

Re: Item No. 15.1.5

**HALIFAX**

# **Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Survey on Service Exchange**

Survey Overview and Summary of Results

2022-09-13

# Recommendation

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

- Approve the Council Survey Report (Attachment 2) as the Halifax Regional Council's official response to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) *Membership Survey to Support the Service Exchange Renegotiation and MGA Review Committee* and direct the CAO to forward the report to NSFM.

# Purpose

- The NSFM has formed a committee to support municipalities in upcoming renegotiations of the Service Exchange Agreement and review of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (HRM Charter).
- NSFM sent a survey request and link to HRM (Mayor and CAO) on May 16 requesting a consolidated response representing the official position of municipal council.

# NSFM Survey

- 20 questions, organized into four sections.
  - Questions related to the Service Exchange Agreement Renegotiation
  - Questions related to the Municipal Government Act Review
  - Questions related to municipal revenue
  - Special considerations and other comments
- Questions 12 to 15 were excluded as they asked about governance structures / amalgamation that were not applicable to HRM.

# Methodology

- Staff created an electronic survey of the NSFAM questions.
- Survey was open from July 15 to August 2.
- Eleven members of Council responded.
- Responses were aggregated to show a single response by question (e.g. “60% of respondents indicate that...”), where applicable.

# Staff Survey Feedback (Attachment 3)

- Four of the NSFM survey questions were sent to HRM business units to add information on the operations-level impacts of federal and provincial legislation / regulation (Q10/11), and the value and usefulness of existing provincial grants programs (Q17/18).
  - Six business units provided a response to this survey.
- If Council wishes, they may amend their responses in Attachment 2 to include staff responses from Attachment 3.

# Alternative

- Regional Council may choose to request HRM staff amend the Council Survey Report, as specified by Council, and direct the CAO to forward the amended report to NSFM as Halifax Regional Council's official response to the NSFM survey.