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**Item No. 3**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**October 28, 2014**

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

*Original Signed by Director*

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, P.Eng, Acting Director, TPW

**DATE:** October 21, 2014

**SUBJECT:** UNSM 2014 Conference Resolution 8A – Provincial-Municipal Solid Waste Working Group

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## **INFORMATION REPORT**

### **ORIGIN**

- HRM Regional Council session on August 5, 2014, a motion was passed to support proposed HRM resolution to establish a Provincial-Municipal Solid Waste Working Group
- UNSM Resolution Committee recommends HRM proposed resolution – Resolution 8A – slated for November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 conference agenda item
- Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee meeting held on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, NS Solid Waste Working Group discussion

### **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

HRM Charter Section 79 (1)(v) authority to spend subscription funds on UNSM membership, as well as broader ability to participate in UNSM activities.

### **BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on August 5, 2014 Council unanimously approved a Motion to put forward three resolutions to the UNSM for consideration to be part of the November 2014 conference. The proposed resolution respecting the formation of a Provincial – Municipal Solid Waste Working Group is the subject of this information report.

### **DISCUSSION**

Council's approved resolution was accepted by the UNSM Resolution Committee and is on the agenda for discussion at the UNSM 2014 Fall Convention taking place November 4-7<sup>th</sup>. It is referenced as Resolution 8A - Provincial-Municipal Solid Waste Working Group.

There are proposed changes to this resolution that have come forward from discussion among the NS Solid Waste-Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee. This group of elected officials represents waste-resource management regions throughout Nova Scotia and has the responsibility to keep municipal councils informed with regard to the development of effective and efficient municipal waste-resource management programs and services for the benefit of all Nova Scotians. Councillor Watts, Vice Chair, HRM's Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee represents the Halifax Solid Waste Region on Regional Chairs Committee.

Within the scope and role of Regional Chairs, this working group has proposed changes to Resolution 8A to be advanced at the UNSM Fall Conference. The overall intent and objectives remain unchanged; however, the oversight and reporting is to be integrated within the existing mandate of Regional Chairs. Councillor Watts will be making the amendments to Halifax's original motion.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

N/A

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Revised Resolution

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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Report Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## ATTACHMENT A – REVISED RESOLUTION

### PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE WORKING GROUP

- Halifax Regional Municipality

**WHEREAS** the Province of Nova Scotia is conducting a review of its solid waste regulations; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities are largely responsible for the operation of solid waste systems in Nova Scotia; and

**WHEREAS** any changes to regulations will have a significant impact on municipal operating costs; and

**WHEREAS** the Province has committed to consulting with municipalities on any proposed changes to regulations; and

**WHEREAS** an intergovernmental working group would allow for beneficial information sharing and input from all partners, and potentially set a benchmark for province-wide operating standards;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the UNSM request a working group be established through the NS Solid-Waste Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee to inform the solid waste regulation review with representatives from the NS Department of Environment; NS Municipal Affairs; NS Solid Waste Managers/Directors Committee (NSSWMD); NS Solid Waste Management Regional Coordinators; and UNSM; and that part of the mandate of this working group will be to seek additional provincial funding support.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

NS Department of Environment is reviewing its solid waste regulations. As these regulations have a direct impact on municipal operations, the Minister of Municipal Affairs sent a letter to UNSM on July 10, providing 12 months' notice of potential financial impact on municipalities, as is required under the *Municipal Government Act*. As the review is still underway, the actual changes are not yet known. The Minister stated that the Department of Environment plans to consult with municipalities on proposed changes.

Solid waste is a significant item in HRM's annual operating budget (\$34 million in 2014-15). Provincial regulations are a major driver of solid waste costs for all municipalities. To facilitate ongoing implementation of changes to the NS Solid Waste-Resource Management Regulations and work toward a coordinated and efficient approach to solid waste management services in Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Solid Waste-Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee is seeking to provide a forum for discussion among Nova Scotia municipalities on waste-resource management issues and to ensure Nova Scotia's municipal councils are informed. HRM is represented on this committee. Regional Chairs Committee has proposed that a working group be formed to assist in evolving the solid waste-resource regime based on identifying system-wide efficiencies to support the Provincial revision of solid waste regulations.

The proposed group would include membership from:

- NS Department of Environment
- NS Dept of Municipal Affairs
- NS Solid Waste Managers/Directors Committee
- NS Solid Waste-Resource Management Regional Chairs Committee
- Regional Coordinators
- UNSM

This working group would allow municipalities to participate directly in the review of solid waste regulations. It would also be an opportunity to set a benchmark for operating standards across Nova Scotia, and focus on ensuring both fiscal and environmental sustainability of solid waste operations. Given the significant impact this provincial review of regulations will have on municipalities, it is recommended that Council send the above resolution to UNSM's Annual Conference for endorsement.

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