



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

## Item No. 11.1.3

Halifax Regional Council  
March 4, 2008

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

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Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Corporate Services and Strategy

**DATE:** February 27, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Municipal and School Board Elections - October 18, 2008

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### **ORIGIN**

There is a statutory requirement to conduct Municipal and School Board Elections throughout the Halifax Regional Municipality on Saturday, October 18, 2008.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Regional Council:

1. Approve the appointment of Linda Grant as Returning Officer to conduct the Municipal and School Board elections on October 18, 2008.
2. Set the date of Saturday, October 11, 2008, as the first Advance Poll Day. The second Advance Poll Day of Tuesday, October 14, 2008 is mandatory under the Municipal Elections Act.
3. Approve the use of the most up-to-date Provincial Voters List data.

## **BACKGROUND**

Pursuant to Section 4(1) of the Municipal Elections Act, “Council shall appoint a returning officer, who may be the clerk, another municipal employee or another person who is not a municipal employee, to conduct all regular and special elections required under [the] Act.”

There is a requirement under the Section 114(4) of the Municipal Elections Act to conduct advance polls, one of which is Tuesday, the fourth day before Ordinary Polling Day (mandatory) and a day “fixed by Council” which is either the “Thursday, the ninth day before ordinary polling day or Saturday, the seventh day before ordinary polling day.” The practice in HRM has been to hold the optional Advance Poll on Saturday, the week before Ordinary Polling Day.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The Municipal Election Reserve was established in order to provide the resources and infrastructure to conduct Municipal and School Board Elections. The estimated cost of the 2008 Municipal Election of approximately \$1.5M , will be considered in the 2008/09 operating budget.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality’s Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the proposed 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**

None, this activity must be carried out under the legislation of the Municipal Elections Act.

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 490-6516

*(Original Signed by Barb Palmeter for Catherine Sanderson)*

Financial Approval by:

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Catherine Sanderson, Senior Manager Financial Service, 490-1562