



DEPUTY MAYOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON
DISTRICT 1 ONLINE NEWS
WAVERLEY - FALL RIVER - MUSQUODOBOIT VALLEY

WELCOME DECEMBER!

Happy Chanukah! Merry Christmas! Happy Kwanzaa! Happy New Year!

This is a busy time of year with many community and family events to plan and attend leading up to the holidays. In planning for the upcoming festivities, I reflect back on 2023. It has been a very difficult year for many; those who find themselves without a home; battling an illness; providing support to someone in need; those searching for employment. When money is tight but the need is there, the greatest gift you can give is that of time. Please reach out to your neighbours, the elderly who may be alone, or anyone you know who might welcome a visit or a helping hand. Be kind to yourself too! Take a break to relax and recharge.

Keep reading for more information on HRM’s Action on Homelessness and much more!

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DECEMBER MEETINGS

Budget Committee

Tuesday, December 12th at 10:00 a.m.

Regional Council

Tuesday, December 12th immediately following
Budget Committee

North West Community Council

Monday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Please confirm meeting dates and times on the
[municipal website](#) as they are subject to change.

Standing Committees

December 5th: Audit and Finance Standing
Committee Agenda Review

December 7th: Environment and Sustainability
Standing Committee

December 11th: Accessibility Advisory
Committee

December 12th: CCC meeting

December 13th: Audit and Finance Standing
Committee

December 13th: Transportation Standing
Committee

External Meetings:

December 7th : Halifax Regional Fire &
Emergency Services Firefighter Graduation
Ceremony

Community board/committee meetings:

December 1st: International Day of Persons with
Disabilities Breakfast

December 5th : LWFRA Board meeting

December 6th: Atlantic Canada Solar Summit

December 6th: Sovereign Quarry CLC meeting

December 14th: Equity and Community
Wellbeing Committee

December 15th: Halifax Water Board

December 19th: Musquodoboit Valley Ground
Search and Rescue Long Service Awards

NWCC UPDATE

At the November 20th meeting of the North West
Community Council, we dealt with:

Case 23904: Amendments to the Timber Trails Mobile Home Park Development Agreement, 1036 Lucasville Rd, Lucasville

Motion passed to approve the proposed
amendments to expand the area to include the
entirety of the supporting sewage treatment
facility.

Case 22097: Request for Additional Time to Sign the Approved Development Agreement for an Equestrian Facility Use at 96 Pockwock Road, Hammonds Plains

Motion passed to approve an extension of an
additional 240 days.

To view the full meeting agenda [click here](#).

DID YOU KNOW ...

December is HIV/AIDS Awareness Month,
Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness Month,
and Universal Human Rights Month.

December 1st is [World AIDS Day](#)

December 3rd is [International Day of Persons
with Disabilities](#)



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December 5th is [International Volunteer Day](#)
December 6th is [National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#)
December 10th is [Human Rights Day](#)
December 10th is [International Animal Rights Day](#)
December 18th is [International Migrants Day](#)
December 31st is [New Year's Eve](#)

THANK YOU COLLEAGUES!



On November 28th, I was elected Deputy Mayor by my Regional Council colleagues. This is a one-year term to November 2024.

It is an honour and a privilege to be Deputy Mayor

and a responsibility I do not take lightly. My commitment to Mayor and Council is to be fully present and supportive in this role, as we manage through this challenging year ahead.

My commitment to residents of District 1 remains the same and while there will be added duties/meetings, I will ensure that I meet my obligations as your elected councillor!

WINTER 2023 REC REGISTRATION



Get ready to register for Rec programs happening this winter! Winter recreation registration begins December 6th and 7th.

To preview upcoming program PDFs, click [here](#) to see what's available in your community. [Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. each day for all ages.](#)

December 6th - All dryland programs

December 7th - Skating and aquatics programs

For more information, click [here](#).

ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS



The Halifax Regional Municipality's priority has been, and continues to

be, treating those experiencing homelessness with dignity – and continuing to work with community partners to find ways to provide support to them within our organization's capacity and scope. The following is an update on ongoing efforts to help address homelessness in our region.

New Emergency Shelter

- The municipality is supporting the Province of Nova Scotia in the operation of an emergency shelter for those



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experiencing homelessness. The 24-hour shelter, located at 197-199 Windmill Road in Dartmouth, opened on Friday, November 17th and will remain open for the next 30 months, until May 2026.

- Starting with 50 beds for people of all genders – including youth aged 16 and older, if needed – the shelter can add more beds based on community need and extreme weather events as well as accommodating people with pets.
- The municipality will be providing in-kind property maintenance support for the shelter site, including required inspections and any necessary work to bring the site to compliance. The municipality will also be providing regular garbage pickup and snow clearing.
- The province will be prioritizing those living in encampments for placement in the shelter. Municipal staff will ensure those staying in encampments are aware of the shelter, how to access it, and facilitate relocation to the shelter.
- For more information, see the Province of Nova Scotia's [news release](#).

Grand Parade

- With the new emergency shelter that is now open, there is an alternative location for those currently sheltering in Grand Parade.
- Municipal outreach workers and street navigators are engaged with those sheltered in the Grand Parade to assist in their relocation.

- There are 8 designated [outdoor sheltering spaces](#) at Grand Parade.

Status of Halifax Christmas Tree Lighting

- The Christmas Tree was placed in the Grand Parade on November 16th. Holiday festivities, typically associated with the tree lighting, took place at Peace and Friendship Park on Saturday, November 25th.
- The lighting of the tree in Grand Parade occurred at the conclusion of the Saltwire Parade of Lights on November 25th.

Waverley Inn Shelter

- The former Waverley Inn in Halifax's south end is set to host a new temporary supportive housing facility for women and gender-diverse people experiencing homelessness. The shelter is planned to open in December.
- YWCA Halifax will provide 24-hour on-site support for up to 32 residents, including referrals to mental health and addictions counselling, employment services and skills training.
- The municipality will be providing in-kind property maintenance support for the shelter site, including required inspections and any work required to bring the site to compliance. The municipality will also be providing regular garbage pickup and snow clearing.

Tiny Home Community

- The municipality is working with the Province of Nova Scotia to build a tiny home community. This pilot community



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will have 52 units, providing housing for about 62 people. The community will be built on surplus municipal land in Lower Sackville. This surplus land is currently being used as a designated outdoor sheltering location.

- It is anticipated that 30 units will be complete by next spring and people will be in them next summer. The remaining 22 units are expected to be complete by next fall. If successful, similar communities may be created in other areas of the municipality and across the province.
- Rent will be geared to income, which means that rent will be no more than 30 per cent of a person's income. Community residents will be selected from the HRM By Name List and will receive the wraparound support they need to help them connect to employment and more permanent housing.
- The municipality is providing the land at no cost and will also be providing regular garbage pickup, snow clearing and general property maintenance.

Pallet Shelters

- In partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia and service providers, 100 pallet shelters will be installed in the municipality. The provincial funding will also provide bed frames, mattresses and desks, as well as support operations for the pallet shelter village.
- Pallet is a North American leader in rapid-response shelter villages designed by people with lived experience. These

communities will include single occupancy rooms, plus bathroom and laundry units and on-site supports by local service providers.

- The Province of Nova Scotia will provide two parcels of provincial land in the municipality to host the pallet shelter villages. The municipality is providing additional land, land servicing and preparation support, as well as operational oversight of the 100 units.

Informational video series via social media

- The municipality will be launching a series of informational videos addressing commonly asked questions about the current homelessness situation in the region.
- Each video will feature municipal staff – including Max Chauvin, Director of Housing & Homelessness – as well as community partners and will be posted on the municipality's Instagram, Facebook, Twitter (X), LinkedIn and YouTube accounts. Residents will be encouraged to leave their questions in the comments, where they will be answered and potentially form the topics of future videos.
- This initiative supports one of the four roles within the mandate of the municipality identified in the Framework for Addressing Homelessness: supporting public education efforts.
- The videos will be published on the [Helping address homelessness webpage](#) at the end of the series.



