

HALIFAX

**WOMEN'S ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**
May 5, 2022

**REVIEW OF HRM
BUDGET 2022 – 2023
FROM A GENDERED
PRESPECTIVE**

HRM Budget 2022 2023

HALIFAX



BUDGET OVERVIEW

2022/23

Steady Growth
Responsible Investment

With a population of over 465,000 the Halifax Regional Municipality (municipality) is the largest and most diverse municipality within Nova Scotia. Approximately 47 per cent of Nova Scotia's population resides within the municipality, as well as over 52 per cent of the provincial gross-domestic product (GDP).

Municipal Programs and Services

- For the most part, the nature of the services the municipality provides are nonbiased (ie parks are for anyone and how they benefit women specifically is difficult to quantify).
- You just heard a presentation by our Diversity and Inclusion Office on HRM's Gender Equity Strategy. HRM is working on ensuring access to all persons to all programs and services.

Municipal Programs and Services

The mandate of municipal government provides services to all persons:

- police and fire
- street and road work (paving, pothole repairs, snow removal, curbs and sidewalks)
- traffic services (parking, traffic lights/signals/signage)
- recreation services
- parks and playgrounds
- active transportation
- Halifax Transit
- refuse collection at curb (recycling, green bin and solid waste)
- public libraries
- planning and development (construction permits etc.)
- finance (property taxation, grants)
- services in diversity and inclusion and much more.

HRM Budget 2022 - 2023

2022/23 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



\$925.7 million
Municipal Expenditures



\$318.9 million
Capital Investment



\$41 million
Street Recapitalization



\$4.7 million
Road Safety Improvement



\$10 million
HalifACT Climate Action Plan



\$63.4 million
Electric Buses



\$6.7 million
Regional Centre
AAA Bikeways



\$8.1 million
Park Development &
Recapitalization



\$7.5 million
Halifax Common Pool
Reconstruction

For more information about the municipal budget visit halifax.ca/budget

Municipal Programs and Services

- Free menstrual products are provided at HRM facilities such as the public libraries and recreation centres.
- This initiative aligns with the municipality's commitment to reducing poverty through the Building Poverty Solutions report developed in collaboration with United Way Halifax. Further, the municipality is committed to building healthy, liveable communities, where necessary health products are easily available for people who menstruate.
- Since women are disproportionately often in lower income brackets, the Affordable Access Program would be of assistance with:
 - **Recreation Services** - Provides either partial or full coverage for recreation programs for children, youth, and adults in financial need.
 - **Affordable Transit Pass Program** – Qualified participants can purchase a monthly adult transit pass for 50% of the regular price for one year.
 - **Property tax exemptions/deferrals** - HRM can help homeowners pay their property tax through a payment plan, a deferral of property tax (payment is delayed to a later date), or a deferral of local improvement charges.

Affordable Access Program

Property Tax Exemption and Deferral Program

Table T						
Household Income, Property Tax and Rebate Value and Minimum Payable New Values for 2020-2021						
Tax Payable		Total Household Income (before deductions)				
		\$0-\$23,000	\$23,001-\$26,000	\$26,001-\$29,000	\$29,001-\$32,000	\$32,001-\$35,000
Min.	Max	100%	80%	60%	40%	20%
n/a	\$1,900	\$850	\$680	\$510	\$340	\$170
\$1,901	\$2,900	\$950	\$760	\$570	\$380	\$190
\$2,901	n/a	\$1,050	\$840	\$630	\$420	\$210
		Minimum Tax Payable (deducted from rebate)				
		\$120	\$250	\$280	\$310	\$340

Affordable Access Program

Recreation Access Program

Revenue Canada's 2020 Low Income Cut Off

	Discount of 50%	Discount of 100%
Family of:		
1	\$46,000	\$23,000
2	\$58,000	\$29,000
3	\$71,000	\$36,000
4	\$86,000	\$43,000
5	\$97,000	\$49,000
6	\$109,000	\$55,000
7 or more	\$122,000	\$61,000

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PLAN

VISION

The Halifax Regional Municipality's vision for the future is to enhance our quality of life by fostering the growth of healthy and vibrant communities, a strong and diverse economy, and a sustainable environment.

MISSION

We take pride in providing high-quality public service to benefit our residents. *We make a difference.*

VALUES

Respect • Collaboration • Diversity & Inclusion •
Integrity • Accountability • Sustainability •
Evidence-Based Decision Making

COUNCIL PRIORITY AREAS

PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

COMMUNITIES

INTEGRATED MOBILITY

ENVIRONMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITY AREAS

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATION

OUR PEOPLE

SERVICE EXCELLENCE

For budget purposes, the municipality focuses not on the tax rate but instead on the final tax bill, which is a combination of changes in assessment and the tax rate. At the start of the budget process each year, Regional Council makes an initial decision as to the change in the average tax bill for residents and businesses through the Fiscal Framework. Council then reviews the proposed budget for each business unit, as well as the impact on services. After this review, Council then confirms or adjusts their decision on the average tax bill and calculates the final tax rates.

