



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

10.3.1

Halifax Regional Council
June 14, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Stephane Parsons
for Patrick Harrington, Chair
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

DATE: June 1, 2005

SUBJECT: Self Service Gas Pumps

ORIGIN

Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting held May 16, 2005.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council:

1. Contact the Nova Scotia Retail Gasoline Dealers Association of Nova Scotia to express concern with the growing trend toward Self Service Gas Pumps.

BACKGROUND

On January 11, 2005, Regional Council adopted a motion to contact the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board and any other agencies in relation to gas pump regulations to express concern with the growing trend toward self service gas pumps. On February 28, 2005, the NS Utility and Review Board responded that they do not regulate service stations and therefore, the installation of self service gas pumps is not a matter subject to the jurisdiction of the Board.

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities discussed the lack of full service gas pumps in HRM and the appropriate regulatory body at their April 18, 2005 and May 16, 2005 meetings. The trend toward Self Service gas pumps is of great concern to citizens who are disabled, have limited mobility due to an accident/surgery or are Seniors and find it difficult to exit a vehicle, pump their own gas then go to the cash (usually inside) to pay for their purchase.

According to a Statistical Report released by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Attended Service Stations has decreased by 10.4%, while Self Service Stations have increased by 12.6% between 2003 and 2004.

Being unable to pump one's own gas is a barrier in regards to accessibility and independence for many people. If a person is unable to pump their own gas and only Self Service gas pumps are to be found, a person must "depend" on someone else to accompany them each time a fill-up is required. For most, filling up a gas tank is done without prior planning. For persons with disabilities or persons with limited mobility, this seemingly simple task would require strategic planning.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications for this application.

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 proposed at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Copy of the letter dated February 20, 2005 to NS Utility Review Board
- 2) Copy of the letter dated February 28, 2005 from NS Utility and Review Board
- 3) Copy of Statistical Report from Service NS and Municipal Relations

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: Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

Report Approved by: Patrick Harrington, Chair, Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

February 20, 2005

COPY

Mr. Peter W. Gurnham, Q.C., Chair
Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board
3rd Floor, Summit Place
1601 Lower Water Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3P6

Dear Mr. Gurnham:

At a recent meeting of Halifax Regional Council, the following motion was adopted:

That Regional Council contact the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board and any other agencies in relation to gas pump regulations to express concern with the growing trend towards self service gas pumps. Further, that organizations such as LEO (League for Equal Opportunities) and the provincial Disabled Persons Commission be copied on this correspondence.

The HRM Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities advised Council that the trend toward Self Service gas pumps is of great concern to citizens who are disabled, have limited mobility due to an accident/surgery, and seniors who find it difficult to exit a vehicle, pump their own gas, and then go inside to pay for their purchase. For most, filling up a gas tank is done without prior planning. For persons with disabilities, or persons with limited mobility, this seemingly simple task would require strategic planning.

Please be advised of Council's decision in this matter.

Yours very truly,

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Gibson".

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk

cc: Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission
Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities
HRM Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

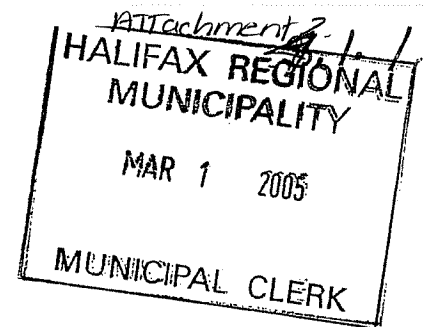
GOVERNANCE, OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK



Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board

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Office of the Chair



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February 28, 2005

Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Halifax Regional Municipality
P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Ms. Gibson:

This is further to your letter of February 20, 2005 advising of Council's motion concerning the growing trend towards self service gas pumps.

Please be advised that the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board does not regulate service stations and, therefore, the installation of self service gas pumps is not a matter subject to the jurisdiction of the Board.

Yours very truly,

Peter W. Gurnham, Q.C.
Chair

PWG/jrp

cc: Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission
cc: Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities
✓ cc: HRM Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Gas Stations of Nova Scotia

Statistical Information

As of 03-Aug-2004

Provincial Distribution by Service Type						
Service Type	2004		2003		2003-2004	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	% Change
Attended & Self Service	154	30.7%	159	30.5%	-5	-3.1%
Attended Service	232	46.2%	259	49.7%	-27	-10.4%
Self Service	116	23.1%	103	19.8%	13	12.6%
Total	502	100.0%	521	100.0%	-19	-3.6%

Table 1.

Provincial Distribution by Brand						
	2004		2003		2003-2004	
	Brand	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	% Change
	Esso	82	16.3%	87	16.7%	-5 -5.8%
	Irving	120	23.9%	121	23.2%	-1 -0.8%
	Petro-Canada	64	12.8%	60	11.5%	4 6.7%
	Shell	42	8.4%	47	9.0%	-5 -10.6%
	Ultramar	96	19.1%	99	19.0%	-3 3.0%
	Wilson Fuel	57	11.4%	58	11.1%	-1 1.7%
	Other	41	8.2%	49	9.4%	-8 -16.3%
	Total	502	100.0%	521	100.0%	-19 -3.6%

Table 2.

Gas Stations of Nova Scotia

Statistical Information

As of 03-Aug-2004

Provincial Distribution by Fuel Type						
	2004		2003		2003-2004	
Available Fuel Type(s)	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Change	% Change
Gas Only	217	43.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gas and Diesel	283	56.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
No Data Available	2	0.4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	502	100.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 3.

Provincial Distribution of Available Diesel by Brand						
	2004		2003		2003-2004	
Brand	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	% Change
Esso	46	16.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Irving	80	28.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Petro-Canada	24	8.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shell	26	9.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ultramar	53	18.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wilson Fuel	39	13.8%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	15	5.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	283	100.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 4.