

Joint Media Release

Municipal collaboration nets \$750,000 savings

YORK REGION, December 7, 2011 – Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville – the northern six municipalities of York Region – have joined forces to save \$750,000 in insurance premiums over the next 12 months.

In June, under the direction of the six municipal Chief Administrative Officers, the northern six municipalities (N6) issued a joint Request For Proposal (RFP) that would provide coverage for all their insurance requirements including property, liability, environmental, crime, and auto protection. As a result of the RFP being awarded, the municipalities will collectively reduce costs by approximately \$750,000 in insurance premiums in the first year.

The purpose of the collaboration was to go to the municipal insurance markets and get the best coverage for the best price. Rising claims in Ontario municipalities recently have resulted in a significant increase in insurance premiums. By working together to pool their purchasing power, the N6 have lowered their costs without compromising insurance coverage.

This is the first time the N6 have joined forces to purchase insurance, though it's not the first time they have demonstrated the value in partnering with neighbouring municipalities. In 2006 a similar approach was taken to jointly contract garbage collection, resulting in projected savings of approximately \$11 million over 10 years.

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Quotes

Aurora:

“Working together, the N6 municipalities have found a cost saving solution for our taxpayers while upholding the quality of our insurance coverage. This is a great milestone for our community,” said John Leach, Director of Customer and Legislative Services.

East Gwillimbury:

“This initiative is an excellent example of how working together to achieve a common goal makes good business sense,” said Hajnalka Hartwick, spokesperson for East Gwillimbury, the town that led the joint initiative. “We have the insurance we need, and we have collectively saved our taxpayers money.”

Georgina:

“The Town of Georgina has achieved enhanced insurance and risk management services, as well as annual savings of \$200 thousand through this recent joint initiative of the N6 municipalities” said Rebecca Mathewson, Georgina’s Director of Administrative Services and Treasurer.

King:

“The Township of King is very pleased with the outcome of this collaborative initiative,” said Jeff Schmidt, Director of Finance/Treasurer. “We set out as a group to obtain the best insurance coverage for the best price and that is ultimately what we achieved.”

Newmarket:

“The N6 partnership is an innovative example of municipal neighbours collaborating and sharing in the name of efficiency and effectiveness,” said Anita Moore, Director of Legislative Services for the Town of Newmarket. “This latest N6 partnership is another watershed example of what can be accomplished when governments work together, and has resulted in realizing efficiencies and cost avoidance for all of our tax payers.”

Whitchurch-Stouffville:

“We value partnerships with other municipalities, particularly the N6 group”, noted Marc J. Pourvahidi, Director of Finance from the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. He explained further that “the joint initiatives we have undertaken for operational and administrative projects have allowed us to make cost effective decisions together.”