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For more information about ongoing efforts by the municipality to help address homelessness in our region visit the municipal website [here](#).

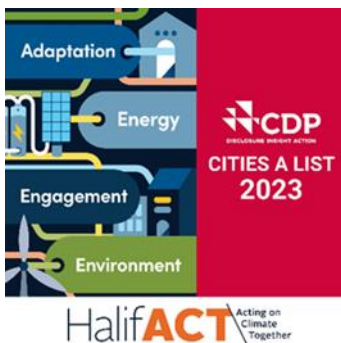
HRM RECEIVES A GRADE FOR CARBON DISCLOSURE PROJECT



The Halifax Regional Municipality received an A grade from the [Carbon Disclosure Project \(CDP\)](#) for our commitment to climate action and environmental protection. CDP is a global, non-profit charity that runs the world's disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to assess their environmental impact.

Only 13% of cities got an A for their efforts in 2023. Being in CDP's top tier means that our ambitious climate action plan [HalifACT](#) is being recognized internationally for its emphasis on transparency and its bold climate leadership.

CDP reporting is a commitment of Regional Council. We are going to keep working to sharply reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as a way of protecting our residents from the effects of climate change and ensuring the health of our economy.



We don't do it for the good grades, we do it for the future of our community. Getting an A from an organization like CDP is an important sign that we're on the right track.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



The International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD), recognized annually on December 3rd, is a time to raise awareness of, and mobilize support for, the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. This year's theme is *Human rights: the foundation for a Quality-of-Life for persons with disabilities*. We all play a part in shaping an integrated, accessible future.

There are many ways to get involved:

- Attend [the International Day of Persons with Disabilities Holiday Breakfast](#), hosted by the Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities, in partnership with the municipality and community organizations. December 1st at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Hotel Halifax.
- Learn more about the municipality's dedication to [advancing access and inclusion in our community](#), including the [Accessibility Strategy](#), unanimously approved by Regional Council. The strategy sets the course for the municipality as an organization to align with the Accessibility Act, which aims at



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achieving an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030.

- Explore an [online collection of stories, resources and more](#), collaboratively curated by the municipality, Halifax Public Libraries and other community groups in celebration of IDPW.

SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM



There's no denying it – winter is here! Did you know that there is a snow removal program available for seniors (65+) and persons with disabilities?

The Halifax Regional Municipality provides an annual contribution of \$600,000 in support of the YMCA in the administration of its [Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities](#). This funding allows the YMCA to serve about 450 households.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Did you know that the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) offers easy to read handouts and safety tip sheets in a variety of languages? The safety information is available on subjects such as smoke alarms, cooking, electrical, escape planning and heating - see sample sheet on heating safety below. The languages include Arabic, Chinese, English, Farsi, French, Hmong, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili and Vietnamese. The information may also be downloaded from the NFPA [website](#).

Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.

FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February.

NFPA NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



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FIRE SERVICES EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDALS



On November 2nd I was pleased to attend the Fire Services Exemplary Service Award Ceremony honouring personnel with 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service including HRM's Captain Tim Flemming with 35 years of service!

Congratulations to each of you and thank you for your dedicated service.



Chief Ken Stuebing with Captain Tim Flemming as he is awarded his Exemplary Service medal for 35 years of service by Nova Scotia Fire Marshal Douglas MacKenzie.

2024 VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is currently seeking nominations for the 2024 Volunteer Awards.

The annual event puts a spotlight on residents that have made a difference in their community by donating their time and skills to various programs and services.

Nominating an individual or volunteer group is a great opportunity to show appreciation for the work that volunteers do to help build stronger, healthier and more supportive communities. Nominations must be submitted in one of three award categories: adult, youth (ages 13-19) and community group.

