

The word "HALIFAX" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, positioned in the upper right quadrant of the slide. The background features a dark blue geometric shape in the top right and a light blue shape in the bottom right, meeting at a diagonal line that runs from the top left towards the center.

# HALIFAX

## **2022 District Boundary Review – Phase One**

Community Council Presentation

# Phase One - Scope

Phase One is to:

- Review Council Governance structure;
- Provide rationale for the number of councillors and polling districts for HRM

What is required for:

- Effective political management?
- Effective representation?
- Accountability?

# Phase Two - Scope

Phase Two is to:

- Review the distribution of polling districts within HRM in accordance with section 368 (4) of the MGA
- Considers the number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, communities of interest, and geographic size
- Public Engagement will be led by District Boundary Resident Review Panel

# Aspects of Review

- Focuses on matters within the jurisdiction of the NSUARB under current legislative framework



# Halifax Regional Council

- Halifax Regional Council serves as the decision- making body for the Halifax Regional Municipality;
- Council is Comprised of 16 Councillors who represent 16 electoral districts and one Mayor elected at large;
- Governed by the *HRM Charter*

# Current Governance Structure



# Community Council

There are four Community Councils, each consisting of five to six districts.

- Harbour East-Marine Drive – Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
- Halifax & West – Districts 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
- North West – Districts 1, 13, 14, 15, 16
- Regional Centre – Districts 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

# Community Council – Roles and Authority

- Consider development variances and site-plan approvals
- Consider development agreements
- Hold public hearings
- Consider amendments to land use by-laws
- Advise Council on Municipal Planning Strategy Amendments
- Recommend to Council expenditures to be financed by area rates
- Establish advisory committees
- Make Councillor appointments to Standing Committees
- Make recommendations to Council on public appointments
- New Legislation (Bill 137) may have impact on recommendation on some planning advisory decisions



# Standing Committees

In 2012, Halifax Regional Council created Standing Committees to examine specific issues, outlined in their Terms of Reference (Admin Order One)

There are six (6) Standing Committees:

- Appeals (decision making body)
  - Audit & Finance
  - Community Planning & Economic Development
  - Environment & Sustainability
  - Transportation
  - Executive
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- Provide recommendations (except for Appeals) and advice to Council on specific matters
  - Can request staff reports in accordance with their Terms of Reference
  - Are the primary forum for public input (AO1 section 43)

# Advisory Boards, Committees and Commissions

- HRM's Boards and Committees are groups consisting of Councillors, residents and subject matter experts that provide advice and recommendations to Council on certain matters
- Have specific Terms of Reference that guide the work that they do
- Many volunteer opportunities for members of the public to serve on HRM Boards and Committees.

# Population Growth

- Population growth will influence the Boundary Review process now and in future reviews
- Increases in population do not happen equally across the HRM
- The NSUARB requires relative parity power of voting parity (i.e that all districts have roughly the same number of electors so that each vote carries the same weight)
- NSUARB requires relative voter parity of +/- 10%

# Current Population/ Number of Electors

- Since the 2010 review, the HRM has grown by 70,410 residents to a total of 443,089.
- The Halifax Regional Municipality is in the top six (6) of the 25 largest municipalities in Canada with a 9.1% population growth rate from 2016-2021.

# Number of Electors and Population by 2024

Electoral District	Population	Current # of Electors	Projected # of Electors by 2024
01-Waverley-Fall River-Musquodoboit Valley	23,685	18,772	19,740
02-Preston-Chezzetcook-Eastern Shore	27,185	22,297	23,315
03-Dartmouth South-Eastern Passage	31,384	24,475	26,238
04-Cole Harbour-Westphal-Lake Loon-Cherry Brook	25,963	20,909	21,911
05-Dartmouth Centre	29,587	25,167	26,195
06-Harbourview-Burnside-East Dartmouth	26,403	21,651	22,667
07-Halifax South Downtown	26,997	23,432	25,287
08-Halifax Peninsula North	29,002	23,942	26,123

# Continued

Electoral District	Population	Current # of Electors	Projected # of Electors by 2024
09-Halifax West Armdale	29,651	18,772	25,444
10-Halifax Bedford Basin-West	27,048	22,297	23,420
11-Spryfield-Sambro Loop-Prospect Road	27,605	22,243	23,243
12-Timberlea-Beechville-Clayton Park-Wedgewood	30,562	24,239	25,844
13-Hammonds Plains – St. Margarets	28,532	21,689	23,128
14-Middle/Upper Sackville – Beaver Bank - Lucasville	25,242	19,499	20,534
15-Lower Sackville	22,480	18,323	19,159
16-Bedford-Wentworth	31,763	25,276	26,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>443,089</b>	<b>358,497</b>	<b>378,948</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>27,693</b>	<b>22,406</b>	<b>23,648</b>

# Comparator Municipalities

Municipality	Population (2021)	Number of Districts	Number of Residents per District
Winnipeg	749,607	15	49,974
City of Hamilton	568,353	15	37,890
Quebec City	549,459	21	26,165
<b>Halifax Regional Municipality</b>	<b>439,819</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27,489</b>
Laval	438,366	21	20,874
London	422,324	14	30,166
Gatineau	291,041	19	15,318
Saskatoon	266,141	10	26,614

# Population Summary

- On average HRM's Councillors represent 27,693 residents and 22,406 electors per district.
- By 2024 the number of electors are projected to grow to 378,948 or 23,648 per district (average)



# Phase One – Key Considerations

- Do you feel that HRM's current governance structure is accessible to residents? Does it allow for effective decision making?
- Does it allow for effective representation for you or your district?
- If not, what changes should be considered to Community Councils, Standing Committees or Advisory Committees to make them more effective?

# Phase One – Key Considerations

What are you looking for from your district councillor in representing you on Regional Council?

What do you think should be the population/representation for HRM's districts?

- Same as now, more people, fewer people?

# Phase One – Key Considerations

Given what you have heard this evening,  
should Regional Council be:

- the same size it is now?
- larger?
- smaller?

# How can I continue to engage?

- Public Engagement Survey – Narrative Research –April 6-April 25, 2022
- Public Information Meetings hosted by Community Councils – April 19-April 28, 2022
- Corresponding with the Executive Standing Committee
- Public Participation at Executive Standing Committee – April, May 2022

# Questions?



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