



Halifax Regional Council
August 20, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Wayne Anstey
Wayne Anstey, Q.C., Municipal Solicitor

DATE 24 July 2002

SUBJECT **Question By Councillor Uteck - May 28, 2002**
Insurance For Heritage Homes

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Question by Councillor Uteck (May 28, 2002) - Legal requested to advise on whether insurance companies have authority to refuse insurance on heritage properties until such time as they are deregistered

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

There is no law requiring insurance companies to provide fire insurance protection for any property including heritage properties. If insurance companies consider a particular property to be too high a risk, it may refuse to underwrite the property or alternatively may increase the premium to cover their perceived risk exposure.

With respect to the recent issue respecting the insuring of heritage properties, HRM Heritage staff have commenced discussions with the insurance industry to attempt to clarify some of the issues and in some cases misperceptions surrounding heritage properties with a hope that the recent inclination of insurance companies to raise rates and refuse coverage may be eased. Heritage staff will be reporting on the outcome of these discussions when they are concluded.

Additional copies of this report and information on its status can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report prepared by: Wayne Anstey, Q.C., Municipal Solicitor 490-4229.

Report approved by: Wayne Anstey
Wayne Anstey, Director of Administrative Services 490-4229