




REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Halifax Regional Council  
July 16th, 2002

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
Dale MacLennan, Director, HRM Financial Services

**DATE:** July 7, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Request For Information: Tax Abatement Program for Non-Profit Housing.

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## INFORMATION REPORT

### ORIGIN

This report is in response to a request by Councillor Hetherington tabled at the Regional Council meeting of October 2nd, 2001 that staff of the HRM Grants Program prepare a report to determine the feasibility of implementing a four-year pilot project for a tax abatement program for community-owned and operated low income rental housing.

Staff of the Grants Program have been invited to participate on the "Vibrant City-Healthy Communities" Task Group of the HRM Regional Planning Project. This sector includes housing-related issues such as diversity in type of housing, affordability, and community design.

### BACKGROUND

Housing-related issues which impact the HRM Grants Program portfolio such as tax subsidies, tax deferrals, grants to community groups, the subsidized sales or donations of land or buildings, leases, and inter-agency cooperative agreements can be incorporated within the context of the Regional Planning Project. It is expected this planning review and strategic direction will identify the broader policy framework within which the Grants Program portfolio will link.

Staff recommend, therefore, that any consideration of service level changes (such as the addition of new subsidy programs) be delayed pending Regional Council's approval of the "Healthy Communities" component of the Regional Planning Project. This sector's final report is due September 30th, 2002.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Regional Planning Project is expected to provide the strategic long-term framework within which HRM's tax and grants assistance will link with respect to legislation, discretionary programming, inter-sectoral or inter-agency collaboration, and advocacy.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACTS**

There are no adverse consequences to the community at this time. It is anticipated, if approved by Regional Council the "Healthy Communities" priorities, service standards, and performance indicators will be incorporated into the relevant program by-laws, administrative orders, and programming.

## **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 other relevant legislation.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

This is an information report only.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None.

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.

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