

## **Government Relations & Strategic Partnership Development**

### **Priority Action Areas 2006/2007**

Following HRM's Government Relations & Strategic Partnership Development Policy, Priority Action Areas are developed and reviewed yearly based on: Council direction, business plan priorities and CAO goals and objectives. As required for implementation of Corporate Strategies or Plans (such as the Regional Plan, Economic Strategy or Cultural Plan), other specific activities will be incorporated. All activity will be consistent with the Government Relations and Strategic Partnership Development Policy. The areas noted below are organized by HRM Business Unit for implementation and tracking purposes. The following does not prioritize actions, initiatives or requirements; rather it provides a sense of the areas requiring attention from a corporate coordination perspective.

#### **HRM Focus: Provincial/Federal Governments**

##### **Chief Administrative Office**

###### Commonwealth Games

- collaborative approaches to a successful international bid

###### Economic strategy implementation

- work with relevant agencies and funding partners to develop an appropriate model for economic development within HRM
- work with government and community partners to implement the actions identified in the Economic Strategy

###### Federal revenue sharing

- through FCM, participate in revenue sharing advocacy initiatives

###### Infrastructure funding

- continue to work with government partners to negotiate funding programs and criteria to benefit HRM (including MRIF, Public Transit Funding, Gas Tax, CSIF)
- pursue strategic opportunities for federal/provincial funding of wastewater/stormwater infrastructure
- pursue strategic opportunities for federal/provincial funding for Broadband
- pursue strategic opportunities for federal/provincial funding for recreation facilities

###### Opportunities for plan alignment

- identify and implement opportunities for bilateral or trilateral alignment of operational or strategic planning (eg. Strategic Joint Regional Transportation Planning Committee)

Partnership approach to infrastructure investment

- where feasible work with Federal and Provincial partners to align priorities regarding investment in capital infrastructure within the region

Tripartite agreement development

- as identified by the Gas Tax Agreement, work with Provincial and Federal governments to develop a tri-partite agreement on areas of shared priority

## **Community Culture and Economic Development**

Cultural priority setting and investment planning

- work collaboratively with Provincial partners to set joint priorities regarding cultural infrastructure and investment within the region

## **Environmental Management Services**

District Energy

- advocate for funding confirmation to enable the District Energy Project to proceed

Halifax Regional Water Commission

- secure provincial authorization to regulate HRM wastewater services via UARB

Joint Sustainability Office

- establishment of a tri-level Joint Sustainability Office

Sewage Treatment Plants

- federal and provincial support for Risk Based Management Approach

Solid Waste Exportation

- advocate for the Province of Nova Scotia to provide legislation ensuring that waste can only be exported to another region through an inter-municipal agreement

Solid Waste Resources

- work with the Province and HRM composting partners for a tripartite agreement on the implementation process of the new NS Composting Guidelines, pursue strategic opportunities for Provincial/RRFB/private sector funding
- extended producer responsibility for solid waste

## **Finance**

Fair and Equitable funding

- support the recommendations of the Fair and Equitable Funding Implementation Plan.

Municipal tax reform

- establish intergovernmental working relationship respecting approach to municipal tax reform

Non-discretionary transfers to Province of Nova Scotia

- initiate conversations, advocate for adherence to advance notice requirements and reduction of portion of tax capacity for funding of provincial responsibilities

Supplementary education funding

- Support provincial funding for education such that Supplementary Funding is no longer required

## **Halifax Regional Fire and Halifax Regional Police**

Fire Protection

- Complete a Hazard Assessment of Halifax harbour in conjunction with the Halifax Port Authority, DND and EMO Nova Scotia
- Develop a plan to identify resources, facilities and equipment that will be required to deliver services to the HIAA and Aerotech Park

Public safety and emergency preparedness

- Advocate to have municipalities recognized as a full partner during federal/provincial discussions
- Work to ensure access to new federal and provincial funds committed for police officers

## **Legal**

Municipal court

- pursue ability to implement municipal court within HRM

Pension Solvency

- adoption of regulations pursuant to the Pension Benefits Act which would exempt HRM in particular and perhaps Nova Scotia municipalities generally from the requirement to fund pension plan solvency deficiencies

Regional plan

- work with Provincial partners to enable legislation required for successful implementation of Regional Plan

## **Planning and Development/Transportation**

Harbourlink

- pursue strategic opportunities for federal/provincial funding of the Harbourlink

## **HRM Focus: Strategic Partnerships**

Areas of strategic partnership focus, for the current year, will include:

- Implementation of MOU with Metro University Presidents Consortium with priority focus on recreation and transit.
- Development of an MOU with Nova Scotia Community College.

- Development of a strengthened and collaborative relationship with DND in Halifax Regional Municipality.
- Participation in Halifax Gateway Council and advancement of Gateway concept to benefit of region.
- Enhanced engagement of community partners including (but not limited to):
  - Canada Post
  - Canadian Federation of Independent Business
  - Canadian National Railway
  - Community Energy MOU
  - External utilities
  - Halifax Chamber of Commerce
  - Halifax International Airport Authority
  - Halifax Port Authority
  - Waterfront Development Corporation Limited
  - Workers Compensation Board

In all cases, strengthening relationships, and ensuring a solid foundation on which specific initiatives can be built is key.

For more information contact HRM Intergovernmental Affairs, 490-3677