

HALIFAX

2022 District Boundary Review – Phase One

Community Council Presentation

Phase One - Scope

Phase One is to:

- Review Council Governance structure;
- Provide rationale for the number of councillors and polling districts for HRM

What is required for:

- Effective political management?
- Effective representation?
- Accountability?

Phase Two - Scope

Phase Two is to:

- Review the distribution of polling districts within HRM in accordance with section 368 (4) of the MGA
- Considers the number of electors, relative parity of voting power, population density, communities of interest, and geographic size
- Public Engagement will be led by District Boundary Resident Review Panel

Aspects of Review

- Focuses on matters within the jurisdiction of the NSUARB under current legislative framework



Halifax Regional Council

- Halifax Regional Council serves as the decision- making body for the Halifax Regional Municipality;
- Council is Comprised of 16 Councillors who represent 16 electoral districts and one Mayor elected at large;
- Governed by the *HRM Charter*

Current Governance Structure



Community Council

There are four Community Councils, each consisting of five to six districts.

- Harbour East-Marine Drive – Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
- Halifax & West – Districts 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
- North West – Districts 1, 13, 14, 15, 16
- Regional Centre – Districts 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Community Council – Roles and Authority

- Consider development variances and site-plan approvals
- Consider development agreements
- Hold public hearings
- Consider amendments to land use by-laws
- Advise Council on Municipal Planning Strategy Amendments
- Recommend to Council expenditures to be financed by area rates
- Establish advisory committees
- Make Councillor appointments to Standing Committees
- Make recommendations to Council on public appointments
- New Legislation (Bill 137) may have impact on recommendation on some planning advisory decisions

Standing Committees

In 2012, Halifax Regional Council created Standing Committees to examine specific issues, outlined in their Terms of Reference (Admin Order One)

There are six (6) Standing Committees:

- Appeals (decision making body)
 - Audit & Finance
 - Community Planning & Economic Development
 - Environment & Sustainability, Executive matters
 - Transportation
 - Executive
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- Provide recommendations (except for Appeals) and advice to Council on specific matters
 - Can request staff reports in accordance with their Terms of Reference
 - Are the primary forum for public input (AO1 section 43)

Advisory Boards, Committees and Commissions

- HRM's Boards and Committees are groups consisting of Councillors, residents and subject matter experts that provide advice and recommendations to Council on certain matters
- Have specific Terms of Reference that guide the work that they do
- Many volunteer opportunities for members of the public to serve on HRM Boards and Committees.

Population Growth

- Population growth will influence the Boundary Review process now and in future reviews
- Increases in population do not happen equally across the HRM
- The NSUARB requires relative parity power of voting parity (i.e that all districts have roughly the same number of electors so that each vote carries the same weight)
- NSUARB requires relative voter parity of +/- 10%

Current Population/ Number of Electors

- Since the 2010 review, the HRM has grown by 70,410 residents to a total of 443,089.
- The Halifax Regional Municipality is in the top six (6) of the 25 largest municipalities in Canada with a 9.1% population growth rate from 2016-2021.

Number of Electors and Population by 2024

Electoral District	Population	Current # of Electors	Projected # of Electors by 2024
01-Waverley-Fall River-Musquodoboit Valley	23,685	18,772	19,740
02-Preston-Chezzetcook-Eastern Shore	27,185	22,297	23,315
03-Dartmouth South-Eastern Passage	31,384	24,475	26,238
04-Cole Harbour-Westphal-Lake Loon-Cherry Brook	25,963	20,909	21,911
05-Dartmouth Centre	29,587	25,167	26,195
06-Harbourview-Burnside-East Dartmouth	26,403	21,651	22,667
07-Halifax South Downtown	26,997	23,432	25,287
08-Halifax Peninsula North	29,002	23,942	26,123

Continued

Electoral District	Population	Current # of Electors	Projected # of Electors by 2024
09-Halifax West Armdale	29,651	18,772	25,444
10-Halifax Bedford Basin-West	27,048	22,297	23,420
11-Spryfield-Sambro Loop-Prospect Road	27,605	22,243	23,243
12-Timberlea-Beechville-Clayton Park-Wedgewood	30,562	24,239	25,844
13-Hammonds Plains – St. Margarets	28,532	21,689	23,128
14-Middle/Upper Sackville – Beaver Bank - Lucasville	25,242	19,499	20,534
15-Lower Sackville	22,480	18,323	19,159
16-Bedford-Wentworth	31,763	25,276	26,700
Total	443,089	358,497	378,948
Average	27,693	22,406	23,648

Comparator Municipalities

Municipality	Population (2021)	Number of Districts	Number of Residents per District
Winnipeg	749,607	15	49,974
Hamilton	568,353	15	37,890
Quebec City	549,459	21	26,165
Halifax Regional Municipality	439,819	16	27,489
Laval	438,366	21	20,874
London	422,324	14	30,166
Gatineau	291,041	19	15,318
Saskatoon	266,141	10	26,614

Population Summary

- On average HRM's Councillors represent 27,693 residents and 22,406 electors per district.
- By 2024 the number of electors are projected to grow to 378,948 or 23,648 per district (average)

Phase One – Key Considerations

- Do you feel that HRM's current governance structure is accessible to residents? Does it allow for effective decision making?
- Does it allow for effective representation for you or your district?
- If not, what changes should be considered to Community Councils, Standing Committees or Advisory Committees to make them more effective?

Phase One – Key Considerations

What are you looking for from your district councillor in representing you on Regional Council?

What do you think should be the population/representation for HRM's districts?

- Same as now, more people, fewer people?

Phase One – Key Considerations

Given what you have heard this evening,
should Regional Council be:

- the same size it is now?
- larger?
- smaller?

How can I continue to engage?

- Public Engagement Survey – Narrative Research –April 6-April 25, 2022
- Public Information Meetings hosted by Community Councils – April 19-April 28, 2022
- Corresponding with the Executive Standing Committee
- Public Participation at Executive Standing Committee – April, May 2022

Questions?

