

**HALIFAX**

# **HRM Social Policy**

May 12, 2020

# Background

- Regional Council Motion in 2017 asking for the development of a “social policy lens”.
- An Information Report was presented to Regional Council in Spring, 2019 to provide an interim update.
- HRM’s Social Policy was drafted and is being recommended for Regional Council approval.

# Context

## What is happening in other municipalities?

- Various examples of municipal social policies, and the level of involvement falls on a spectrum.
- Common themes exist across social policies and they often reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.

## What is happening at HRM?

- Two Council priority areas that relate directly to social policy: social development and healthy livable.
- Programs and initiatives have been developed and implemented that enhance the health and well-being of residents.

**HALIFAX**



# Current Situation

- HRM has a number of existing strategies underway that identify action items related to social policy.
- Given the wide scope of social policy and the number of strategies that already exist, HRM's social policy will provide a framework to coordinate existing and future work.
- The role of HRM in collaboration with others is critical and the complexity of social issues will require the involvement of all sectors and engagement of those most affected.

# Social Policy Objectives

- Provide a foundation for a more integrated, coordinated, and sustainable approach for social policy in HRM;
- Identify social policy areas of focus:
  - Connected Communities and Mobility
  - Food Security
  - Housing
- Clarify the roles of HRM, in conjunction with other stakeholders, in addressing social policy issues; and,
- Increase internal capacity to understand and influence social policy.

# Next Steps

## **Short-term:**

- Develop a social response plan to COVID-19.

## **Medium-term:**

- Finalize and implement internal policy resource package for HRM staff.
- Provide assistance and support where necessary to increase policy capacity.

## **Long-term:**

- Monitoring and evaluating social policy to ensure it is meeting the needs of HRM, and course correcting where necessary.