

Glossary

Accrual Basis	Accounting for expenses and revenues as they are incurred, not when funds are actually disbursed or received (see Cash Basis).
Amalgamation Costs	The costs directly associated with the amalgamation of the former municipal units which now comprise HRM. These costs are being amortized over 10 years.
Area-Rates	Similar to Property Tax Rates, except that the tax is applied only to real property in a specified area for the purpose of funding a specific service that benefits that area only. (Compare Regional Area Rate)
Assessment	(see Property Assessment)
Assessment Appeals	The Province of Nova Scotia permits property owners to appeal the assessment figures provided in their annual Notice of Assessment.
Assessment Cap	The percentage that a property assessment can rise, for taxation purposes, in any given year. Under provincial law the percentage is set at the Consumer Price Index for the previous year. Some properties, such as apartments, are ineligible.
Assessment Lift	The total increase in the assessment base from one year to the next.
Assessment Roll	The assessed value of all properties within the municipality as provided by the Province of Nova Scotia.
Assets	The property owned by an entity.
Balance Sheet	Summary of assets, liabilities, and equity. The total value of assets must equal the sum of the total liabilities and equity.
Base Budget/Base Case	The budget amounts required to provide the same level of service as was provided in the prior year.
Base Projects	Capital projects which maintain current service levels. This normally involves replacement or recapitalization of an existing asset.
Base General Tax Rate	The general property tax rate applicable to all taxable properties within

the rural area of HRM.

BPIM	Business Planning and Information Management
Budget Envelopes	Sum of funding allocated to a business unit within which to develop a budget. Operating budget envelopes are net of (after) business unit revenues. Capital budget envelopes are net of reserves, area rates, LICs, CCC, and external cost sharing.
Business Occupancy Openings	Increases in Business Occupancy Assessment which occurs because of businesses commencing operations at a location.
Business Occupancy Closings	Reductions in Business Occupancy Assessment which occurs due to businesses discontinuing operations at a location.
Business Occupancy Taxes	Property occupied for the purpose of carrying on a business can be levied a tax based on a percentage of the assessed value occupied. This tax is in addition to any property taxes levied.
Business Plans	Include program objectives, outcomes desired, resources required and performance measures used to determine whether outcomes have been achieved.
Business Units	High level corporate divisions based on major services.
Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA)	The CICA is a national organization of chartered accountants which conducts research into current business issues and supports the setting of accounting and assurance standards for business, not-for-profit organizations and government. It issues guidance on control and governance, publishes professional literature, develops continuing education programs and represents the CA profession nationally and internationally.
Capability Projects	Capital projects which expand current service levels. This normally involves addition, modification or acquisition of assets.
Capacity Gap	The difference between the funding required annually to recapitalize or replacing of existing assets needed to maintain current service levels, and the funding which is available on an annual basis to do so.
Capital Charges, LIC	Local Improvement Charges. Council may make by-laws imposing local

charges for municipal infrastructure such as streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, etc.

Capital Commission	Capital Commissions are a vehicle through which governments promote and enhance the unique historical and cultural character of Capital Regions. They are usually established as an arm's-length agency and generally report to an executive-director, an appointed board of directors and are ultimately responsible to a provincial minister and cabinet.
Capital Plan	Refers to the capital projects under consideration for the next three years. While the capital plan has the same level of detail, costing and funding as the capital budget, Council can only approve the second and third years "in principle".
Capital Cost Contribution (CCC)	Funding provided by developers which is used to offset the costs stemming from new or expanded municipal infrastructure required as the result of new development.
CD	Community Development
Capital Reserve Pool (Crespool)	Capacity remaining, following completion of a capital project, which was funded from debt. These reserved funds may only be used to provide additional funding for capital projects which are over-budget or to new budgets. It cannot be used for new projects or to expand the scope of existing projects.
Capital Budget	The Council-approved capital expenditures for a fiscal year and the means of financing them. To qualify for inclusion in the Capital Budget, projects must have a cost of at least \$50,000 and a useful life of at least one year.
Capital District	The regional centre for government, finance, culture, entertainment and business. It encompasses downtown Halifax, downtown Dartmouth, and the Spring Garden Road, Quinpool Road and Gottingen Street areas.
Capital from Operating	Refers to capital projects which are funded directly from operating funds. For that reason it is often referred to as "pay-as-you-go" capital funding.
Capitalize	The amortization of capital costs over a period of years, usually equal to or less than the anticipated life of the resulting capital asset or improvements to it.

Cash Basis	Accounting for expenses and revenues as the funds are actually disbursed or received.
CCC	(see Capital Cost Contribution)
Chartered Accountants	Accountants who have obtained the CA designation through prescribed training and work experience.
Citizen	A person who resides in HRM.
Collective Agreement	Legal agreement between an employer and a union representing a group of employees which details the terms and conditions of employment such as wages and benefits.
Commercial Assessment	The market value of real property (land and buildings) used for commercial purposes as assessed by the Province of Nova Scotia Assessment Services.
Commercial Forest Taxes	Land used or intended to be used for forestry purposes shall pay taxes at the rate of \$0.40 per acre (50,000 acres or more).
Commercial General Tax Rates	The general rate of taxation applied to the market value of real property used for commercial purposes, expressed per \$100 of assessed value. It is a multiple of the Residential General Tax Rate.
Commercial Multiplier	A factor that is used to calculate commercial tax rates as a function of residential rates.
Committee of the Whole (COW)	When all members of Regional Council meet together as a committee, not in a session of Council. Council cannot pass resolutions when meeting as a Committee of the Whole.
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	An indicator of changes in consumer prices experienced by Canadians. It is obtained by comparing through time, the cost of a fixed basket of commodities purchased by consumers.
Cost Drivers	Cost pressures which may present challenges to business units in terms of developing more cost effective ways of providing service within budget.

Council	(see Regional Council)
CPI	(see Consumer Price Index)
Credit Rating	For HRM as provided annually by the Standard and Poor's rating agency.
Crespool	(see Capital Reserve Pool)
Debenture	A written promise to pay a specified sum of money called the face value or principal amount at a specified date or dates in future, called maturity dates, together with periodic interest at a specified rate. In Nova Scotia, debentures are provided by the Municipal Finance Corporation, a branch of the Province of Nova Scotia, to finance capital projects.
Debenture Discount	When the market interest rate exceeds the stated debenture rate, the debenture sells at a discount. When the opposite is true, the debenture sells at a premium. On fixed term securities such as debentures, it is appropriate to amortize any discount or premium arising on purchase of the security over the period to maturity.
Debt	The outstanding principal repayable on loans provided by the Municipal Finance Corporation.
Debt Servicing Policy	The policy which places limits on the debt which may be issued during a fiscal year.
Deed Transfer Tax	Tax levied on the transfer of real property (land and buildings), which is payable at the time of conveyance of the title, and is based on the purchase price. The rate has been set by Council as 1.5% of the purchase price.
Deficit	At the conclusion of the fiscal year, the amount, if any, by which the municipality's operating expenditures exceeds its operating revenues.
DFA	Disaster Financial Assistance Program. This program is administered and funded by the Federal Government, and is intended to provide

financial assistance to areas to assist with recovery from a major disaster.

Director	The most senior management position within a Business Unit.
Education Rate	As determined by the Province of Nova Scotia, the rate per \$100 of assessed value which is applied to the Uniform Assessment in order to determine the Mandatory Education contribution required from each municipal government within Nova Scotia.
EMO	Emergency Measures Organization
EMS	Environmental Management Services
EMT	(see Executive Management Team)
Executive Management Team	Consists of the Chief Administrative Officer and the Deputy Chief Administrative Officers.
Farm Acreage Taxes	Each year the Province of Nova Scotia pays to the municipality in which farm property exempt from taxation is situated, a grant equal to \$2.10 per acre in respect of the land. This rate is increased by the Consumer Price Index each year after March 31, 2001.
Fee Revenue	User fees such as parking meter revenue, rentals, etc.
Fire Protection Rate	A tax levied on assessable property in an area served by a water system to recover that part of the cost of the water system which is directly attributable to fire protection.
Fiscal Framework	A financial projection showing revenues, expenditures, debt and other information using a consistent set of assumptions. It is used for budgeting purposes and for longer-term projections. The framework is frequently presented to Council using a Base Case scenario. Council can then provide staff with direction regarding the assumptions that underlie the development of the proposed budget.
Fiscal Year	Runs from April 1 to March 31.
Fiscal Services	Section of the Operating Budget which includes non-departmental

expenditures such as mandatory payments to the Province of Nova Scotia, most debt charges (except those related to Transit Services, Wastewater and Solid Waste), payments to reserves, Capital from Operating, Capital and Operating Grants, the surplus or deficit from the prior fiscal year, etc.

FTE	Full Time Equivalent. A unit of labour equivalent to the normal hours worked by one full time employee in a year. It is used to standardise and aggregate the work of regular, part-time and seasonal workers.
GDP	Gross Domestic Product, as defined by Statistics Canada, is the total value of goods and services produced.
General Property Tax Rate	The property tax rate, expressed per \$100 of taxable assessed value, which is charged to all property owners in HRM, and which includes all services with the exception of those funded from area-rates.
Generally Accepted Accounting Principals	A set of standardized accounting principals defined by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.
Goal	A general statement of desired outcome to be achieved over a specified period of time. The term goal is roughly equivalent to Strategic Outcome.
Grants in Lieu	The Federal and Provincial Governments, as well as their Crown Corporations, pay grants in lieu of property taxes.
Gross Expenditures	Gross Expenditures
GST	Goods and Services Tax. The Federal sales tax.
Harbour Solutions Project	Purpose is to improve the quality of effluent entering Halifax Harbour from the municipal sewage system.
HRM	Halifax Regional Municipality
HRP	Halifax Regional Police Service
Indicator	A statistic or parameter that provides information on trends in the condition of a phenomenon and has significance extending beyond that

associated with the properties of the statistic itself.

Infrastructure Program	The Canada - Nova Scotia Infrastructure Program
Interest Revenue	Includes interest earned by investing excess cash balances, interest accrued on overdue taxes, capital charges, local improvement charges, etc.
LIC	(see Local Improvement Charge)
Local Improvement Charge (LIC)	Local charges levied by Council for municipal infrastructure such as streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, etc that benefit a specific area.
Long Term Capital Plan	The 3 year Capital Plan which includes all project costs and funding sources. The first year is approved by Council as the Capital Budget. The second and third years are approved by Council <i>in principal</i> .
Machinery & Equipment Assessment	The assessed value of machinery and equipment used for the purpose of carrying on a business can be levied a tax. This tax was phased-out after 2003-04.
Mandatory Education	Provincial statute requires that each municipality make a contribution to its school board. The contribution for each municipality is calculated by multiplying the Education Rate by each municipality's portion of the Uniform Assessment. The Education Rate is set each year by the N.S. provincial government.
Mandatory Provincial Costs	Costs which HRM is required to fund by provincial statute. They include Mandatory Education, Correctional Services, the Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority, and the cost of the Provincial Assessment system.
Measure	An indicator that provides information (either qualitative or quantitative) on the extent to which a policy, program or initiative is achieving its outcomes.
Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority	Administers and manages public non-profit housing for seniors and families on low incomes within HRM. It is one of seven housing authorities administered by the Province.
MFC	(see Municipal Finance Corporation)

MISER	(see Model for Integrating Service and Expenditure Rationalization)
Model for Integrating Service and Expenditure Rationalization	Computer model which forecasts the long term financial results and position of HRM by estimating future revenues and expenditures by means of a series of economic and demographic assumptions, cost drivers, and service drivers, and incorporating assumptions regarding tax rates, demographics, inflation, GDP and other economic and fiscal factors
Multi-Year Financial Strategy	Involves predicting the future financial situation of HRM and developing and implementing a strategy in response. This strategy includes principles of financial management, a reserve policy, a capital spending policy, a capital debt policy, and a business planning process.
Municipal Finance Corporation	An agency of the Province of Nova Scotia which provides financing of the capital requirements of municipalities, school boards, and hospitals by issuing its securities and re-lending the funds for these purposes.
MYFS	(see Multi-Year Financial Strategy)
Net	Total expenditures less off-setting revenues
Non Tax Revenues	Revenues other than tax revenue. Examples are user fees paid for services provided (such as recreation programs and transit fares) and fines.
Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board	An independent quasi-judicial body which has both regulatory and adjudicative jurisdiction flowing from the Provincial Utility and Review Board Act . It reports to the legislature through the Minister of Environment and Labour.
Operating Budget	The budget which includes the everyday operating expenditures of the municipality, including debt charges, capital from operating, and reserve payments, and the main sources of financing available such as taxation revenue, grants, interest earned on investments, service charges, licenses and permits, etc. The total budgeted expenditures must equal the total budgeted revenue.
Outcome	The benefit or change that occurs because of a program or service.
Police Commission	Provides civilian governance in regards to strategic policy planning and policy driven budget planning for police service delivery within the communities serviced by the Halifax Regional Police and provides an

advisory role in respect of police matters within the communities serviced by the Provincial Police Service. The Commission also carries out other roles and responsibilities in accordance with the Provincial *Police Act* and HRM Bylaws.

Principal	Portion of loan repayments which directly pays down the total amount owing.
Projections	Estimate of total expenditures and revenues at the end of the fiscal year.
Property Taxes	Tax levied based on the market value of real property (land and buildings) as assessed by the Province of Nova Scotia (Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations). Expressed as a rate per \$100 of assessed value. Residential and commercial properties may be taxed at different rates. Property tax payments are usually due twice per year.
Property Tax Rate	The rate of taxation on the market value of real property, expressed per \$100 of assessed value.
Property Assessment	The market value of real property as determined by the Province of Nova Scotia Assessment Services.
Province	Government of the Province of Nova Scotia
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a federal policing agency.
RDP	Real Domestic Product is the Gross Domestic Product adjusted for inflation.
Recapitalization	The use of funds to develop and improve existing assets which have deteriorated through the passage of time and/or a lack of maintenance.
Recreational Non-Profit Taxes	The owner of land used solely for non-profit recreational purposes pays taxes based on a rate of \$5.00 per acre increased by 5% per year from 1977.
Regional Area Rate	A tax rate applied to all areas of HRM, in both the residential and commercial sectors, to raise the funds required to cover Mandatory Provincial Costs.

Regional Council	The governing and legislative body for the municipality, Regional Council consists of the Mayor and 23 Councillors representing the 23 Districts. Regional council is elected once every four years.
Reserves	Accounts in which funds are accumulated to provide for the timely replacement of municipal infrastructure and avoid large swings in the annual costs of services.
Residential General Tax Rates	The general rate of taxation applied to the market value of real property used as a residence, expressed per \$100 of assessed value.
Residential Assessment	The market value of real property (land and buildings) used for residential purposes as assessed by the Province of Nova Scotia Assessment Services.
Resource Assessment	The assessed value of farm property, aquaculture property, forest property of less than 50,000 acres, land of a municipal water utility, or community fisherman's service buildings and the land it occupies.
Resource Forest Taxes	Land used or intended to be used for forestry purposes pays taxes at the rate of \$0.25 per acre (less than 50,000 acres).
Resource Property Taxes	Taxes levied against farm property, aquaculture property, forest property of less than 50,000 acres, land of a municipal water utility, or community fisherman's service buildings and the land it occupies.
Revenues	External sources of funds provided to the municipality to pay for the cost of providing services. For HRM, the main source of revenue is provided by property taxation. There are many other sources including grants, interest earned on investments, service charges, licenses and permits, etc.
Risk	Something that may negatively impact HRM.
Rural General Tax Rate	(see Base General Tax Rate)
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations	A department of the Province of Nova Scotia which is the lead service delivery arm of government for programs and services to businesses, individuals and municipalities.
Service Drivers	Factors which have a tendency to increase demand for a service.

Examples include population growth, new construction, new trends, etc.

Stakeholder	A person with an interest or concern in the HRM budget.
Standard and Poor's	Bond rating agency.
Strategic Initiatives	Large scale initiatives which are corporate-wide in scope and which represent a major shift in the type and manner in which services are provided.
Suburban General Tax Rate	The general tax rate applicable to all taxable properties within the suburban zone of HRM
Supplementary Education	Supplementary Education funding, which is provided by HRM to the Halifax Regional School Board, provides funding for programs and special services which are outside the core curriculum. The Municipal Government Act requires separate area rates for Supplementary Education, one for each of the former City of Halifax, and former City of Dartmouth. HRM does have the discretion to decrease it each year by up to 10%.
Surplus	A the close of the fiscal year, the amount by which operating revenues exceed operating expenditures.
Tabled Budget	The proposed or draft budget which is presented by staff to Regional Council for review. All aspects of the budget are open for debate and change.
Tax Agreements	Special property tax agreements with corporations, such as utilities, which have a large number of properties within the municipality.
Tax Payer	Citizens and businesses of HRM who pay taxes (generally through their property taxes).
Temporary Debt	Financing provided through the MFC short-term loan program for completed capital projects between debenture issues. The expectation is that the long-term financing will be acquired through the next MFC debenture issue
TPW	Transportation and Public Works

Transfer - General Rate	Transfers made from the General Rate Fund to an area rated service to compensate for revenue lost as the result of commercial properties which are exempt from the area rate.
Transfer - Urban Rate	Transfers made from the General Urban Rate Fund to an area rated service to compensate for revenue lost as the result of properties which are exempt from the area rate because they are outside the rural zone.
Transfers from other Gov'ts	Funding received from the federal or provincial governments which may or may not be designated for a specific service or purpose (conditional vs unconditional).
Transition Expenditures	Expenditures incurred in order to amalgamate the City of Halifax, City of Dartmouth, Town of Bedford, County of Halifax, and the Metropolitan Authority into the Halifax Regional Municipality. These costs were amortized over 10 years.
TTY	Also known as a TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf). The TTY consists of a keyboard, a display screen, and a modem. The letters that the TTY user types into the machine are turned into electrical signals that can travel over regular telephone lines. When the signals reach their destination (in this case another TTY) they are converted back into letters which appear on a display screen.
Uniform Assessment	The total of the taxable property assessment plus the value of grants the Municipality receives from special property tax arrangements.
Urban General Tax Rate	The general tax rate applicable to all taxable properties within the urban zone of HRM.
Variance	The difference between the amount budgeted for a cost centre or account, and the amount actually posted and/or committed.
Vendors	Business which sell their goods and services to HRM.
Water Commission Dividend	A grant-in-lieu of property taxes paid by the Halifax Regional Water Commission to HRM equal to 10% of the Water Commission's prior year's Operating revenue.
WTI	West Texas Intermediate. This is a benchmark used when measuring the