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Item No. 11.1.9

Halifax Regional Council
June 24, 2008

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

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

SUBMITTED BY:

Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 17, 2008

SUBJECT: UNSM Fall Conference - HRM Resolutions

ORIGIN

June 6, 2008 notification from UNSM to all Municipal Units indicating a June 30, 2008 deadline to submit resolutions for consideration at the 2008 UNSM Fall Conference.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council direct the HRM Board representative to forward the two resolutions set out in the Discussion section of this report to the UNSM for consideration and endorsement by the UNSM during its 2008 Fall Conference.

BACKGROUND

HRM is represented in the Regional Caucus of UNSM. The role of the Caucus is to elect members to serve on the Board and to make recommendations to the Board on matters of interest and concern to the caucus. In advance of each annual conference, Municipalities, Caucuses, the Board and the Resolutions Committee can submit resolutions for debate at the Fall Conference. To be properly received, the resolution must include whether the resolution was considered and passed by the municipal unit.

DISCUSSION

Three key pieces of legislation were given First Reading on May 23, 2008. Bill 179, the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* was in response to the request by Regional Council for a Municipal Charter. Bill 181, the *Halifax By Design Act*, and Bill 182, *Heritage Property Act (Amended)*, contain the legislative amendments required for HRM By Design. All three Bills remained at First Reading following the closing of the Spring 2008 Sitting of the House of Assembly.

A formal resolution passed by UNSM in support of the Charter and the HRM By Design legislation may assist the municipality in securing support for the legislation during the Fall 2008 Sitting of the House.

It is recommended that the following two resolutions be approved by Regional Council and forwarded to the UNSM for consideration at the 2008 UNSM Fall Conference.

Resolutions:

WHEREAS on September 11, 2007 Regional Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality approved the concept of a Municipal Charter and subsequently requested the Province of Nova Scotia enact a Halifax Regional Municipality Charter; and

WHEREAS on February 26, 2008 Regional Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality approved HRM By Design's "Downtown Halifax Vision" and requested the Province of Nova Scotia enact legislative changes to enable a new planning process for downtown development; and

WHEREAS on April 1, 2008, the President of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities wrote a letter on behalf of the UNSM Board supporting the enactment of a *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*; and

WHEREAS Regional Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality requested that the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* be based on the *Municipal Government Act*, with no substantive changes;

WHEREAS on May 23, 2008 First Reading was given to Bill 179, *The Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*, Bill 181, the *HRM By Design Act*, and Bill 182, *Heritage Property Act (Amended)*;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities supports the enactment of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* as requested by Regional Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality on September 11, 2007.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities supports the enactment of the *HRM By Design Act* and the amendment to the *Heritage Property Act* as requested by Regional Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality on February 26, 2008.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications to this report.

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.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council could choose to forward only one of the resolutions to the UNSM Fall Conference.


Regional Council could choose not to forward a resolution to the UNSM Fall Conference.

ATTACHMENTS

June 6, 2008 correspondence from UNSM re: 2008 Conference Resolutions

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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The Union
of Nova Scotia
Municipalities

OUR MISSION
The UNSM is the collective voice
of municipal government
in Nova Scotia

MEMO

TO: Mayors/Wardens, All Units
FROM: Ken Simpson, Executive Director
DATE: June 6, 2008
RE: **2008 CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS**

The 2008 Annual Conference will be held in Yarmouth, September 17th – 20th. At the Conference, you will debate resolutions submitted from municipalities, the Caucuses, the Board of Directors, and possibly the Resolutions Committee. According to the UNSM By-Laws, resolutions must be received by the UNSM office 80 days before the Annual Conference to avoid being classified as a late resolution. That deadline is June 30th, 2008.

The Resolutions Committee plans to hold their first meeting in mid July. I urge you to consider submitting all resolutions by June 30th so that they can be reviewed by the Committee. All resolutions submitted prior to the deadline are presented to the Conference.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. B. Simpson
Executive Director

KRBS/tv

cc: Chief Administrative Officers/Clerk-Treasurers, All Units
UNSM Board of Directors

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