



# TOWN OF NEWMARKET

Anita Moore  
Town Clerk  
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*General Ltee*  
*- Receive*

September 18, 2006

Ms. Sheila Birrell, Clerk  
Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Blvd.  
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

Dear Ms. Birrell:

**RE: Corporate and Financial Services Report – Clerk's 2006-33  
Kids Can Vote Curriculum**

I am writing to advise that the above referenced matter was considered by Council at the regular meeting held on Monday, September 11, 2006.

The following recommendations were adopted:

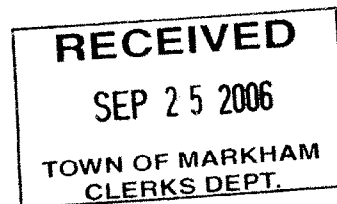
1. **THAT the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board be contacted with regards to developing a supplementary curriculum guide in early 2007 that provides students detailed knowledge about the municipal government system in Newmarket;**
2. **AND THAT the municipalities in York Region be provided a copy of this report and be requested to support this initiative by providing information about their respective local governments to the school boards for the supplementary curriculum guide.**

Yours sincerely,

Anita Moore  
Town Clerk

AM:lm

Enclosure (1)



**Newmarket's vision: A community well beyond the ordinary**

395 Mulock Drive, P.O. Box 328, STN MAIN NEWMARKET, ON L3Y 4X7  
Direct Dial: 905-953-5300 General Information: 905-895-5193 Fax: 905-953-5100

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# TOWN OF NEWMARKET

Corporate and Financial Services

Clerk's Office  
clerks@newmarket.ca

Reports of Committees  
and Staff

69.1

September 7, 2006

## CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT – CLERK'S 2006-33

TO: Council

SUBJECT: Kids Can Vote Curriculum

ORIGIN: Vote 2006 Strategy Coordinator

### RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Corporate and Financial Services Report – Clerk's 2006-33 dated September 7, 2006 be received and the following recommendations be adopted:

1. THAT the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board be contacted with regards to developing a supplementary curriculum guide in early 2007 that provides students detailed knowledge about the municipal government system in Newmarket;
2. AND THAT the municipalities in York Region be provided a copy of this report and be requested to support this initiative by providing information about their respective local governments to the school boards for the supplementary curriculum guide.

### COMMENTS

According to the standards established by the Ontario Ministry of Education, students across the province are taught about governments in Canada through the Social Studies classes in Grade 5 (*Canada and World Connections*) and through the Canadian and World Studies classes in Grade 10 (*Civics*).

While the Ministry approved textbooks for these classes provide an excellent overview of municipal governments in Canada, it lacks finer details on the two-tier municipal government structure that exists in Newmarket. In essence, Newmarket students in these classes may not be fully aware which municipal tier is responsible for delivering what local service – the Town of Newmarket or York Region. In addition, they may be unaware that voting in a Newmarket municipal election is different than voting in a federal or provincial election.

In response to this oversight, the Town of Newmarket developed a School Resource Kit for the 2006 Kids Can Vote program which has been distributed to local schools. Among other things, it contains detailed information about the two-tier municipal structure in Newmarket as well as the municipal election process.

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While the kit provides valuable information to Newmarket students, it should be pointed out that such a kit is also subject to the approval of each school board in York Region – the York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB). These school boards are under obligation to ensure that any teaching materials used in their schools not only conform to provincial curriculum standards but their own internal teaching policies as well. In designing a school kit, it is important to convey to the school boards that the kit is designed to augment the current curriculum that is taught in their schools – not replace it. This is one challenge for the Newmarket's Kids Can Vote program.

Another challenge to the value of the Kids Can Vote program is the fact that such a program is conducted at every municipal election. Since the term of municipal office has been recently extended by the Ontario government from three years to four years, this means that a new kit has to be developed every four years. Since the secondary school curriculum is also four years in length, this also means that the kit has just one opportunity to reach Newmarket high school students before they become of voting age and leave high school.

In order to overcome these challenges, it is important to ensure that Newmarket students continue to understand in some way the municipal government system in Newmarket as well as the voting practices at the federal, provincial and local level on an annual basis – not just every four years. In this regard, it is in Newmarket's best interest that the Town should contact both school boards with respect to developing a supplementary curriculum guide that provides this detailed information to local students.

Since both school boards encompass York Region, it may also be in Newmarket's best interests that other York Region municipalities not only be encouraged to lend support to Newmarket's initiative but also be invited to provide information about their respective local governments to the school boards. This extra information may reveal to the students the intricate relationship the Town has with its neighbouring municipalities.

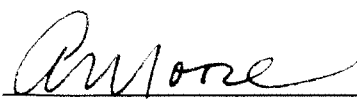
### **BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES**


The recommendations directly relate to the First Recommendation of the Vote 2006 Task Force Report which stated that "staff develop and implement an expanded Kids Vote program (to include high school students)."

The recommendations also relate to the Well-Respected link of the Town's Community Vision by making Newmarket a community well beyond the ordinary, specifically by "promoting engagement in civic affairs."

### **BUDGET IMPACT (CURRENT AND FUTURE)**

None. It has been accounted for under the budget allocated for the 2006 municipal election.

  
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Town Clerk

  
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Commissioner of Corporate and Financial  
Services/Treasurer