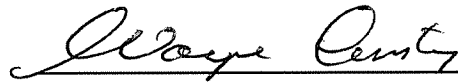


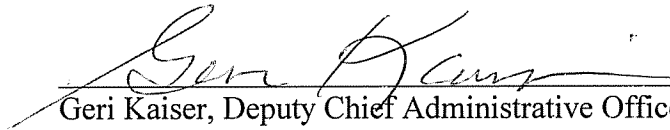
Halifax Regional Council
April 4, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer



Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Corporate Services & Strategy

DATE: March 29, 2006

SUBJECT: Halifax Regional School Board Special Election

ORIGIN

Due to a vacancy on the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) District 2, there is a requirement to conduct an election within the Municipality to fill this position on the Board.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that :

1. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk, be appointed the Returning Officer for the HRSB Special Election to be held June 3, 2006.
2. Halifax Regional Council approve the use of the Provincial Voters List used in the Provincial Election held on August 5th, 2003 and for the regular Municipal and School Board Election held on October 16th, 2004.

BACKGROUND

The Halifax Regional School Board consists of twelve electoral districts within Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Polling districts.

HRSB has declared vacant the District 2 seat of its board member elected within HRM. The Municipal Clerks office is in receipt of a letter confirming the vacancy and requesting a Special Election be held to fill the seat. In compliance with the Municipal Elections Act (Section 13) the date for the special election will be Saturday, June 3rd, 2006. Advance Polls will be held Saturday, May 27th and Tuesday May 30th, 2006.

DISCUSSION

Given that this election is for one matter for one district, this special election will be conducted utilizing our traditional method of paper ballot. Currently staff are in the process of exploring alternative voting methods for the 2008 Municipal Election. An Expression of Interest was issued requesting information from vendors and submissions were received from interested parties. An evaluation process has been established to review our options. The Municipal Clerk will be returning to Council shortly with an update of our progress to date.

Section 4(1) of the Municipal Elections Act permits Council to 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.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the conduct of this election will be recovered from the Halifax Regional School Board.

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 are no alternatives. There is a legislated requirement to conduct an election.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared and Approved by:


Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk