

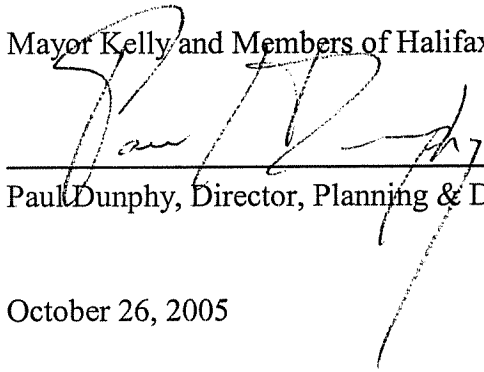
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Halifax Regional Council  
November 22, 2005

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning & Development Services

**DATE:** October 26, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Building Official Qualifications

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

Staff

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

During the fall sitting of the Nova Scotia Legislature the *Building Code Act* was amended to enable Regulations which will specify the minimum qualifications for Building Officials to be appointed by a municipality.

This amendment was initiated by the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee which recognized the need to formalize within legislation, the skills required to be a Building Official.

The Manager of Permits and Inspections for HRM served on the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee and the ad hoc committee which prepared and recommended these amendments. The Nova Scotia Building Officials' Association has been advocating this for a number of years and adoption of this legislation is a positive step in ensuring the professional regulation of the development industry.

The Provincial amendments state specifically that a Building Official shall not undertake any work for which they are not qualified. This is the practice currently employed within the Permits and Inspections Division of HRM, in that work is distributed and assigned based on existing skill sets and qualifications. Nobody is asked to do work for which they are not adequately trained. The

qualification process which will come into affect in 2008 only serves to formalize these existing practices.

This amendment is not expected to impact HRM training and education resources, since HRM has always, and will continue to support staff in acquiring all the necessary skills and qualifications to perform their duties. Those HRM staff who do not currently meet the new minimum qualifications are already on the path to meet those qualifications.

Of the 35 Building Officials in HRM, 18 are currently Certified by the Nova Scotia Building Officials Association. The remaining 17 are all enrolled in the Professional Studies Program and will meet the minimum qualifications by the April 1, 2008 deadline. This may appear to be a large number, however it is due to a significant recruitment over the past 3 years. Of the 17 who do not currently meet the new minimum requirements, 8 will meet them within 6 to 8 months.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

None

**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**

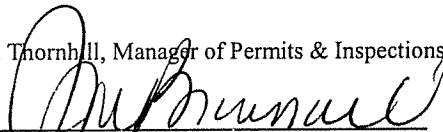
None

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.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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