Tax Rate 2022 - 2023



1.4%

of municipal GDP is debt; down over 30 per cent since 1999, positioning it well to fund future capital projects that support Council priorities.



4.6%

increase in the average tax bill; 3.0 per cent is dedicated to the Climate Action Tax and 1.6 per cent will fund ongoing operations, capital investments, maintenance and service improvements.

AVERAGE TAX BILL

Residential

Average Assessment
Urban Tax Rate
Average Tax Bill

2021/22

\$252,100
0.813
\$2,050

2022/23

\$270,000
0.794
\$2,144

Commercial

Average Assessment
Urban Tax Rate
Average Tax Bill

2021/22

\$1,469,900
2.953
\$43,406

2022/23

\$1,462,000
3.105
\$45,395

Climate Action Tax

Investment in the future requires stewardship of the environment. With this commitment in mind, Regional Council approved establishing a Climate Action Tax which will directly support HalifACT – the municipality’s long-term climate action plan. The tax will fund projects such as electric buses and retrofitting municipal buildings, as well as taking actions to improve the Halifax region's resiliency against the impacts of climate change – which range from flood mitigation and stormwater management to food security and emergency preparedness.

For the 2021 - 2025 Strategic Priorities Plan, a selection of key initiatives by Council Priority Area include:

PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

A prosperous and growing economy positions the municipality as a business and tourism destination of choice, with economic opportunities for all.

- Cogswell District Project
- 2022 – 27 Economic Strategy
- African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity Action Plan
- Regional Plan
- Planning and By-law Simplification
- Community Land Trust Model
- Atlantic Immigration Program
- Halifax Connector Program

Priority Outcomes

- Economic Growth
- Holistic Planning
- Talent Attraction, Retention, & Development

COMMUNITIES

The municipality boasts strong social equity through meaningful engagement to build safer and more inclusive communities for all.

- Safe City and Safe Public Spaces Program
- Halifax Street Checks Report Response
- Community Risk Reduction
- Culture & Heritage Priorities Plan
- Youth Engagement and Support
- Park and Open Space plans
- Anti-Black Racism Strategy
- Implementation of HRM's Social Policy
- Response to Homelessness
- Increasing Food Security and Strengthening the Local Food System
- Affordable Housing and Development

Priority Outcomes

- Safe Communities
- Involved Communities
- Inclusive Communities
- Affordable Communities



Halifax Regional Municipality Safe City and Safe Public Spaces Program

- These programs prevent and respond to gender based violence in public spaces. The next phase involves developing and implementing recommendations to address priority areas emerging from a completed scoping study and advance the implementation of a Women's Safety Assessment tool including building partnerships with key stakeholders; developing and implementing comprehensive policies; investing in the safety and economic viability of public spaces; and transforming social norms.

Gender Equity Strategy

(Est. Completion: Q4 2022/2023)

To advance social equity in HRM the Office of Diversity and Inclusion will develop a gender equity strategy to support inclusion for all residents, reducing barriers to municipal services based on gender identity and expression, through the use of Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) analysis and lens tools.

OUR PEOPLE

The municipality is committed to diversity, inclusion and equity, and providing an engaging, healthy and safe work environment.

- Strategic Human Resources Planning
- Enhanced Workplace Culture
- Diversity & Inclusion Framework
- Diversity & Inclusion Recruitment Strategy
- Corporate Safety Strategy
- Corporate Health & Wellness Strategy

Priority Outcomes

- Engaged & Skilled People
 - Diverse, Inclusive & Equitable Environment
 - Healthy & Safe Workplace
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Accessibility Strategy

To guide the municipality in meeting the Province of Nova Scotia's Accessibility Act goal of an accessible province by 2030, HRM will implement the Accessibility Strategy.

Diversity & Inclusion Framework

Business Units continue to carry out their respective Diversity and Inclusion Framework related initiatives to ensure inclusive service, a safe, respectful and inclusive work environment, equitable employment, meaningful partnerships, accessible information and communication within the organization.

Promote Equitable Access to Municipal Services

Under the Diversity & Inclusion Framework, business units will develop and implement various diversity and inclusion plans and initiatives to ensure equitable access to municipal services in collaboration with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK KEY DELIVERABLES (2022/23)

Communities – Inclusive Communities

Diversity on Boards and Committees (Est. Completion: Q4 2022/2023)

The Municipality is committed to pursuing diversity on Boards and Committees and addressing identified barriers to participation. The Municipal Clerk's Office will make recommendations to Council for updates to the Public Appointment Policy once public consultation has been completed in an effort to update recruitment processes, identify training improvements for new Committee members, and addressing barriers to participation where possible.

HALIFAX

Questions?