



## MEDIA RELEASE



The Regional Municipality of York

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Monday, January 6, 2014

### Limited number of food cards available to York Region residents in need

Provincial assistance available to eligible residents following ice storm power outages

Beginning Tuesday, January 7, eligible York Region residents may receive help to replace food spoiled during the recent ice storm through a Provincial program offering a limited number of grocery cards.

**To determine eligibility, York Region residents should call the Access York Contact Centre at 1-888-256-1112, TTY: 905-762-0401. Residents must have been without power for more than 48 hours and face financial difficulty in replacing spoiled food. A very limited number of grocery cards are available and will be distributed by mail only. Grocery cards will not be available in person.**

The Ontario government is offering the one-time grocery gift card program in York Region and other communities to help residents who are unable to replace spoiled food without financial assistance. The program will not provide grocery cards to all households that lost power and is intended to aid only those most in need.

More than 7,000 households in York Region were affected by recent power outages for more than 48 hours.

Eligible families can receive one \$100 grocery card per household or eligible individuals can receive one \$50 grocery card per person.

York Region anticipates a high demand for the grocery cards and thanks residents for their patience during this process.

For more information about the grocery gift card program, please call the Access York Contact Centre at 1-888-256-1112, TTY: 905-762-0401.

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*The Regional Municipality of York provides services to 1.1 million residents and 42,000 businesses that employ 533,000 people*