For detailed nomination criteria and online applications, click [here](#). **The deadline for nominations is Thursday, January 11th, 2024.**

Successful nominees will be notified in March 2024 and will be invited to attend the annual Volunteer Award Ceremony which will take place on Wednesday, April 17th during National Volunteer Week.



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FALL RIVER LIONS PARADE OF LIGHTS



The Lions Christmas Express Parade of Lights is coming soon to Fall River! Even Monarch the Butterfly is looking forward to it! Word on the street is that the parade may include Island of Misfit Toys, the Grinch and even Miller the Dragon!

Come on out, bring food donations, gift cards or money donations to help the Christmas Express team bring some joy to local families in need.



MIDDLE MUSQUODOBIT FOOD & TOY DRIVE





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CONGRATULATIONS CHEEMA AQUATIC CLUB!



Congratulations to Craig Spence and Alix Plomteux of Cheema Aquatic Club for winning GOLD at the Santiago 2023 Pan American Games!

A total of 18 paddlers represented Canada in 10 Canoe-Kayak events: 6 of them were from HRM.

Craig Spence (Cheema)

Gold Medal and Pan American Champion - Men's C2 500 m

Sloan MacKenzie (Cheema) -

Gold Medal and Pan American Champion - Women's C2 500 m

Michelle Russell (Abenaki) -

Gold Medal and Pan American Champion - Women's K1 500 m

Ian Gaudet (Banook) -

Gold Medal and Pan American Champion - Men's K2 500 m

Riley Melanson (Senobe) -

Silver Medal - Women's K4 500m

Connor Fitzpatrick (Senobe) -

Bronze Medal - Men's C1 1000m

Thank you to Kim Gaudet, Past President of the Banook Canoe Club, for the update and photos.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

On November 14th, Regional Council passed a [series of motions](#) to amend, improve, and advance affordable housing in the municipality. A full overview of the motions and background information can be found in the [staff report](#).

At the November 14 Regional Council Meeting, the motion was advanced that the [Administrative Order Number 2020-007-ADM Respecting Incentive or Bonus Zoning Public Benefits](#) and [Administrative Order Number 2020-008-ADM Respecting Grants for Affordable Housing](#) both be amended, so that money collected through the [Interim Density Bonus Program](#) can be used to fund eligible public benefits, including affordable housing, in the Suburban Area (outside the Regional Centre). This will ensure that the Halifax Regional Municipality can fund affordable housing projects throughout the entire municipality to ultimately support more residents in need.



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At the same Regional Council meeting, staff also recommended expanding eligible partnerships between private businesses and Non-Profit Organizations (NPO), by allowing eligible NPOs to lease privately owned property or housing and maintain their eligibility for Affordable Housing Grants Program funding.

Additionally, on November 14, in light of [Bill 329](#) and the Interim Density Bonus Program, staff also recommended that, for the 2023/2024 Grant year, \$200,000 be allocated from the Housing Accelerator Fund to support suburban and rural affordable housing projects.

Finally, a motion was advanced for a review of the Affordable Housing Grant Program to be undertaken before the 2024/25 grant year to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of this program. For more information, [click here](#).

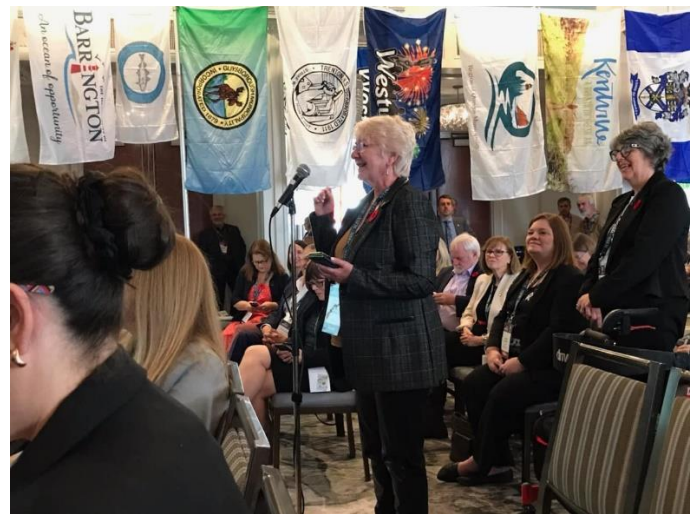
IN THE COMMUNITY



I was honoured to be in attendance at the Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony.



