

10.3.1

DATE: Feb. 1, 2018

FROM: John Mabley, Director, The Campaign for Hospice Halifax
RE: Overview for Hospice Halifax Presentation to

The case for HRM investment in Hospice Halifax construction will be presented by a two person advocacy team led by Mr. Jim Mills, president & CEO, Office Interiors.

The establishment of a residential hospice in HRM is a purpose grounded in the conviction that everyone in our community should have access to choice and comfort at end of life. Advancing the purpose has been volunteer intensive from the founding of the Hospice Society of Greater Halifax in 2001. Hundreds of volunteers have been engaged since then in bereavement outreach, as public informants of the need, and in more recent years special event fundraising like "Hike for Hospice" and the popular "Feeling the Love" February dinner and dance led in 2018 by honorary chair Mayor Mike Savage.

Why is hospice care needed? At present 80% of Nova Scotians declare they would prefer to die at home but only 20% are able to do so. Often, as a result of pain management concerns, care giver fatigue or end of life complications, hospital admissions increase significantly in the last few weeks of life. Where hospices already exist elsewhere in Canada it is recognized that end of life care can be provided at significantly reduced public expense. Moreover, both the dying and their families benefit from experiencing precious time together in a home-like setting without the stress of managing end of life care. Admission to hospice will be by medical referral and without charge.

Construction is currently underway on a ten-bed hospice residence on Francklyn Street adjacent to the Atlantic School of Theology. Unlike many other health related services, Hospice Halifax is planned entirely of, by and for the community. The capital need projected at \$6M must be raised by the community, although the annual operating cost of the residence will be shared with the province. A campaign for capital funds has commenced its "quiet phase" under the general chairmanship of HRM business and community leader Jack Flemming and pledges and gifts exceeding \$2M are already committed.

The Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is invited to join other benefactors in bringing Hospice Halifax to reality through consideration of a capital grant of \$1M payable in two annual tranches of \$500,000 in April, 2019 and April, 2020.