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**Item No. 2**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**June 23, 2015**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed by Director

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Bruce Zvaniga, Director, Transportation and Public Works

**DATE:** May 27, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Kent Avenue Prince's Lodge-Caution Sanding Only Sign

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

Item 10.2.2 raised at the April 14, 2015, meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

On April 14, 2015, Councillor Walker submitted a petition signed by 13 of the 14 households on Kent Avenue in Prince's Lodge requesting removal of the Caution: Sanding Only sign at the bottom of the street and the street be salted from here on.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Section 31 "Petitions and Communications" of Administrative Order Number One Respecting the Procedures of the Council.

**BACKGROUND**

Kent Avenue is one of a limited number of streets in the Municipality that the application of only sand is used as an abrasive during winter works operations. Traditionally, a street could be on the "sanding only" list if there was the presence of wells on the adjacent properties and the residents expressed contamination concerns if salt was used as a de-icer. Kent Avenue is a Priority One street for winter maintenance operations because it is a very steep hill. Residents have indicated on many occasions during the past winter that they and service vehicles were unable to get up the hill. They also fear the impact on emergency response.

The residents have indicated that the access and public safety concerns could be addressed by switching to salt application on a go forwards basis. According to the petition, three residents on the street still rely on well water and they have signed the petition to confirm that they are not concerned that road salt will contaminate their wells.

## **DISCUSSION**

With respect to de-icing, Halifax participates on the National Salt Vulnerable Area working group with Environment Canada and has participated in developing and reviewing best practices with respect to winter street maintenance and de-icing. The best practice approach, which Halifax employs, is to measure and manage the amount of road salt deployed from the works depots. This includes two key parts:

1. Training of contractors and internal staff on winter works, and the proper use of de-icers;
2. Monitoring and measurement of salt dispensing.

The combination of the training and measurement has resulted in marked reductions in the amount of salt entering our watersheds / waterways and making its way to our lakes. Further, the Municipality has improved operations completing pre-wetting / salting of roads to reduce the need for excessive de-icing after an event. The practice of applying sanding in some limited areas versus using salt has a negligible impact on wells. In road de-icing actions, salt is mixed with the sand and requires many more applications thus the amount of salt used is comparable to a salt only application using the best practice approach.

Given the above, staff has no concern using salt as a de-icer on Kent Avenue on a go forward basis. The "Sanding Only" sign will be removed prior to the start of the next winter works season.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications to this work.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

There has been no formal community engagement however, the comments that have been received from the public are being fully considered.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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