

HALIFAX

**Rural Benchmarks
& Service Levels**

Presentation to Regional Council

February 16, 2016

Task

Dec. 12, 2013 - CPED requested a staff report on establishing benchmarks and researching service levels, competitiveness and taxation in the Agricultural and Rural Shore areas of HRM in comparison to other rural and coastal agricultural counties in Nova Scotia.

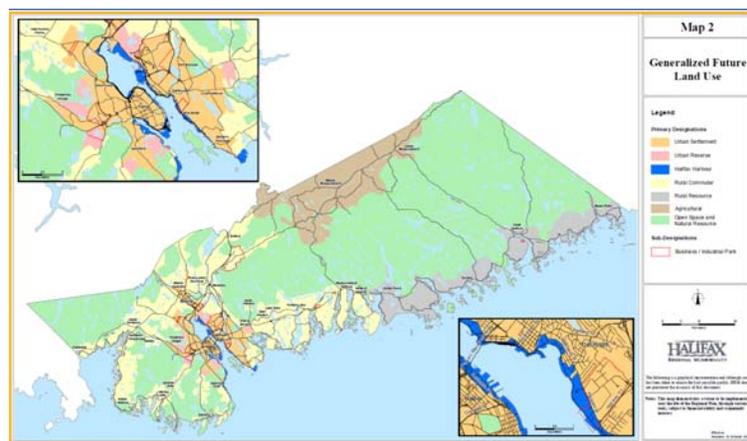
Context

- The world is urbanizing and this will likely continue
- Canada – heavily and increasingly urbanized
- Nova Scotia - an outlier:
 - less urban than Canada as a whole
 - urbanizing more slowly
- Halifax is unique -
 - most urban part of NS and
 - the largest rural area and rural population in NS
- Among Canadian cities only Ottawa is similar

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Rural Halifax



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Ideas for action

- Starting points:
 - Economic development leads services **not** vice versa
 - Build on the assets of rural Halifax
- To understand, support and strengthen rural Halifax:
 - Develop a rural component of the Halifax Index
 - Identify appropriate service standards
 - Engage rural residents
 - Identify economic and social assets
 - Include “rural Halifax” in the updated economic strategy
- And while doing the above analysis
 - Identify some immediate action steps eg
 - Advance projects like the 100 Wild Islands or others
 - Investigate improved internet connections

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CPED Motion

- 1. Request a staff report identifying implementation and cost implications to develop a Halifax Rural Index, including possible participation by Halifax Partnership and in coordination with the Planning and Development Rural team, and;*
- 2. Engage neighboring municipalities, UNSM and the Province in identifying standards and measures that could be included in the index.*
- 3. Request a staff report on the formation of a rural action committee to consult with residents in rural communities that would include HRM and neighbouring councillors, neighbouring municipal staff and representatives of rural areas.*
- 4. Send this report (submitted information report) to Regional Council for information and presentation.*

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