



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

October 22, 2008

The Honourable Cecil Clarke,
Minister of Justice
Chair, Law Amendments Committee
4th Floor, Terminal Building
PO Box 7, 5151 Terminal Road
Halifax, NS
B3J 2L6

Dear Minister Clarke:

Re: Proposed Legislative Amendments to the Municipal Government Act

On behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality's Regional Plan Advisory Committee, I am writing to express our strong support for the HRMbyDesign process. As the Committee responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy, we recognize the unique opportunities and issues facing our downtown core.

The Committee has been provided with regular updates and documentation regarding the HRMbyDesign goals, objectives and policy directions, and; Committee members have actively participated in the extensive public consultation program. Based on this information and input, the Committee fully agrees that if we are to make the HRMbyDesign Vision a reality, HRM needs to be provided with the necessary legislative policy authority which it presently lacks. The site plan approval mechanism being proposed under HRMbyDesign, as an example, will clarify policy related to development approvals in the downtown, significantly reduce timelines for such approvals and facilitate quality future development.

It is with the full support of the Regional Plan Advisory Committee that I request that the legislative changes to the Municipal Government Act being sought as a result of the HRMbyDesign initiative be approved.

Respectfully yours,

Fred Monley
Chair, HRM Regional Plan Advisory Committee

cc. Members of the Law Amendments Committee Mayor Peter J. Kelly, HRM
Mr. Mike Savage, MP Members of Halifax Regional Council
The Honourable Rodney J. MacDonald, Premier Members of the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly

HRM Regional Plan Advisory Committee