



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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**Item No. 11.1.4**

**Halifax Regional Council  
June 30, 2009**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

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Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Corporate Services and Strategy

**DATE:** June 12, 2009

**SUBJECT:** **Special Election Halifax Regional Municipality  
District 6 - East Dartmouth - The Lakes**

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**ORIGIN**

Resignation of Andrew Younger, Councillor for District 6 - East Dartmouth - The Lakes

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Accept the resignation of Councillor Younger from Halifax Regional Council;
2. Appoint Linda Grant as the Returning Officer and Cathy Mellett be appointed the Assistant Returning Officer for the Special Election in District 6 to fill the vacancy on the Halifax Regional Council;
3. Approve the use of the current Provincial Voters List data;
4. Approve a withdrawal from the Election Reserve, Q313, in the amount of \$85,000;
5. Set the date for the Special Election in District 6 - East Dartmouth the Lakes as Saturday September 19, 2009 and the dates for the first Advance Poll to be on Saturday September 12, 2009, the second Advance Poll to be on Tuesday September 15, 2009;
6. Approve the use of internet and telephone voting for the Special Election beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 12, 2009, the date of the first Advance Poll, continuous to the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 19, 2009 (as per Council's direction of May 5, 2009).

**BACKGROUND**

Mr. Andrew Younger being a successful candidate in the recent Provincial Election has tendered his resignation from Regional Council. The Municipal Clerks Office is in receipt of a letter confirming the vacancy and requesting a special election be held to fill the seat in District 6.

The Municipal Elections Act (Section 13) requires that within four weeks after a vacancy occurs, Council shall name a day for a Special Election to fill the vacancy and that the election will be held not more than eleven weeks after the meeting of the Council at which time the date for the election was set.

The month of August through to the end of the Labour Day Weekend (September 5, 6 and 7) are prime vacation and back-to-school times in Nova Scotia. In order to ensure the greatest possible voter participation and comply with the requirement of the Municipal Elections Act, the date for the Special Election recommended by election staff is Saturday September 19, 2009.

Advance polls will be held on Saturday, September 12 and Tuesday, September 15 with internet and telephone voting being held on Saturday, September 12 and continuous to the close of polls on Saturday, September 19. This Special Election will be conducted utilizing our traditional method of paper ballot and internet and telephone voting.

The Municipal Elections Act (Section 4) permits Council to appoint an Assistant Returning Officer to assist the Returning Officer in carrying out the duties should the Returning Officer be absent. Given the scope of the upcoming election, it is prudent to appoint an Assistant Returning Officer in the event the Returning Officer is absent from the municipality for a period of time during critical phases of the election process.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

In 2001, Council approved the establishment of an Election Reserve (Q313) to provide the infrastructure for the conduct of Municipal and School Board Elections as well as Special Elections which may become necessary. An expenditure of approximately \$85,000 would be required from the Election Reserve to conduct the Special Election in HRM District 6 - East Dartmouth - The Lakes. Only the funds required will be drawn from the Reserve. Funding availability has been confirmed by staff of Financial Services.

Budget Summary: Municipal Elections Q313

Uncommitted Reserve Funds Q313	\$484,767
Proposed Withdrawal	<u>\$(85,000)</u>
Projected Balance March 31, 2010	\$399,767

**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**

There is a legislated requirement to conduct a special election to fill the vacancy on Regional Council.

However, Council could direct staff to proceed with an in-person vote only for the Special Election in District 6. This would result in a reduction of \$35,000 in the requested amount of the withdrawal from Q313 the Election Reserve.


This is not the recommended approach as the District 6 Special Election provides an opportunity to conduct an integrated in-person and e-voting election and evaluate the impact on voter participation with potential for cost savings in the 2012 Municipal Election through a reduction in the number of in-person poll locations.

**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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Report Approved by:

  
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Financial Approval by:

  
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