I was thrilled to be at the unveiling of the Monarch Butterfly art installation at Jamieson Park, Fall River.



Here I am at the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) conference asking the MLAs to consider a provincial voluntary vulnerable persons registry. Unfortunately, Minister Lohr basically said no, it's on the municipality's - they know their community best.



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So pleased to be in attendance with Mayor Savage at West Jet's announcement that return flights from Halifax to and from Edinburgh, London (Gatwick) and Dublin will be reinstated in Spring 2024.



Had a great time at the Fall River tree lighting festivities hosted by the Fall River and Area Business Association. Always nice to run into MP Darrell Samson at community events.



Carroll's Corner held another wonderful tree lighting, fireworks, photos with Santa, crafts, cookies and hot chocolate event! Thank you to Carroll's Corner Community Centre for all you do! It was a packed house and made special with the homemade cards that decorated the trees, which will be delivered to seniors at the long-term care facility. Being your MC was such an honour - thank you!



Attended the Accessibility Advisory Committee's annual Town Hall recently. Great opportunity to hear from the public on accessibility issues.



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I attended the Flag Raising with Mayor Savage and Councillor Tony Mancini in recognition of [#GivingTuesdayCA](#). Thank you to all of the volunteers and charity workers who make a difference in the lives of so many every day.

VOLUNTARY VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY

Halifax Regional Municipality has launched a [Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry](#) (VVPR) to assist residents who may require more support during emergency situations.

The VVPR provides essential information to first responders and Emergency Management staff and volunteers to help prioritize responses to residents' needs in situations such as sustained power outages or severe storms.

The VVPR is a voluntary, self-referral list intended for residents without 24-hour support who experience severe difficulty with any of the following:

- mobility
- vision impairment
- hearing impairment
- developmental disabilities
- cognitive impairment

- mental health conditions
- any resident who requires electricity for life-sustaining equipment such as oxygen, dialysis, etc.

Those not eligible include (exceptions may apply):

- residents receiving 24-hour support from a caregiver or home care aide
- residents receiving care or assistance from a long-term care home or supportive housing facility
- residents under the age of 18 who receive parent/guardian support; however, children with intensive needs that require electricity for life sustaining equipment may be considered

Applications can be submitted only by individuals seeking to become part of the VVPR or their representative/legal guardian. All applications will be reviewed by municipal staff to confirm eligibility and verify personal information upon submission of the [self-referral online application form](#).

When the VVPR program is activated, a warning will be sent through [hfxALERT](#), the municipality's mass notification system, to registrants, their representative/legal guardian and emergency contacts.

Emergency Management staff will then conduct phone calls if needed or attempt door-to-door contact through Emergency Management volunteers.

After the event, Emergency Management staff will provide check-in communications through



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hfxALERT to registrants, their representative / legal guardian and emergency contacts.

Prioritization checks will be conducted based on personal information included in the registration form, with door-to-door contact, as necessary. To learn more about the VVPR and to register, visit: halifax.ca/vvpr.

PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS VENUES STUDY



The Halifax Regional Municipality is seeking public input on the Performing & Visual Arts Venues Study.

[Happy Cities](#), on behalf of the municipality, are conducting a study of performing and visual arts venues across the region. The study will help improve the municipality's understanding of professional art venue operations, identify challenges facing existing art venues, identify the needs of the local arts and culture community and inform the municipality's long-term approach to supporting, renewing and investing in professional arts venues.

As part of the Performing & Visual Arts Venues Study's engagement program, Happy Cities is seeking feedback from users of performing and

arts venues on their experience with these facilities. Happy Cities is also releasing a second survey to collect input from Indigenous artists and peoples.

The two surveys are available here: [Public Survey](#) and an [Indigenous Residents Survey](#). The surveys will remain open until Friday, December 15th.

The Performing & Visual Arts Venues Study is expected to be completed by June 2024, and may lead to the creation of a Professional Arts Venues Plan.

COMMUNITY HALLS / CENTRES

District 1 is home to many Community Halls and Non-Profit Organizations. Check out their website or Facebook pages to find information on local events as well as opportunities to volunteer in your community. Here is a list of some of the great organizations in our district:

- [Elderbanks Recreation Club](#)
- Lemmon Hill Sports Association [Facebook](#)
- [Upper Musquodoboit Nova Scotia Nunavut Command](#)
- [Upper Musquodoboit Community Hall](#)
- Upper Musquodoboit Fellowship Centre (902)568-2536
- [Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre](#)
- [Musquodoboit Valley Family Resource Centre](#)
- [Musquodoboit Valley Food Bank](#)
- [Carrolls Corner Community Center](#)
- [Meaghers Grant Community Hall](#)
- [Gordon Snow Community Centre](#)

December 2023

HALIFAX



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- [Wellington Fletchers Lake Station House](#)
- [Grand Lake Oakfield Community Centre](#)
- [Waverley Heritage Museum](#)
- [Waverley Legion Dieppe Branch 90](#)
- [LWF Community Hall](#)
- [Windsor Junction Community Centre](#)
- [Helping Hands Families Helping Families](#)
- [Barefoot Farmers Association](#)

For those I have missed this time around please reach out let me know and I will add to the list!

PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

The following are the [provincial](#) Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and [federal](#) Members of Parliament (MPs) representatives for [municipal district 1](#).

Provincial MLAs:



MLA Larry Harrison
Colchester-
Musquodoboit Valley
Constituency office:
87 Main Street West
PO Box 219
Stewiacke, NS B0N 2J0
Phone: 902-639-1010
Fax: 902-639-2598

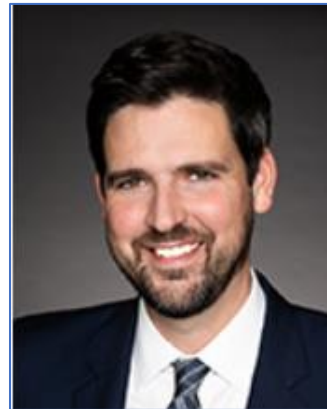
Email: larryharrisonmla@gmail.com



MLA Brian Wong
Waverley-Fall River-
Beaver Bank
Constituency Office:
1265 Fall River Road
Suite 101
Fall River, NS B2T 1E6
Phone: 902-576-3411
Email:

brianwongmla@gmail.com

Federal MPs:



MP Sean Fraser
[Central Nova](#)
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Phone: 613-992-6022
Fax: 613-992-2337
Email:
sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca

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

Email: darrell.samson@parl.gc.ca



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I currently serve on Regional Council, North West Community Council and the following boards and committees:

- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Appeals Standing Committee
- Audit and Finance Committee (Vice Chair)
- Environment and Sustainability Committee
- Executive Standing Committee
- Grants Committee (Chair)
- Halifax Regional Water Commission
- Halifax Partnership
- North West Planning Advisory Committee

Community Committees:

- Aerotech Community Liaison Community Committee
- Halifax International Airport Authority
- Goffs Quarry Community Liaison

E-NEWSLETTER/SUBSCRIBE

My monthly e-newsletters are available on my municipal [website](#). I also maintain a mailing distribution list, if you wish to be added to the list, please contact my Council Constituency Coordinator at: 902-490-1562 or email:

Chris.Newson@halifax.ca.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The Halifax Regional Municipality honours and recognizes the importance of the Indigenous people (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) and their cultural contributions to the tapestry of our region.

The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace & Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

