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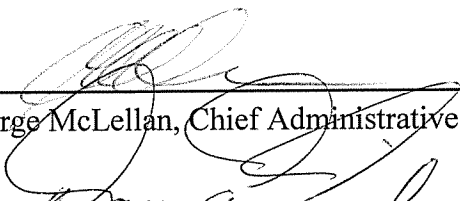


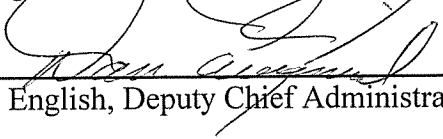
PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**June 14, 2005**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer

  
Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** June 6, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Learning City Correspondence RE: Charter Endorsement

### **ORIGIN**

At Halifax Regional Council meeting on August 31, 2004, Mr. Robert McGray gave a presentation seeking Council's endorsement of the Learning City Charter, being driven by the Metro Council of Continuing Education. Staff was asked to comment.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that Council support the crucial importance of learning through the endorsement of the resolution contained in Appendix A.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Learning City Halifax, a voluntary initiative, is associated with the Metro Council of Continuing Education. The group is comprised of partnering universities, educators, such as university professors, adult educators, and literacy and social groups throughout the Halifax metro area. These interested citizens are committed to promoting life long learning in our community. Their activities will involve public relations efforts to promote life long learning as an integral and essential element of healthy, sustainable and vibrant communities. Their efforts will lead up to a learning festival to be held in HRM in the fall of 2005. They are also intent on joining a world wide network of learning cities and will be one of the first Canadian cities to do so.

Learning City Halifax is seeking the endorsement of their Learning City Charter by Regional Council as an interested partner.

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff have been in discussions with Learning City and Metro Council for Continuing Education representatives. Upon reviewing the charter, it was quite clear that should HRM endorse and be a signatory to the charter, we would be committing to activity that is not currently set in operational business plans and budgets. Staff is also concerned that some aspects of the charter could be interpreted as commitments to act directly in a range of social, educational issues that are not under our current mandate. Endorsing the charter as an interested partner could heighten the expectations of others for programs and service initiatives that are not clearly on our current or future agenda.

However, the initiatives of the Learning City Group are positive and commendable and if carried out would greatly benefit our community. It is recommended Regional Council demonstrate the municipality's support for their initiative by way of approving a resolution that both highlighted and endorsed their efforts and offered support where ever possible. (See Appendix 1, Resolution on Learning City Charter). The Resolution recognizes, endorses and supports Learning City Halifax and the Learning City Charter in recognition of the crucial importance of learning as the major driving force for the future prosperity, stability and well-being of our citizens. It resolves that HRM cooperate and partner wherever possible with Learning City Halifax in efforts to invest in life long learning as an accepted way of life in the communities of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

The Charter originally proposed by the Metro Council of Continuing Education is included for your information as Appendix 2.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

None

## **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

Council could choose not to act any further on this matter.

### ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: Proposed Resolution on Learning City Charter

Appendix 2: Charter for the Learning City Halifax.

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 by: Barbara Nehiley, Senior Policy Analyst, Planning & Development Services (902)490-4612

Report Signed by: Betty MacDonald  
Betty MacDonald, Director, Governance & Strategic Initiatives, (902) 490-4769

## Resolution on Learning City Charter

*Whereas* Learning City Halifax will motivate all Citizens to contribute their own talents, skills, knowledge and energy for environmental care, community organizations, schools and other people;

*Whereas* Learning City Halifax will activate programs to enable citizens to form social bonds to learn in their own, and global community;

*Whereas* Learning City Halifax will combat exclusion by creating programs to involve the excluded in the life and privileges of the city;

*Whereas* Learning City Halifax will promote the pleasure of learning through events to celebrate and reward learning achievement in the city;

*Whereas* Learning City Halifax will endeavour to discover the learning requirements of every citizen for personal growth, career development and family well-being;

*Whereas* Learning City Halifax will develop Productive Partnerships between all sectors of the city for optimizing and sharing resources, as well as increasing learning opportunities for all;

*Whereas* Learning City Halifax will seek and promote the preservation of both the space and time for the social interaction of the citizens of the city.

**Be it resolved that Halifax Regional Municipality** recognises the Learning City Charter, in recognition of the crucial importance of learning as the major driving force for the future prosperity, stability and well-being of our citizens.

**Be it further resolved that Halifax Regional Municipality** cooperate and partner, wherever practical on a case-by-case basis, with Learning City Halifax in efforts to invest in life long learning as an accepted way of life in the communities of Halifax Regional Municipality.

Approved at Halifax Regional Council on the \_\_\_\_\_ Day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005

Signed

Peter Kelly, Mayor

Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk

## Charter For The Learning City Halifax

WE RECOGNIZE THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING AS THE MAJOR DRIVING FORCE FOR THE FUTURE PROSPERITY, STABILITY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR CITIZENS.

We declare that we will invest in lifelong learning within our own community by:

1. Motivating all Citizens to contribute their own talents, skills, knowledge and energy for environmental care, community organizations, schools and other people.
2. Activating programs to enable citizens to form social bonds to learn in their own, and global community.
3. Combatting exclusion by creating programs to involve the excluded in the life and privileges of the city.
4. Recognize the pleasure of learning through events to celebrate and reward learning achievement in the city.
5. Discovering the learning requirements of every citizen for personal growth, career development and family well-being.
6. Developing Productive Partnerships between all sectors of the city for optimizing and sharing resources, as well as increasing learning opportunities for all.
7. Committing to the preservation of both the space and time for the social interaction of the citizens of the city.

On Behalf of the City of

SEAL

Signed

Title

Date