



PO Box 1749  
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**Item No. 4**

**Halifax Regional Council  
September 25, 2007**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Dunphy", written over a horizontal line.

Paul Dunphy, Director of Community Development

**DATE:** September 4, 2007

**SUBJECT:** **Community Recreation Services Youth Engagement Strategy Wins  
National Award for Excellence**

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## **INFORMATION REPORT**

### **ORIGIN**

Staff

### **BACKGROUND**

It has recently been announced that Community Recreation Services Youth Engagement Strategy has won the National Award for Excellence in Innovation from the Canadian Parks & Recreation Association.

The award reflects the uniqueness of HRM's Youth Engagement Strategy and the youth project was recognized for its active consultation, total inclusion, creative tools, and true youth leadership. Youth were involved in the project from a variety of geographic and socio-economic backgrounds throughout HRM.

As Council is aware, engaging youth and providing youth leadership and mentorship opportunities were cornerstones of the project and as a result of the plan over hundreds of new activities and programs are happening at the grass roots community level.

## **DISCUSSION**

Strong partnerships contributed to the success of the project including adult - youth partnerships, and partnerships with the not for profit sector including the Heartwood Centre for Community Development. In addition many of the creative resources developed included a youth governance model, a community youth development tool kit and progressive leadership training opportunities. Some of the new leadership and recreation programs include rock shows, new youth action teams, youth extravangaza days, new youth directed programs (flag football, bike and hikes), community service projects, carnivals, CLOUT (Community Leaders - Outstanding Unique Teens), camps paddling clubs, drop-ins, video productions, mural paintings, walk and talks, and bullying management, to name but a few.

This very prestigious award was awarded not only on the basis of the benefits and outcomes from the project but also through the development process itself.

The award recognizes Canadian Municipalities that have demonstrated innovation in the provision of recreation services and will be awarded in Ottawa on Friday, September 28, 2007 as part of Canada's 2007 National Parks and Recreation Conference and Trade Show.

## **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 relevant legislation.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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