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Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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## **Item No. 5**

**Halifax Regional Council  
October 19, 2010**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** original signed  
Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair, Governance & District Boundary Review  
Committee

**DATE:** October 13, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Phase 2 Public Consultation- Polling District Boundary Review

### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

The motion of Regional Council of August 4, 2009 adopting a two phase approach to the District Boundary Review process and establishing the Governance & District Boundary Review Committee of Council.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Halifax Regional Municipality is required, under the HRM Charter, to conduct a major review of polling districts every eight (8) years. Following the review Regional Council will submit an application to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) to review HRM's application and to confirm or alter the number and boundaries of HRM's polling districts. The NSUARB has directed that the review be conducted in two phases and that public participation be carried out in both phases of the review. HRM's submission to the NSUARB must be made by December 31, 2010.

At the completion of Phase 1 on the Boundary Review to set the governance structure for HRM, Regional Council's decision was to maintain 23 polling districts. The revisions of polling district boundaries have been based on that decision of Council.

## **DISCUSSION**

HRM's polling district boundaries have undergone a number of revisions since amalgamation. Due to growth in HRM and where growth has occurred, a number of polling district boundary adjustments are required in order to comply with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board direction that voter equity be maintained across polling districts.

The Governance & District Boundary Review Committee has examined a number of options for adjustment to HRM's polling district boundaries to comply with the requirements as outlined by the Board.

It is the intention of the HRM's Governance & District Boundary Review Committee to propose changes that:

- Comply with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board's (NSURB) requirements to ensure voter equity between polling districts
- And, reduce, where possible, the changes for HRM's voters

The Committee has directed staff to prepare the proposed boundary revisions and to hold a series of public meetings in early November to inform the public of the proposed changes and consult the public on their views. The presentations will provide an overview of the changes, the legislative requirements in setting polling boundaries, and seek the public's views on the proposed changes. The ad and schedule for the public meetings is attached to this report. Advertisements for these public meetings will begin to appear in community and regional publications and other media outlets shortly. Information on the proposed boundary changes will be available on the HRM web site commencing Monday October 25<sup>th</sup>. The public will be provided with additional ways to provide written submissions.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Expenditures related to the Public Consultation are within the Operating Budget of the Municipal Clerks Office – Account A- 121.

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

This report outlines the public engagement strategy for Phase 2 of HRM's District Boundary Review process.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1) Overview of HRM's Governance and Boundary Review Process
- 2) Ad and Schedule of Public Meetings- Phase 2 Polling District Boundary Adjustments

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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.

Report Prepared by: Cathy J. Mellett, Municipal Clerk, 490-6456

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## **HRM's Governance & District Boundary Review Process**

### **Phase 1: Governance**

- Questions like the size of electoral districts, role of councillor, powers and size of Community Council and Regional Council, and how Council can work best to serve the citizens of HRM.

Public Input - now through to end of March 2010

- Spring 2010 - Council decides on a Governance Model including size of Council.

### **Phase 2: Boundary Review and Adjustments**

- Summer 2010 - Electoral district boundaries are readjusted or redrawn

- Fall 2010 - Public meetings on district boundaries.

Public Input - Fall 2010

- Late Fall 2010 - Council recommends adoption of new boundaries.

- December 2010 - HRM's submission is made to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

# Your Council. Your Say.

## HRM's District Boundary Review

### Polling District Review

The Halifax Regional Municipality is required to review polling districts and district boundaries in HRM prior to the 2012 Municipal Elections. Based on growth in HRM and where growth is occurring, and in order to comply with the legislated requirement to maintain voter parity, some changes to polling district boundaries will be required.

Public Consultation on polling district boundary changes will allow the public to review the proposed changes and make comment prior to HRM's final submission to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board by December 31, 2010. Details of the proposed boundaries will be presented at the public meetings (listed below) or can be viewed on line **commencing Monday, October 25, 2010** by visiting HRM's web site at [www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview](http://www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview).

### When & Where?

Date	Location
Wednesday, November 3, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Cole Harbour Place, Westphal Room 51 Forest Hills Parkway, Dartmouth
Wednesday, November 3, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Halifax West School Cafeteria 283 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax
Thursday, November 4, 2010 7:00 p.m.	St. Andrews Centre, Seniors Room 6955 Bayers Road, Halifax
Monday, November 8, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Basinview Drive Community School 273 Basinview Drive, Bedford
Monday, November 8, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Dartmouth High School, Cafeteria 95 Victoria Road, Dartmouth
Wednesday, November 10, 2010 7:30 p.m. <i>(Please note time)</i>	St. Margaret's Centre, Multi-Purpose Room 12 Westwood Blvd, Upper Tantallon
Wednesday, November 10, 2010 7:00 p.m.	Gordon Snow Community Centre, Multi-Purpose Room 1359 Fall River Road, Fall River

### Unable to Attend a Meeting?

If you are unable to attend any of the scheduled meetings you can still view the proposed boundaries on line at [www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview](http://www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview) (**commencing Monday October 25, 2010**) and provide your comments by:



**Email:**  
[clerks@halifax.ca](mailto:clerks@halifax.ca)



**Fax:**  
490-4208



or  
**Writing to:**  
Municipal Clerk, City Hall,  
PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS  
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