

## **HRMbyDesign Project Update June 2008**

In February 2008 Council requested several legislative amendments to the province during the spring sitting that were key to implementing the Downtown Halifax Urban Design Plan. These included amendments to the Municipal Government Act, the proposed HRM Charter and the Heritage Property Act. The proposed legislative amendments to the MGA and HPA formed the preferred option to bring clarity and predictability to downtown development, improve the quality of design, increase efficiency in the approval process, and strengthen protection for heritage.

Unfortunately, the House of Assembly closed before these amendments were accepted into law. They have been deferred by the provincial government until the fall sitting. As a result, HRMbyDesign project staff, in consultation with the Urban Design Task Force (UDTF) and Council, are currently reviewing the implications of this deferral on the adoption and implementation schedule for the Downtown Halifax Plan. Ongoing work is focusing on identifying the best approach for moving the project forward.

**It is important to note that this deferral will not affect the intent of HRMbyDesign or the overall urban design vision and program for downtown Halifax, which has received widespread public support.** We will continue to work on fine-tuning the details of the Plan in preparation for approval of the legislative amendments in the fall and subsequent public hearing and approval by Regional Council.

In fact, this delay provides us with the opportunity to continue to consult with the public and our key stakeholders as we create the best possible urban design plan for downtown. In addition, we will be able to advance other key priorities such as the Cogswell Interchange Master Plan Study and the Spring Garden/Queen public lands development. Opportunities for further public consultation will be posted on this site and communicated to our stakeholders over the next few months, in addition to a revised implementation schedule.

### **For more information:**

**Andy Fillmore**  
**HRMbyDesign Project Manager**  
[fillmoa@halifax.ca](mailto:fillmoa@halifax.ca)