

Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board

Report of the Executive Director – May 31, 2007

2007 Diversity in Governance Award

Recommendation

1. That the Board receive this report and continue to support diversity in governance and service.

Background

The Maytree Foundation is a private charitable foundation committed to reducing poverty and inequality in Canada and to building strong civic communities. The Foundation identifies supports and funds ideas, leaders and organizations that have the capacity to make change and advance the common good. One initiative of the Foundation – abcGTA – works to ensure that the governance bodies of public agencies, boards, commissions and voluntary organizations reflect the diversity of the Greater Toronto Area. *Reference: May 2, 2007 Media Release issued by The Maytree Foundation.*

Four principles guide The Maytree Foundation's work:

1. A strong Canada should be served by responsive and dynamic institutions and governments that act as equalizers of social inequality;
2. Communities have the potential to resolve their own problems;
3. Leadership is essential in effecting social change; and
4. A diversity of people, approaches, perspectives and experiences is essential to the strengthening of our society. *Reference: The Maytree Foundation Annual Report 2006.*

In March 2007, The Maytree Foundation invited submissions from municipal and provincial Agencies, Boards or Commissions, Advisory Boards, other public institutions and non-profit organizations for its *Diversity in Governance Awards 2007*. Specifically, The Maytree Foundation was interested in hearing about organizational strategies and practices to create a more inclusive board.

On March 23, 2007, and in consultation with Vice-Chair Danny Wheeler, the Executive Director nominated the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board for a *Diversity in Governance Award 2007* in the Municipal Board Category and supported her nomination with the attached submission outlining the Board's innovative practices and unprecedented achievements in diversity in police governance.

Diversity in Governance Awards

In April 2007, The Maytree Foundation selected the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board to receive the *Diversity in Governance Award 2007 – Honourable Mention, Municipal Category*. Four other organizations were also celebrated for commitment and innovation in creating inclusive boards.

Award recipients were selected for their best practices in recruiting, appointing and engaging board members from diverse communities. Successful strategies include well-established diversity policies, outreach to diverse communities, measurement and reporting on diversity goals and professional development of board members.

On May 2, 2007, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Mike Colle and Alan Broadbent, Chairman of The Maytree Foundation presented Chair David Barrow, Mrs. Daisy Wai and the Executive Director with the *Diversity in Governance Award 2007 – Honourable Mention, Municipal Category* at a gala reception at the Foundation's Leadership Conference in Toronto.

In the backgrounder to its May 2, 2007 media release, The Maytree Foundation reported:

**“THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK POLICE SERVICES BOARD
Honourable Mention, Municipal Category**

The Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board has made specific commitments to diversity in its business planning, including: increasing the appeal of policing as a profession amongst diverse young people through its Recruiting with Vision Strategy; increasing the sensitivity of new officers to multicultural communities through its Recruit Community Insight Program; and establishing a Civic Leadership Award to honour stellar community leaders who promote understanding and tolerance in the community. As one of the most diverse Police Services Boards in Ontario, the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board considers the implications on the diverse community when formulating its governance policies that provide direction to the York Regional Police.” *Backgrounder to Media Release*

Summary

On May 2, 2007, The Maytree Foundation presented the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board with the prestigious *Diversity in Governance Award 2007 – Honourable Mention, Municipal Category*.

The Board was honoured for its leadership in developing innovative and successful initiatives to engage the citizens it serves and for its concerted efforts to sustain an inclusive board that strives, through excellence in governance, to make a difference in the community.

Connie Phillipson
Executive Director

Attachment