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## Item No. 2

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**October 23, 2007**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Dunphy". The signature is written over a horizontal line that separates the signature from the name below it.

Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development

**DATE:** October 9, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Arena Capacity

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

This report originates from a Council discussion on the need for more ice surfaces at the April 4, 2007 Committee of the Whole Budget deliberations.

#### BACKGROUND

This past spring, the provincially owned Akerley arena was closed. The closure had an impact on all other users in the region and required significant rescheduling to accommodate minor hockey and other program users.

During the 2007/08 Budget deliberations, Councillor Karsten made a motion for funding to address the need of a new ice surface in Dartmouth. Other Councillors also expressed general support for the construction on new ice surfaces. Several expressed the opinion that they are specifically needed in their district. Staff advised that the planned launch of the 2007 Community Facilities Master Plan would include an arena capacity review. The study will utilize forecasted growth patterns from the Regional Plan and demographic projections among other factors, to help determine future needs and recommended locations. Staff also indicated that funds for new arenas would be included in the 2008/09 Capital Budget for Council's consideration. The recommended location of new arenas will be an early deliverable of the Community Facilities Master Plan late this fall or early winter. A tender award for consulting services to carry out the Community Facilities Master Plan was approved by Regional Council on October 16, 2007. A steering committee comprised of citizens and Councillors has been established.

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff have prepared an RFP to retain a consultant to prepare budget estimates for arena options for the 2008/09 budget. The RFP will be issued shortly. A twin pad arena is being assumed for the conceptual design.

Staff are also taking this opportunity to gather information to help develop a strategy on the provision of an Olympic/International ice surface in HRM. At present, no such ice surface exists within HRM but will be required as the venue for hosting short track speed skating during the 2011 Canada Winter Games. The Canada Winter Game bid proposes modifying an existing arena. However, if new ice surfaces are built it may be appropriate to incorporate an international ice surface.

The actual location and arena configuration will be arrived at through the Community Facilities Master Plan exercise. The RFP and Community Facility Master Plan should provide staff and Council with sufficient information to develop a strategy for providing more ice surfaces in HRM as part of the 2008/09 Budget Deliberations.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

This is an unbudgeted expenditure. When staff are ready to award the RFP, staff will come back to Council with a separate report requesting approval for the unbudgeted transfer from Operating Reserve Q319, Major Events.

## **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**

There are no attachments.

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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