

# Joint Project Regulatory Modernization

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TAKING ACTION TO REDUCE REGULATORY BURDEN  
AND RED TAPE FOR BUSINESS

COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING  
COMMITTEE

JANUARY 18, 2018

# Taking action

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- ❑ The Joint Project Regulatory Modernization is underway to reduce regulatory burden and red tape for business
- ❑ The collaboration includes:
  - Province of Nova Scotia
  - Halifax Regional Municipality
  - Halifax Partnership
  - Halifax Chamber of Commerce
  - Canadian Federation of Independent Business
  - Urban Development Institute
  - Spring Garden Road Business Association
  - Restaurants Canada
- ❑ An all-hands-on-deck approach is needed within government and outside of it. The Joint Project will deliver short-term, tangible results.

# Better regulation - better results

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- ❑ Regulation is a powerful public policy tool that supports efficient and effective markets, protects consumers, workers, and the health, safety and environment for citizens and communities
- ❑ Alternatively, unnecessary, overly complex, outdated, and duplicated regulation can distort markets, and burden citizens, businesses and governments – it doesn't always get the job done
- ❑ Regulatory reform is a powerful lever for economic growth and creates the conditions for increased business productivity and innovation
- ❑ Modernizing regulation and related business processes reduces the undue burden of regulation making it easier to do business in Halifax

# The problem with red-tape

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- ❑ Red tape imposes real-time and systemic costs to business and government and impacts economic viability and community prosperity
- ❑ The costs and impacts are often not well understood or measured
- ❑ Businesses are negatively impacted by overly complex or over-reaching regulations, lengthy approval processes, and lack of access to timely information
- ❑ Regulations that don't achieve policy outcomes efficiently or effectively bog regulators down and can impede market innovation and productivity
- ❑ Regulation is typically the default solution but its not always the best tool to solve the problem

# Taking action

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- ❑ The Joint Project partners are working on an action plan to reduce the burden of red tape
- ❑ From simple regulatory amendments to more efficient admin processes and customer service, this targeted approach to regulatory modernization will create a more business-friendly environment
- ❑ Actions of the Joint Project include:
  - ❑ adoption of Governing Principles for Regulation to help regulators gather clear evidence that regulation is, in fact, the best tool to achieve the policy objective
  - ❑ adoption of a tool to calculate the costs of proposed regulation to business using tangible measures of time and dollars
  - ❑ making specific short-term changes that will simplify regulation, streamline approval processes, and make it easier for business to comply
  - ❑ setting up processes for the Halifax Regional Municipality to work with the Province in delivering the NS Business Navigator Service

# Taking action

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- ❑ The Joint Project will help leverage a continuous improvement approach to red tape reduction by building a stronger business lens for decision-making including:
  - ❑ consistent efforts to streamline and coordinate regulations and approvals
  - ❑ the goal of imposing the minimum impact needed to achieve policy objectives
  - ❑ customer service targeted to the needs of the business client
  - ❑ design of regulations and rules that are easy to understand and comply with
  - ❑ developing clear outcomes and measures of regulatory performance
  - ❑ a higher sense of urgency for regulatory administration to meet the real-time realities of doing business
  - ❑ continuous development of tools and resources to support administrators who are working toward performance excellence

# Progress & next steps

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- ❑ The Charter of Governing Principles for Regulation was adopted by Regional Council on December 14, 2017
- ❑ Municipal processes to implement the Charter are being developed including a tool to calculate the cost of regulation to business
- ❑ Proposed amendments to regulation are being drafted to reduce the time it takes to process noise exemption requests for special event organizers and temporary sign applications for sign contractors
- ❑ Municipal processes are being improved to make “business-friendly” changes including customer service training for staff and better use of the municipality’s website abilities to provide accessible information to businesses
- ❑ Measures to assess and monitor the performance of red tape reduction actions are being developed
- ❑ An update on the Project status will come to Council early spring