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**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**2004 ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**November 23, 2004**

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

### 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities consists of individuals with a variety of disabilities and is comprised of the following members:

Betty MacDonald, Chair

Joanne Coffey, Vice-Chair

Nigel Alison (*resigned*)

Cathy (*Robertson*) Cranidge

Kim Kenney (*resigned*)

Warren "Gus" Reed

Peggy Brown

Lynn Demont

Barbara LeGay

Janet Spares (*resigned*)

Sally E. Campbell

Patrick Harrington

Joan Loveridge

Ruth Szabo

Councillor Gary Meade

Councillor Condo Sarto

HRM Staff support provided to this Committee include:

Ms. Charla Williams,  
Coordinator, Diversity  
Program

Supt. Cliff Falkenham,  
Halifax Regional Police

Ms. Roxane MacInnis,  
TDM Coordinator

Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

The Committee continues to work with Staff to promote full access for Persons with Disabilities in HRM. In 2004, HRM Staff worked diligently to monitor and enforce new regulations regarding access to sidewalk cafés. This past summer, our Committee noted improvements to sidewalk cafés in Halifax (wheelchair access to Freeman's sidewalk café on Quinpool Road is now available, for example. Many wheelchair users live in this part of HRM). The Committee hopes to continue working with HRM Staff to remove all barriers associated with sidewalk cafés.

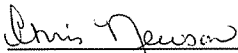
Our Committee is committed to working with HRM to increase the amount of affordable, accessible housing available in our communities. Recommendations on amendments to barrier-free requirements in the Nova Scotia Building Code were made by our Committee (these were submitted to the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee). HRM Staff was invaluable in helping our Committee formulate our recommendations.

This past spring, the Regional Planning Committee presented three alternatives to how HRM can achieve healthy growth in the next 25 years. In response, our Committee gave a presentation and recommended that the Regional Planning Committee include universal designs as part of the foundation strategy of healthy growth (universal designs integrate Persons with Disabilities into full community living).

Other activities the Committee has been directly involved with are:

- Use of Accessible Playgrounds to increase athletic abilities of children with disabilities.
- Looking into ways to help wheelchair accessible taxis survive in HRM - this includes one meeting with representatives of HRM's Regional Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

  
for Betty MacDonald, Chair  
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

November 23, 2004