

Halifax Regional Municipality



Government Relations and Strategic Partnership Development



Priority Action Areas 2008 / 2009



For more information contact
Dan English
Chief Administrative Officer
englisd@halifax.ca
490-6430

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Priority Action Areas 2008/2009

Following HRM's Government Relations & Strategic Partnership Development Policy, Priority Action Areas are developed and reviewed regularly based on: Council direction, Corporate Strategies or Plans, CAO goals and objectives, and business plan priorities.

The areas noted below are organized by strategic initiative and include steps underway to implement each initiative, from an intergovernmental perspective. The following does not prioritize actions, initiatives or requirements; rather it provides a sense of the areas that are being or need to be coordinated with other levels of government. The priority action areas are not an all-inclusive account of necessary activities. Focus will be added in different areas as required.





Halifax Wastewater Treatment Facility, Upper Water Street



BioSolids Processing Facility, Aerotech Park, 2007



HRM Focus: Provincial/Federal Governments

Community Development

Community Development encompasses a range of key areas, including youth, environment, transportation, and urban planning and design. It also includes Regional Plan implementation – the plan that will direct growth and development in HRM over the next 25 years.

Current Focus:

Environment

- Advance HRM's input re: Provincial Energy Strategy renewal
- Working towards establishment of a new provincial Climate Change Strategy
- Establish HRM as a major stakeholder in the development of the provincial water resources management strategy, which will focus on identifying, protecting and monitoring sustainable use of water resources
- Continue to liaise with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to seek pragmatic solutions around implementation of new federal wastewater legislation (the municipal wastewater effluent strategy)
- Increased focus on provincial Airshed Management initiative (overall collaborative planning approach to clean air), and the need for transparent reporting / information-sharing
- Work with the province to maintain the effective legislation and regulations currently in place around biosolids.

Urban Planning and Design

- Advance legislative changes around the HRMbyDesign downtown planning program
- Strategic Land Acquisitions between HRM and the Department of Natural Resources
- Development of an MOU for land transfer around Capital District Public Lands.



Grand Promenade looking west towards the Clock Tower

One of the 10 “Big Moves” of the Downtown Halifax Vision - #6. Great streets that support a culture of walking



Burnside transportation infrastructure completed, 2007/08



Central Library open house presentation, June 2008



Infrastructure

HRM is currently working towards the development of a long-term infrastructure strategy for the region. This strategy will guide infrastructure investment to address asset deterioration and deficiencies through recapitalization, while balancing new capability projects required to support areas of growth.

Current Focus:

- Continue to work with government partners to negotiate funding programs and criteria to benefit HRM (such as MRIF, Public Transit Funding, Gas Tax, CSIF, Building Canada)
- Pursue strategic opportunities for federal/provincial funding for recreation facilities and libraries (e.g., the Mainland Common recreation centre and Central library construction)
- Continue the intergovernmental working relationship around the 2011 Canada Winter Games
- Work with Federal and Provincial partners to align priorities regarding investment in capital infrastructure within the region, where feasible
- Complete a cooperative assessment and review of ownership and condition of bridges and dams in HRM
- Federal revenue sharing - through FCM, participate in revenue sharing advocacy initiatives
- Implement opportunities for joint land-use planning
- Identify and implement opportunities for energy efficiency projects
- Pursue strategic opportunities for investment in active transportation and public transit which furthers environmental sustainability objectives
- Engage and collaborate with province on the assessment of projects for P3 partnerships (e.g., trunk mobile radio services)
- Work with the province and related third parties around the development of a proposal for a new convention centre.



"How Your Municipal Tax Dollars Are Spent", 2008

Tax Reform

In January of 2007 Regional Council established its Tax Reform Committee to review the current property tax system as one of the Council Focus Areas. A Mission Statement with seven principles and 29 objectives has been created for a possible new property tax system. The Committee has created a draft tax model for public feedback. Public consultations will be ongoing.



Current Focus:

- Joint discussions with Canada Revenue Agency regarding the administration of a low income rebate or circuit breaker
- HRM to communicate regularly with province on municipal tax reform
- Possible legislative changes required as final tax reform recommendations are finalized.



Tax Reform public consultation meeting, 2008



Public Safety

The umbrella of public safety includes by-law enforcement, Emergency Measures (EMO), Fire Services, Integrated Emergency Services, HRP and RCMP. HRM Fire and Police are striving to develop new partnerships and enhance existing ones through community and government participation and engagement.

Current Focus:

Fire Protection

- Volunteer recruitment & retention. HRM is represented on a provincial committee established to study and look at ways to retain and recruit volunteer firefighters across the province
- Firefighter Training. The Nova Scotia Fire Service Training Committee identified a requirement for \$34 million in capital spending spread over several years to address training needs across the province. HRM will continue to work with the Committee and the Government of Nova Scotia to address the training needs in HRM and the province
- Development of a service provision agreement with HIAA that delineates responsibilities and jurisdiction of HRM and HIAA fire services.

Policing

- Advocate to have municipalities recognized as a full partner during federal/provincial discussions regarding public safety and emergency preparedness
- Safer Streets & Communities Task Force – program expansion to include new neighbourhoods in HRM
- Continued advocacy for funding of Police Officers.

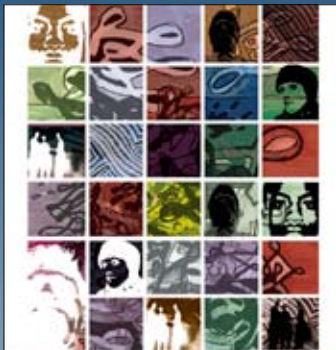


Mock Emergency Exercise



Lake Echo/Porter's Lake Fire, June 2008





"Show Your Culture, HRM's Cultural Plan for Everyone"

Cultural Plan

The Cultural Plan is a comprehensive policy and action plan to guide investment and set priorities for Culture over the next ten years. The Cultural Plan links directly to HRM's growth management, economic development and community development strategies, and it is a key pillar of healthy and sustainable growth for the region.

Current Focus:

- Historic Places Initiative - ensure our municipal registry of heritage buildings is included in the Federal Historic Places Program Registry, and work to demonstrate need for the federal registry to be maintained and updated beyond the funding expiration of 2011
- Work with provincial and federal government in developing HRM's new Cultural Expo initiative
- Advocate for Halifax to receive a 2010 Cultural Capital of Canada designation.



Registered heritage property, North Street, Halifax



A vibrant and unique community - Multi-Cultural Festival



Halifax Waterfront Boardwalk



Hakodate twin-city anniversary celebrations

Economic Strategy

HRM's Economic Strategy identifies ways in which the city can attract and retain immigrants and expatriates; create a competitive business environment; increase exports; benchmark tax, regulation and development approvals and timing; and work with partners to identify common values and vision. The Strategy has five goals to achieve these aims:

- Increase HRM's labour force by generating upscale, high-salary jobs in growth industries that will retain graduates from our universities, attract well-educated immigrants, and entice expats to return
- Leverage the creative community by investing in social and cultural infrastructure to enhance HRM's reputation as a vibrant and unique community
- Develop the best business climate in Canada, one able to start and grow ambitious new enterprises and attract companies from around the world
- Capitalize on HRM's reputation as a beautiful, immensely liveable place with history and creativity, to attract companies and people
- Ensure all partners in the community are working towards common goals to fully leverage their efforts. These include government agencies, non-profit organizations, post-secondary institutions and the business community.

HRM works diligently in collaboration with all levels of government, as well as with key economic partners such as the Halifax Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Halifax Partnership, to implement the strategy goals and priorities.

Current Focus:

- Participation on Economic Strategy Advisory Committee for strategy oversight
- Continued work with government and community partners to implement the actions identified in the Economic Strategy
- Work with federal and provincial partners to ensure appropriate funding for regional economic development agency
- Develop a service agreement with Destination Halifax
- Work with partners to identify major gaps in skills and training in HRM's labour market and focus on ways in which to address the shortfall and knowledge gap.



Accessible playground



Intergovernmental working relationship regarding new entrepreneur immigration program



Immigration Action Plan

The Action Plan sets out a series of tasks that HRM will undertake in providing services to our citizens to create and maintain a more welcoming community. HRM's Immigration Plan will complement provincial immigration initiatives, while recognizing the municipal mandate and supporting the key components of the Halifax Region Immigration Strategy.

Current Focus:

- Develop an intergovernmental working relationship with the province regarding its new entrepreneur immigration stream and the Provincial Nominee Program
- Identify linkages between the federal, provincial and municipal programs and explore ways to better connect with arriving immigrants to inform them of community programs and services
- Work with government partners, businesses, existing ethnic and cultural communities and recent immigrants to attract and retain newcomers
- Collaborate with Greater Halifax Partnership to develop a "Welcoming Communities" marketing campaign.



Metro Transit Bus Ad



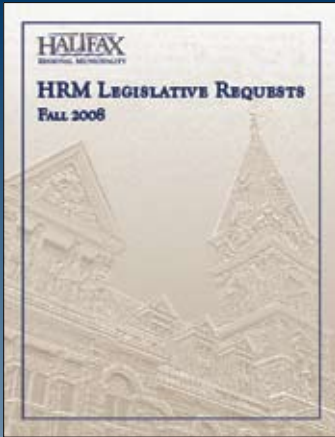
Atlantic Gateway

HRM is well positioned to expand its role as a key hub in the Atlantic Gateway for the shipment of goods both to and from North America. The transportation sector represents a significant driver in the municipal economy and we must work with our stakeholders collaboratively to build and strengthen the sector. The proposed vision is Canada's Atlantic Gateway as the premiere integrated transportation network on the East Coast of North America. The general role of HRM is one of strategic support in key priority areas related to the municipal mandate.

Current Focus:

- Alignment of Gateway partners, including municipal, provincial and federal, to ensure agreement on key priorities
- Advancement of Gateway concept to benefit of region
- Working with partners to develop a long range land use plan for Halifax Harbour
- Maximize opportunities to leverage infrastructure funding for Gateway-related initiatives
- Engagement with Halifax Port Authority and Halifax Robert L. Stanfield International Airport Authority, particularly on land needs and acquisitions
- Marketing and planning for Burnside Phase 12 and 13 as the Atlantic Gateway Logistics Park.





HRM Charter

HRM is the economic and population hub of Nova Scotia. Its population and commercial and residential developments continue to grow each year. In order to manage local issues effectively, HRM's evolution calls for innovative policy design, regulatory flexibility and the ability to secure legislative amendments in a timely manner.

All municipalities in Nova Scotia are governed by the Municipal Government Act. Under the MGA, municipal powers are limited in scope and require frequent administrative amendments. For a city of HRM's size, the need to wait for these amendments affects Regional Council's ability to respond to local issues. A Charter will provide HRM with the flexibility to deal with municipal issues in an innovative and timely manner, and it will recognize the unique needs and relative scope of HRM.

Current Focus:

- HRM continues to advocate for the implementation of a Charter for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Strong Neighbourhoods

Originally a proposed tripartite agreement between federal, provincial and municipal governments as identified by the Gas Tax Agreement, HRM has proposed a renewed focus on shared priority areas.

Current Focus:

- Work towards a bilateral/trilateral agreement around the Strong Neighbourhoods theme, such as youth, housing and crime prevention
- Increased emphasis on HRM's designation as one of Canada's Safe Communities, an initiative that has private and public sectors working to promote a culture of safety and improve the health and safety of workers and people in the community. HRM has an injury and crime reduction strategy that focuses on key areas such as fall prevention, reducing motor vehicle injuries and self-inflicted injuries.

HRM Focus: Strategic Partnerships



Metro University Presidents Consortium



Dan English, CAO; Chris Power,
Capital District Health Authority

■ Memorandums of Understanding with Community Partners

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

- Continued implementation of MOU with Metro University Presidents Consortium with priority focus on four areas:
 - Research-sharing
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Funding Application support
 - Youth engagement
 - Public Safety
- Implementation of MOU with Capital District Health Authority with priority focus in three areas:
 - Integration of project-specific communications initiatives
 - Partnerships around wellness centres in new recreation facilities
 - Joint work and information-sharing around employee wellness initiatives
- Finalization of an MOU with Nova Scotia Community College
- Development of MOUs with Halifax Robert L. Stanfield International Airport Authority, Halifax Port Authority, Halifax Regional School Board, and Department of National Defence.



Youth engagement -
www.hrmyouth.ca

Good Neighbours Great Neighbourhoods

HRM has commenced a social marketing campaign that aims to increase civic pride; improve the local environment; and encourage residents to participate in community life. Focus areas include reducing graffiti, pollution and litter, and increasing voluntarism, stewardship, participation, civic pride, acceptance of newcomers, youth engagement, and awareness of HRM/councils works. The initiative will seek key external partners and provide resources for neighbourhoods to mobilize from within.



Metro Transit bus board



www.myhrm.ca



Reducing graffiti - community artists paint murals along the Harbour Front Trail, Downtown Dartmouth



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE