

WELCOME MARCH!



March is the month when we celebrate Francophonie month, International Women's Day, start Daylight Saving Time, students enjoy March Break, welcome spring, and

wear a bit of the green for some "luck of the Irish" on St. Patrick's Day. March is also when we could use some "luck" to help finalize the 2022/23 municipal capital and operating budgets.

Keep reading for updates on local/regional matters including Halifax Transit service, how to participate in the Budget process, how to report potholes, change to Park & Recreation fees and much more!

Due to COVID-19, I have postponed my community office hours until further notice. You may contact me by Email at: <u>Lisa.Blackburn@halifax.ca</u> or call me at 902.579.7164.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME MARCH!	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
MARCH MEETING DATES	2
NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL	2
FRANCOPHONIE MONTH MOIS DE LA	
FRANCOPHONIE	2
DISTRICT BOUNDARY RESIDENT REVIEW PANEL.	3
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – MARCH 8th	3
ONLINE ARENA RENTAL BOOKINGS	
POTHOLES: REPORTING & REPAIRING	
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS - MARCH 13th	
2022-2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PROCESS	
COVID-19 EVENTS RECOVERY PROGRAM	7
HRM 2022-23 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM	
DEADLINE – MARCH 31 ST	7
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM	VI 8
HALIFAX TRANSIT SERVICE	
PARKS & RECREATION FEES	9
HalifACT UPDATE – ACTING ON CLIMATE	
TOGETHER	.10
SACKVILLE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTRE	
BEAVER BANK KINSAC COMMUNITY CENTRE	
PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR SENIORS	
THE HEAT FUND	.13
PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL	
REPRESENTATIVES	13
COUNCILLOR LISA BLACKBURN	
14HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LA	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	.14

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MARCH MEETING DATES

The following meetings will be held virtually in January:

Regional Council:

Tuesday, March 1st at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 22nd at 10:00 a.m.

Budget Committee:

Wednesday, March 2nd at 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 4th at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency Date)

Wednesday, March 23rd at 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 25th at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency Date)

North West Community Council:

Monday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change, please confirm on our municipal website

NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

On February 28th, the North West Community Council (NWCC) considered the following:

Case 23058: Development Agreement for vacant lot on Sackville Drive at Millwood Drive (PID 40109308), Middle Sackville

Public hearing was held and closed on Case 23058. NWCC approved KVM Consultants Ltd.'s application on behalf of the property owner Marchand Developments Ltd., to construct two multiple unit residential buildings, each containing 50 units and being 4-storeys in height, on vacant land on Sackville Drive near

the intersection with Millwood Drive, Middle Sackville.

An Outdoor Community Recreational and Teaching Facility – Rita Nigam and Cory Bell, HRM Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee

NWCC heard a presentation from the Northern Suburban Area Community Turf Committee.

Click here to view the full agenda.

FRANCOPHONIE MONTH | MOIS DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

LE MOIS DE LA FRANCOPHONIE



Célébrez le Mois de la Francophonie avec moi en mars ! Que serait le Canada - ou même la Nouvelle-Écosse - sans notre culture francophone ? Ce serait un Canada bien différent, sans la culture et la diversité riches et célébrées que la langue française et les francophones apportent à notre identité nationale. Le bilinguisme et le fait de parler français sont également des éléments fondamentaux de nos valeurs canadiennes.

L'histoire acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse est très complexe. Malgré de grandes difficultés au fil des ans, y compris la déportation tragique dans les années 1700, les Acadiens sont revenus et ont établi des communautés solides



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avec une culture très vivante qui continue de faire partie intégrante de la diversité de la Nouvelle-Écosse aujourd'hui.

Notre culture francophone nous relie également au monde en termes de relations internationales. Saviez-vous que le Canada fait partie d'une organisation appelée "La Francophonie", un ensemble de 88 États et gouvernements membres et observateurs – y compris 300 millions de francophones - qui partagent le français comme langue commune et un système de valeurs communes à bien des égards.

DISTRICT BOUNDARY RESIDENT REVIEW PANEL



HRM is seeking applications from residents for the District Boundary Resident Review Panel. The Panel will serve as a key component for the 2022 District Boundary Review process.

The 2022 District Boundary Review process will review the number of Councillors and the boundaries for each polling district. The process will consist of two phases:

Phase 1

Will determine the size of Council and its governance structure

Phase 2

Will set specific district boundaries.

The District Boundary Resident Review Panel, supported by municipal staff, will begin their work in Phase 2. The Panel will consider how to draw boundaries of municipal districts, based on the recommendations from Phase 1.

Information on the role, including an application, can be found at halifax.ca/serve. Residents may also contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk by phone at 902-490-4210 or by email at serve@halifax.ca.

It is recommended that applicants have professional expertise in the field of urban planning, municipal governance, public policy and/or political science.

Applications are due by **Monday**, **March 7**th, **2022**.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – MARCH 8th





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On March 8th, we celebrate women around the world. Canada's theme for International Women's Day (IWD) 2022 is **Women Inspiring Women.**

This important day celebrates all the women and girls who inspire us by demonstrating leadership in the choices they make in their day-to-day lives to contribute to the social, economic, cultural, and political spheres. Together, we have so much to celebrate!

This day is also to raise awareness of the progress made towards achieving gender equality and the work yet to be done. We all have role to play in forging a more gender-balanced world.

I am very proud to be a part HRM's first Regional Council with gender parity—which is equal representation of elected Councillors who identify as women and men.

Did you know?

→ The beginnings of IWD can be traced back
to the early twentieth century, emerging from
the activities of labour movements in North
America and Europe, reflecting the growing
voices for women's equal participation in
society.

→ The United Nations officially recognized
1975 as International Women's Year and began
celebrating March 8 as International Women's
Day from there on #IWD2022.

ONLINE ARENA RENTAL BOOKINGS

Halifax Regional Municipality has launched new online rental booking services at select municipal arenas. This new service will provide accessibility and flexibility for facility bookings, including offering residents the opportunity to secure last-minute available rental hours at participating arenas in the municipality.

Last-minute rental space will be offered after allocations for all seasonal contracts have been filled. Participating arenas include the Sackville Sports Stadium, LeBrun Arena, St. Margaret's Centre, Zatzman Sportsplex, RBC Centre and HRM 4-Pad.

Last minute rentals will be available for other indoor and outdoor facilities by this summer, including gymnasiums, all-weather fields, sport courts, ball diamonds and sports fields.

For more information, including how to access the online booking system, visit halifax.ca/lastminute.

POTHOLES: REPORTING & REPAIRING



Another freeze-thaw cycle = more potholes! This is a challenging year for potholes due to the freeze and thaw cycle we've been

experiencing. I get many questions and concerns from residents as we move from winter into spring, as new potholes appear, and existing ones may get bigger.

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HRM crews monitor for potholes on our roads year-round, but it's also important for residents important to report potholes so that crews are aware of them and can work on getting them fixed.

Q: How do I report potholes?

A: On municipal roads, **please call 311** or email contactus@311.halifax.ca. You can also fill out this online form here:

https://www.halifax.ca/transportation/streetssidewalks/paving-repair/report-a-pothole

However, even within the municipality the province is responsible for 100-series highways (and ramps/overpasses associated with these highways). On provincially owned roads, please contact the Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) Operations Contact Centre (OCC): tir-occ@novascotia.ca or call 1-844-696-7737

Q: What if my vehicle is damaged by a pothole?

A: The driver should first call 311 to determine who is responsible for the stretch of road the pothole is located on. If the damage occurred due to a pothole on a municipal road, begin a claim process with a 311 agent. If you determine it occurred on a provincial road, please contact TIR.

Q: How long will it take to repair potholes?

A: The time to fix a pothole can range anywhere from 7 business days to 30 days depending on the pothole and if it is considered a priority. Crews aim to repair priority potholes on main arterial roads within 7 business days. However, weather can hamper these efforts - due to MARCH 2022

recent weather, crews were unable to fill potholes for nearly 10 days recently, off and on.

Q: What constitutes a priority pothole?

A: The municipality considers a pothole of 8 cm or greater in depth to be a P1 (Priority 1), and a pothole of 7.9 cm or less in depth to be a P2 (Priority 2).

- P1 classified potholes have a service standard of seven business days on arterial and major collector roads, 14 business days on minor collector roads and 30 business days on local roads.
- P2 classified potholes have a 12-month service standard on all street classifications.

Q: How are potholes repaired at different times of year?

A: HRM has two strategies for repairing potholes:

- Cold patch: a quick and low-cost strategy, where a pre-mix of asphalt is placed in the potholes and compacted. These relatively quick repairs are generally performed during winter months and are mainly a as a temporary hold until proper repairs can be scheduled.
- Hot mix repair: Pavement around the pothole is saw-cut and then filled with hot-mix asphalt. This type of repair generally addresses the underlying problems; however, the initial cost is higher, and the repair process is more involved. Plants typically don't open until May for hot asphalt.



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Q: How many potholes does HRM repair?

A: To provide some perspective - municipal transportation crews have repaired more than 600 potholes across the municipality since November. There are approximately 384 on HRM's rolling repair list. It's important to note these numbers are constantly changing, as crews log and repair potholes each day.

SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

To minimize potential damage to municipal roads, the Halifax Regional Municipality introduced its annual spring weight restrictions, as of 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, February 27th.

These restrictions are for heavy vehicles travelling on municipally maintained roads. Residents can view which roads are exempt from spring weight restrictions on a new webbased map, or by reviewing the list shown below. Regular weight tolerances apply on exempt roads.

SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

The Halifax Reg Municipality ha implemented regulations res the maximum v and axle weigh permitted on a maintained roa NOT reference Schedule "B".	tricting vehicle ts II Halifax ds

These restrictions will be in effect from: February 28, 2022

For more information about the weight restrictions and exemptions, please call 311 or visit the website below.

Schedule "B"	
1. WINDGATE DRIVE	FROM BEAVER BANK ROAD EASTERLY 1.2 KM
2. BEAVER BANK ROAD	. WINDGATE DRIVE TO SACKVILLE DR
3. BISSETT ROAD	. COLE HARBOUR ROAD TO BISSETT LAKE ROAD
4. COBEQUID ROAD	. SACKVILLE DRIVE TO ROCKY LAKE DRIVE
5. COLE HARBOUR ROAD	. CALDWELL ROAD TO ROSS ROAD
6. COW BAY ROAD	. MAIN ROAD TO CALDWELL ROAD
7. DUKE STREET	. ROCKY LAKE DRIVE TO HIGHWAY 102
8. MAIN ROAD	BELMONT AVENUE TO COW BAY ROAD
	. GLENDALE AVE SOUTHERLY TO END OF PAVEMENT
	. MAIN STREET TO COLE HARBOUR ROAD
11. GLENDALE AVENUE	
12. HAMMONDS PLAINS RD	. LARRY UTECK BOULEVARD TO HIGHWAY 103
13. LAKE MAJOR ROAD	. IN TOTAL
14. LUCASVILLE ROAD	
15. ROCKY LAKE DRIVE	. DUKE STREET TO HIGHWAY 2
	. HIGHWAY 102 TO PATTON ROAD IN UPPER SACKVILLE
17. ST. MARGARETS BAY RD	. PROSPECT ROAD TO HIGHWAY 103, EXIT 4 IN TIMBERLEA
	. ROCKY LAKE DRIVE TO SUNNYLEA ROAD IN WELLINGTON
	. RIDGECREST DRIVE TO LITTLE SALMON RIVER BRIDGE
	OLD HALIFAX CITY BOUNDARY TO HERRING COVE
21. EVERGREEN PLACE	
	. 400 METRES NORTH FROM COBEQUID ROAD
23. TIMBERLEA VILLAGE PKWY	. ST. MARGARET'S BAY ROAD TO HIGHWAY 103

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The weight restrictions are expected to remain in place into the spring, at which time the municipality will advise when the restrictions are lifted.

The municipality's spring weight restrictions are consistent with those of the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works. More details of vehicle restrictions can be found online.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS – MARCH 13th



Turn clocks forward 1 hour at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 13th as Daylight Saving Time begins!

2022-2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PROCESS



It's Budget season once again.
Currently, each of the municipality's business units are

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presenting their proposed business plan and budget to Regional Council. We are also listening to members of the public who wish to provide input on a variety of topics.

Regional Council will debate budget changes and refer them for final decision on Wednesday, March 23rd. Full approval of the budget will be on Tuesday, April 12th.

March schedule of Business Unit presentations (subject to change):

Wednesday, March 2nd

- Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency
- Halifax Public Libraries

Wednesday, March 23rd

Recommendation Report and Presentation: Budget Adjustment List (BAL - aka the "Parking Lot") review

Tuesday, April 12th

Full review of final budget

You can speak directly to Regional Council about budget priorities. During each meeting, time will be set aside for the public to provide insight and comments. To be added to the speakers list for virtual meetings, residents are required to pre-register no later than 4:30 p.m. the business day prior to the meeting.

Registration information will be included on the meeting agenda page for each meeting. For any questions about registration, residents may contact the Clerk's Office at 902-490-4210 or clerks@halifax.ca.

EXTENDED: COVID-19 EVENTS RECOVERY PROGRAM

HRM has developed a dedicated grant program to support nonprofits and community/cultural event organizations to maintain or restart inperson events and increase activity that benefits residents and visitors to the municipality (under the public health guidelines).

- The one-time grant is to assist with COVID-19 adaptation expenses incurred directly related to deliver in-person (live) events.
- The total budget for the COVID-19 Events Recovery Fund is \$150,000.
- Applications will be accepted no earlier than 30 days before the date of your event.

Details of the program including applicant eligibility, program criteria and the application, can be found here: https://bit.ly/3gCrtWr
Applications will close on March 31st subject to availability of funds.

HRM 2022-23 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM DEADLINE – MARCH 31ST



The Community
Grants Program
deadline for
applications is fast
approaching! Get
your applications in by
March 31st to be
eligible for

consideration of funding.

The Program provides annual cash grants to





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registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the Halifax region. There are two types of grants: \$5,000 and up to \$25,000. This funding can aid with projects in categories including Arts and Crafts, Diversity and Inclusion, Environment, Emergency Assistance & Neighbourhood Safety, History, Housing, Leisure, and Recreation.

Application forms and program guidebooks are available from either of the following:

✓ HRM Customer Service Centres:

www.halifax.ca/home/311#ContactCentres

- ✓ Call 311
- ✓ E-mail Nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca
- Call 902.490.7310
- Visit: https://www.halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/community-non-profit-resources/community-grants.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM (CVITP)



The Community
Volunteer Income Tax
Program (CVITP) is a
collaboration between
the Canada Revenue
Agency (CRA) and
community organizations.
Various community

organizations host tax preparation clinics and arrange for volunteers to prepare tax returns for individuals who have a modest income and a simple tax situation. The objective of the CVITP is to help eligible individuals who are unable to

prepare their income tax and benefit returns by themselves.

The program and its services are offered free of charge. The CRA offers training and tax software for the volunteers as well as a network of CVITP coordinators to guide community organizations through the delivery of the program.

Volunteer tax preparation clinics are generally offered between February and April of each year in various locations across each province. Some clinics are open year-round.

Volunteers **do not** prepare tax returns for complex situations such as: returns for deceased persons; individuals who file for bankruptcy; self-employed individuals; individuals who report capital gains or losses; or individuals who report employment expenses, or business or rental income and expenses.

The CVITP is an integral part of the CRA's commitment to contribute to the well-being of Canadians and the efficiency of government by delivering world-class tax and benefit administration that is responsive, effective and trusted.

Tax Clinic locations and details can be found <u>HERE</u> or contact Wendy Sampson, Volunteer & Outreach Officer, Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) at <u>Wendy.Sampson@cra-arc.gc.ca</u> (1-855-516-4405).



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RCMP ROAD SAFETY STATISTICS FOR JANUARY



HALIFAX TRANSIT SERVICE

Temporary Service Disruptions have been lifted on some conventional bus routes.

All riders are encouraged to check the <u>municipal</u> <u>website</u> for a list of planned cancellations.

Halifax Transit will make every effort to share additional service disruptions as timely as possible. The chart below shows a list of cancelled route times that will impact the District 14 area. Please check the municipal website for the full list and updates as this information is subject to change.

82 First Lake	to Sackville Terminal	Cobequid Terminal	6:48 AM	Cancelled
82 First Lake	to Cobequid Terminal	Sackville Terminal	6:10 PM	Cancelled
8 ₃ Springfield	to Springfield Estates	Sackville Terminal	5:48 AM	Cancelled
85 Millwood	to Sackville Terminal - Halifax	Millwood & Sackville	5:34 PM 5:49 PM	Cancelled
85 Millwood	to Millwood	Sackville Terminal	7:02 AM	Cancelled
86 Beaver Bank	to Beaver Bank	Sackville Terminal	6:58 AM	Cancelled
88 Bedford Commons	to Bedford Commons	Sackville Terminal	6:25 AM	Cancelled
88 Bedford Commons	to Sackville Terminal	Bedford Commons	6:45 AM	Cancelled

PARKS & RECREATION FEES



On April 1st, 2022 the Parks and Recreation Fee structure will be changing. These changes will



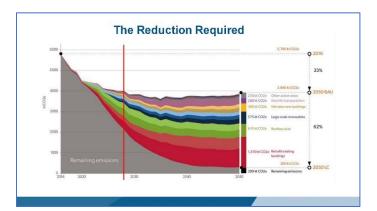
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affect all recreation services, programs, rentals, drop ins, voucher and memberships fees.

This does not mean prices are going up across the board; as a result of the fee structure changes that was approved by regional council, some fees are increasing in cost while others are staying the same or decreasing. Please see the full list of fee structure changes here.

The updated fee structure will reflect the actual cost of providing recreation services to residents. Learn more, and explore a list of FAQs at halifax.ca/parks-rec-fee-changes.

HalifACT UPDATE – ACTING ON CLIMATE TOGETHER



HalifACT is more than a plan - it's a commitment to reducing emissions, switching to clean and reliable energy sources and demonstrating local government leadership. This transformational plan aligns the municipality's efforts to support an equitable shift to a net-zero economy by 2050. HalifACT is one of the most ambitious climate action movements in Canada.

While implementing HalifACT will require significant financial contribution from all levels of government, investing today will save money, prevent loss, prepare communities and improve wellbeing. As it comes to climate adaptation measures, \$1 spent in preparation saves \$6 in future impact costs according to a 2020 report by Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The municipality is already seeing early signs of these savings. Since 2018, as part of a three-year partnership with Efficiency Nova Scotia, the municipality has implemented approximately 200 energy efficiency projects, saving over \$2 million annually and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 15%.

Where are things with the HalifACT plan today?

HRM staff presented the latest <u>progress report</u> to the Committee of the Whole on January 21st. Here are some highlights:

Early successes: Mitigation

 \$175,000 grant to support retrofit program received from the <u>Federation</u> of Canadian Municipalities



- Net-zero Mill Cove ferry design, purchase of 60 e-buses and electrification of Ragged Lake Transit Facility expansion.
- New strategies and municipal guidance such as EV strategy, Deep energy retrofit pilot, administrative order mandating netzero corporate builds

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- Retrofits and renewables: \$18 million in solar energy systems installed through Solar City
- One third of <u>Regional Centre All Ages</u> and <u>Abilities Bike Network</u> is complete

Early successes: Adaptation

 \$275,000 worth of trees to support Urban Forest Master Plan



- Application for Natural Infrastructure Funding to improve Eastern Passage's Shore Road (\$5 million project)
- 1.25 acres of land and \$750,000 for Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes land acquisition
- Emergency backup generators installed at four community locations to provide emergency comfort centres during extreme weather events.

Despite these successes, HalifACT is 20% on track and 14% adequately resourced. It requires further resources, major systems change, mainstreaming climate action, education and awareness, and ultimately collective action by all.

Currently, there is a proposed 3% Climate Tax currently being debated at Council to fund climate mitigation and adaption initiatives. I look forward to discussing this option further with my colleagues at municipal budget deliberations continue. Acting now will save money, prevent loss, prepare communities and improve wellbeing.

Learn more about HalifACT, its aims, and the MARCH 2022

role of both the municipality and residents in achieving its targets here:

https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/energyenvironment/halifact-2050-acting-climatetogether.

SPRINGFIELD LAKE RECREATION CENTRE

Springfield Lake Recreation Association

Starting in April 2022, Springfield Lake Recreation Centre will be offering an afterschool program running Mondays to Fridays. **Registration starts April 1**st, **2022.**

Download registration forms here.

Read more: 2021-20202After School Fall Program.

SACKVILLE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTRE



Scholarship Fund 2022

The Sackville Heights Community Centre Scholarship - in the amount of \$1,000 - is open to Grade 12 students attending Sackville High / Millwood High Schools and continuing to their first year of post-secondary education





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(university or college) in 2022-2023. For more information or to apply, <u>click here</u>.

Applications to be emailed by 11:59 p.m. on April 1, 2022 to: fm@myshcc.com.

WALLACE LUCAS COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Wallace Lucas Community Centre, located at 596 Lucasville Road, will be hosting the NS Works Opportunity Employment Services every Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. For more information call: (902) 865-0944 or (902) 864-7520.



BEAVER BANK KINSAC COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Beaver Bank Kinsac Community Centre (BBKCC) is pleased to be hosting SAFECHOICE Safety Services courses for youths on subjects such as: Home Alone Safety, Babysitter Basics and Youth First Aid. For more information or to register, please call the BBKCC at 902.865.5114.



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PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR SENIORS



The provincial

Property Tax Rebate

for Seniors program is

open for applications

from July 1st to

December 31st, 2022.

Contact your local Access Nova Scotia or MLA's office to obtain an application.

The Property Tax Rebate for Seniors helps lowincome seniors with the cost of municipal residential property taxes. Rebates are 50% of what you paid on last year's property taxes, up to a maximum of \$800.

For more information, contact the Property Tax for Seniors office by:

Phone: <u>902-424-5200</u> Toll-free: <u>1-800-670-4357</u>

Fax: 902-428-2164 Mailing address:

PO Box 283, CRO, Halifax, NS B3J 2N7

THE HEAT FUND



PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES



Provincial Representatives in District 14:

MLA Brad Johns

Sackville – Uniacke Unit 103, 1710 Sackville Drive Middle Sackville, NS B4E 3A9 Phone: 902-865-6467 mlabradiohns@gmail.com

MLA Steve Craig

Sackville – Cobequid Unit 104, 445 Sackville Drive Lower Sackville, NS B4C 2S1

Phone: 902-864-6271 Fax: 902-864-0483

Steve.Craig@novascotia.ca

MLA Brian Wong

Waverley – Fall River – Beaver Bank Suite 101, 1265 Fall River Road Fall River, NS B2T 1E6 Phone: 902-576-3411 brianwongmla@gmail.com

MLA Ben Jessome

Hammonds Plains – Lucasville Unit 3, 2120 Hammonds Plains Road, Hammonds Plains, NS B4B 1P3

Phone: 902-404-9900 Fax: 902-404-8415 jessomeben@gmail.com

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Federal Representatives in District 14:

- **MP Darrell Samson** Sackville - Preston - Chezzetcook 2900 Highway 2, Suite 2nd Floor Fall River, NS B2T 1W4 Telephone: 902-861-2311 Fax: 902-861-4620

MP Lena Metlege Diab **Halifax West**

> Suite 222, 1496 Bedford Highway Bedford, NS B4A 1E5

Telephone: 902-426-2217

Fax: 902-426-8339

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Halifax Regional Municipality Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5

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ΗΛLIFΛΧ

I currently serve on the following Boards and Committees along with Halifax Regional Council and the North West Community Council:

Appeals Standing Committee

- **Board of Police Commissioners**
- Community Planning and Economic **Development Standing Committee**
- **Executive Standing Committee**
- Special Events Advisory Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities

and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. Another way the municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement: "The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmag people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People."

A land acknowledgment is an important statement that acknowledges we understand the long-standing history that has brought us to reside on this land and that we seek to understand our place with that history. In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty People; with that comes roles and responsibilities.