

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>X Included on Agenda</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b>
<b>Date of Council Meeting: March 21, 2023</b>		
<b>Subject: Provincial Emergency Shelters</b>		
<b>Motion for Council to Consider:</b>  That Halifax Regional Council direct the Mayor to write a letter to the Provincial government asking that the Province keep the shelter operating at 61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth open, or provide alternate space, and that the Province adopt the same approach of maintaining capacity for the other emergency shelters that it is funding in HRM.		
<b>Reason:</b>  Over the winter months, the Province funded a shelter in the Christ Church Hall in Downtown Dartmouth. That shelter is operated by 902 Man Up and has provided badly needed space for people with few options. The Province recently wrote Christ Church indicating they would terminate the lease for the space as of May 31. Unless the Province has an alternate plan that hasn't been shared, when the shelter closes there will be no emergency shelter spaces in Dartmouth.  The old model of scaling up shelter spaces in winter isn't appropriate as housing issues don't go away in the summer months. That someone can survive outdoors living on the street or in a park doesn't mean that this is an appropriate option. The Province should adopt an approach of only closing shelter spaces if the actual need has decreased, not based on outdated notions around seasonal need. The solution to summer homelessness shouldn't be an HRM park		
<b>Outcome Sought:</b>  Letter to Province		
<i>Deputy Mayor Sam Austin</i>	<i>District 5</i>	