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Halifax, Nova Scotia  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY B3J 3A5 Canada

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**April 13, 2004**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** April 7, 2004

**SUBJECT:** **Use of Provincial Election List -  
October 16, 2004, Municipal and School Board Elections**

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### ORIGIN

A region-wide Municipal Election will be conducted on October 16, 2004, to elect a Mayor and Councillors to the Halifax Regional Council, members to the Halifax Regional School Board, including the African Nova Scotia Member, and the HRM representatives to the Conseil scolaire provincial acadien (CSAP, Province-wide French School Board). The Municipal Elections Act permits municipal units throughout the Province to use the August, 2003, Provincial Election Voters list in the upcoming fall election.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council approve the use of the Provincial Voters List used in the Provincial Election held on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003, for the regular municipal election to be held on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

## **BACKGROUND**

Section 30 of the Municipal Elections Act requires that by the Fifteenth day of April in a regular election year, the Council may, by resolution, provide that the Returning Officer determine the best method suited to the municipality to produce a preliminary list of electors.

There are three options for the development of the preliminary list of electors. The municipality may:

- Conduct an enumeration of the electors, to be completed by June 10<sup>th</sup>,
- Utilize a list from a recent municipal election, or
- Utilize the Provincial or Federal list of Electors from a recent election or from a register of electors maintained by the Province or by Elections Canada

## **DISCUSSION**

The Returning Officer has received a copy of the Provincial Voters List used for the Provincial Election in August, 2003. This Provincial list was also used for the HRM Special Election held on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003. With Council's approval, the Provincial list will be prepared and used for the development of the Preliminary List of Electors no later than July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004. HRM's improved data management within Civic Addressing and GIS groups has increased the level of accuracy from which to develop a preliminary list.

Municipal units achieve savings by utilizing the Provincial Election list rather than incurring the cost of enumeration. In 2000 it was estimated that it would cost approximately \$140,000 for a full enumeration within HRM. Cape Breton Regional Municipality paid approximately \$100,000 for an enumeration in 1999. A full enumeration within HRM in 2004 will cost approximately \$150,000.

## **REVISION OF THE PRELIMINARY LIST OF ELECTORS**

Recent changes to the Municipal Elections Act stipulates that the preliminary list is no longer posted throughout municipalities. This means that electors will need to verify that they are on the list, or be added to the list, by contacting the HRM election office where information will be taken and verified to confirm the identity and their qualifications to vote.

Should Council grant permission to the use of the provincial voter's list, the Returning Officer will undertake an extensive advertising campaign during the revision period, over and above the requirements of the Municipal Elections Act. Information regarding the process and deadlines for the elector to verify or to be added to the list will be placed on posters throughout the communities of HRM, on the Election Website, and additional advertising will be placed in community newspapers. Election staff will also be present in the community at HRM Customer Service Centres, and in other advertised locations in the community throughout the revision period.

Electors are encouraged to be part of the Voters List as it will save them time on voting day, this also allows us to send them a voter notification card with their unique identification number and their poll location. Electors will be reminded that they do not have to be on the Final List of Electors in order to vote at the advance polls or on ordinary polling day. Under the Municipal Elections Act [s.14], a person entitled to be registered on the list of electors and to vote in a municipal election must:

- be 18 years or older on ordinary polling day
- be a Canadian citizen on ordinary polling day
- have been ordinarily resident in the municipality for at least three months immediately preceding ordinary polling day, and continue to reside there.

Using the current Provincial Election List, the preliminary list of voters for the October 16, 2004 will be available in ample time to give the electorate throughout the Municipality the opportunity to make revisions to the list.

An HRM staff team has been convened to work together internally to generate the information necessary (lists and maps) by applying the data from the Provincial list to the appropriate HRM polling districts as confirmed by the recent URB ruling.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

It is anticipated that the net savings achieved by not carrying out a region-wide enumeration will be in the vicinity of \$150,000.

### **MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no multi-year financial implications based on the recommendation contained herein.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

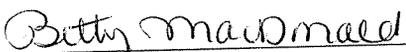
Council could instruct a region-wide enumeration. This is not the recommended course of action.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments.

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: Jan Gibson, Acting Municipal Clerk, 490-6483

Report Approved by:   
Betty MacDonald, Director, Governance & Strategic Initiatives