

# HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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**Item No. 14.2.1 (i)**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**October 4, 2016**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed by   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

Original Signed by   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jane Fraser, Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** September 19, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Red Tape Reduction Strategy

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## SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

### ORIGIN

Motion passed by the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee from their meeting on July 28, 2016.

### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Halifax Regional Municipality Charter provides Council with the power to make policies and by-laws for a variety of purposes, including the regulation of certain activities.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. authorize the CAO to commit a staff resource, reporting to the CAO, to work with the Nova Scotia Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness on red tape reduction for a period of six months with the possibility of extension of up to three years;
2. approve funding in the amount of up to \$65,000 in 2016/17 to be allocated to the project, as per the Financial Implications section of this report; and,
3. have staff report to Regional Council on progress in six months.

## **DISCUSSION**

On July 28, 2016, the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee discussed a staff report on the matter and unanimously passed the following motion:

THAT the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend:

1. Regional Council authorize the CAO to commit a staff resource, reporting to the CAO, to work with the Nova Scotia Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness on red tape reduction for a period of six months with the possibility of extension of up to three years;
2. Prior to this report being forwarded to Regional Council, staff identify a funding source for Audit and Finance Standing Committee's recommendation to Regional Council; and,
3. Staff report to Regional Council on progress in six months.

It is advised that Regional Council bypass the Audit and Finance Committee in this matter, given that seeking approval and recommendation at Audit and Finance in October would delay Regional Council consideration until November. Regulatory reform is a pressing priority of economic development stakeholders in HRM, and any delay would be detrimental to advancing the collective outcomes.

Subsequent discussions with the Nova Scotia Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness identified the need for a higher level position than originally indicated. Salary and benefit costs are anticipated to be up to \$145,000 per year for HRM to dedicate a staff resource to this project. This is more than the \$75,000-\$125,000 range identified in the financial implications section of the previous staff report, dated July 18, 2016.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Costs of up to \$65,000 in 2016-17, will be funded from Finance and Information Technology cost centre A301. Funding from 2017/18 onwards will be up to \$145,000 per year, subject to annual budget approval by Regional Council.

## **RISK CONSIDERATION**

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendation in this report.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

There was no community engagement in the preparation of this report.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications stemming from this report.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None

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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