



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

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Halifax Regional Council
May 13, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lewis M. Rogers".

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Lew Rogers, Director, Recreation, Culture & Heritage

DATE: **May 8, 2003**

SUBJECT: **A Municipal Cultural Policy**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

March 25, 1997 Request for staff to develop a Public Art Policy
April 15, 1997 Information Report-Inventory of Artifacts and a Public Art Policy
February 9, 1999 Request for staff to report on a Regional Cultural Committee
June 22, 2001 Developing a Cultural Policy for HRM

BACKGROUND

Immediately following amalgamation, concern was expressed that the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) should ensure a coordinated approach to the management of heritage. An integrated approach was developed. Through time it has become clear that all aspects of Culture, not just heritage, should be addressed through an integrated approach. A policy is being written which will provide this approach.

DISCUSSION

HRM is a key player in the field of cultural services in Nova Scotia and is recognized as a centre for arts, heritage and leisure activities. These activities play an important role in the economics, social interactions and quality of life of the community. Cultural activities provide the mechanism through which citizens express themselves and reflect their community, diversity and lifestyles.

Increasing demand for cultural services from the business, tourism and leisure communities compels the municipality to take a more coordinated and directed role in planning programs and services that celebrate, promote and support culture. It is the intent that, through the creation of a policy, HRM will provide a logical, coherent, consistent foundation on which Municipal Council and staff can base decisions leading to the development of appropriate support policies, cultural delivery systems and structures.

Policy Development Process:

HRM staff working under leadership of Culture & Heritage as the Cultural Advisory Team (CAT), with representation from; Halifax Regional Library, Recreation, Heritage Planning, Capital District, Parks, Civic Events & Festivals, Tourism, Grants, Diversity, and Real Property; are developing a draft Cultural Policy discussion paper. This paper, will address the Cultural Policy mandate, rationale, guiding principles, vision and goals - as well as pertinent definitions.

CAT members intend to solicit public discussion of the paper during May and June. With this feedback, staff will refine the document in the summer months. A working Cultural Policy will be presented to Council for approval in the Fall.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None at this time.

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

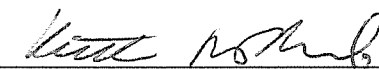
None

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.

Report Prepared by:



Keith McPhail, Cultural Officer, Culture and Heritage,
Recreation, Culture & Heritage 490-5912