

**Halifax Regional Council
February 26, 2008**

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council



SUBMITTED BY:

Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer



Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Corporate Service and Strategy

DATE: February 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Special Election Halifax Regional Municipality District 21-Bedford

ORIGIN

Legislated requirement to fill the Council vacancy in District 21 - Bedford.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that :

1. Regional Council set the date of Saturday, May 3rd, 2008 for a Special Election in District 21 - Bedford.
2. Linda Grant, Municipal Clerk's Office, be appointed the Returning Officer for the Special Election to fill the vacancy on the Halifax Regional Council.
3. Approve the use of the current Provincial Voters List data.
4. Approve a withdrawal from the Election Reserve, Q313, in the amount of \$35,000.

BACKGROUND

Councillor Gary Martin was elected to Regional Council at a Special Election held Saturday, August 19, 2006 after having served the citizens of our municipality for over twenty-five years as a Police Officer. Councillor Martin succumbed to cancer on Sunday, February 10, 2008. Due to the Councillor's passing, a Council vacancy now exists in District 21- Bedford.

DISCUSSION

The Municipal Elections Act requires that within four weeks after a vacancy occurs Council shall name a day for a Special Election to fill the vacancy not more than eleven weeks after the meeting of the Council at which the date was named. Therefore, in compliance with the Act the recommended date for the Special Election is Saturday, May 3, 2008, with the Advance Polls held on Saturday, April 26, 2008 and Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

In 2001, Council approved the establishment of an Election Reserve (Q313) to provide the infrastructure for the conduct of the municipal elections, as well as Special Elections which may become necessary. An expenditure of approximately \$35,000 would be required from the Election Reserve to conduct the Special Election in HRM District 21 - Bedford. Only the funds required will be drawn from the Reserve. Funding availability has been confirmed by staff of Financial Services.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

There is no alternative. There is a legislated requirement to conduct an election to fill the vacancy on Regional Council.

ATTACHMENTS - None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Linda Grant, Municipal Clerk's Office

Financial Approval by:



Catherine Sanderson, Senior Manager, Financial Services, 490-15