedic Week highlights the high quality, life saving pre-hospital care provided by paramedics.
- Nursing Week recognizes nurses working in settings across the Region including long-term care, public health and occupational health.

### **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 serving the community for 114 years. With five long term care homes: Davis Centre, Malton Village, Peel Manor, Sheridan Villa and Tall Pines, and adult day services at four sites, staff provide care to 703 residents and adult day service participants.

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The first Public Health Unit was established in 1946. Throughout the past 66 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, and promotion of healthy pregnancy and child development.

On December 1, 2004 Peel Region assumed direct delivery of paramedic services. Peel Regional Paramedic Services 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, Paramedic Services increases the number of residents trained in CPR and supports injury prevention initiatives throughout the Peel community.

### **a) Canada Health Day – May 12, 2012**

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. The average client satisfaction ratings for Health Services in the 2011 Region of Peel Client Satisfaction Survey was 8.8 out of 10. 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 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.

### **b) Nursing Week – May 7 to 13, 2012**

In 1971, the International Council of Nurses designated May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday, as International Nurses Day. In 1985, in recognition of the dedication and achievements of the nursing profession, the Federal Minister of Health proclaimed the second week of May as National Nursing Week in Canada.

Nightingale is best known around the world as the "Lady with the Lamp" who nursed British soldiers during the Crimean War and turned nursing into a profession. But she was also much more than that. She was an activist, social theorist and author who's advocacy to improve health and sanitation for British Army soldiers, and writings on hospital planning and organization laid the foundation for nursing's emphasis on social determinants of health today.

Nursing Week gives nurses across the world the chance to celebrate the work they do to keep Nightingale's work alive by advocating for policies that keep people healthy, and care for them when they're ill. At the Region there are nurses working in the long-term care centres, in public health and in the occupational health program.

The theme for this year's 2012 Nursing Week is "Nursing – The Health of Our Nation." It reflects the positive impacts nurses make to the lives and well-being of Canadians.

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**c) Paramedic Week – May 20 to 26, 2012**

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 lives, decreasing suffering and promoting community safety.

**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.

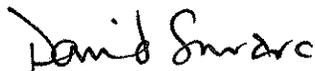


Janette Smith  
Commissioner of Health Services



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

**Approved for Submission:**



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D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

*For further information regarding this report, please contact Janette Smith at extension 4901 or via email at [janette.smith@peelregion.ca](mailto: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, 2012

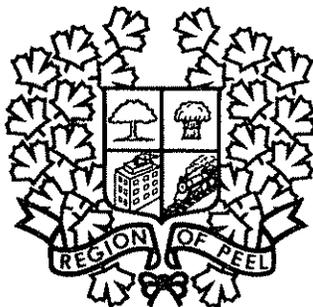
**WHEREAS, the Canadian Public Health Association and the Canadian Healthcare Association designated May 12 as Canada Health Day in 1981;**

**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 2,400 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, 2012 be proclaimed "CANADA HEALTH DAY" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.**



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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 7 to May 13, 2012

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

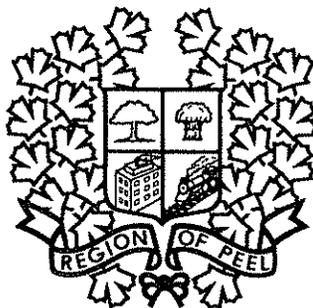
AND WHEREAS, National Nursing Week is a time to celebrate nurses, the history of their profession and where they see the future of nursing going;

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 7 to May 13, 2012, be proclaimed "NATIONAL NURSING WEEK" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



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Emil Kolb  
Regional Chair

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APPENDIX III

# Proclamation

## PARAMEDIC WEEK

May 20 to May 26, 2012

WHEREAS, each year Peel Regional Paramedic Services responds to over 85,000 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;

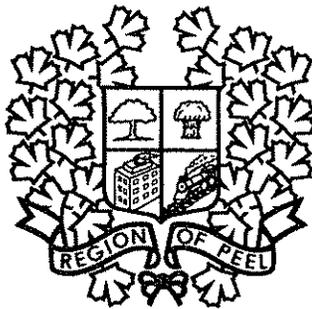
AND WHEREAS, access to quality pre-hospital emergency medical care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury;

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 20 to May 26, 2012, be proclaimed "PARAMEDIC WEEK" in the Regional Municipality of Peel.



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Emil Kolb  
Regional Chair