

P.O. Box 1749 Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5 Canada

# Item No. 12.1.2

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee April 20, 2023

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Community Planning and Economic Development

Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY:

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** March 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Update – People. Planet, Prosperity: Halifax's Inclusive Economic Strategy

### **ORIGIN**

Staff-initiated.

## **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter 2008, c. 39

# Area improvement and promotion

70 (1) The Municipality may

- (a) beautify, improve and maintain property owned or leased by the Municipality;
- (b) pay grants to a body corporate for the purpose of promoting or beautifying a business district and for airport, wharf or waterfront development;
- (c) identify and promote a business district as a place for retail and commercial activity;
- (d) establish or maintain parking facilities.

### **Business and industrial development**

- 71 (1) The Municipality may
  - (a) solicit and encourage the establishment and development of new, and the establishment, development and expansion of existing institutions, industries and businesses in and around the Municipality:
  - (b) publicize the advantages of the Municipality or any part of the Municipality and the surrounding areas as a location for the establishment and expansion of institutions, industries and businesses;
  - (c) pay grants to a body corporate for the purpose of promoting the Municipality or any part of the Municipality and the surrounding areas as a location for institutions, industries and businesses;

(d) prepare and disseminate information about the Municipality or any part of the Municipality and the surrounding areas for the assistance of institutions, industries and businesses intending to locate or expand in the Municipality or the surrounding area.

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee forward the staff report dated March 13, 2023 to Regional Council for information.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On March 22, 2022, Regional Council approved <u>People. Planet. Prosperity. Halifax's Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy 2022-27</u>, as the new five-year economic strategy for Halifax. It includes 73 actions that Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and the Halifax Partnership (the Partnership) will undertake to attract, keep, and grow talent, business, and investment in Halifax for the benefit of all. This report highlights strategy implementation to date. Attachment 1 is an update on the implementation of all 73 actions.

Halifax's population grew by 4.5% between 2021 and 2022, the largest annual increase the city has ever seen, bringing the total to 480,582. The latest GDP estimates published by the Conference Board of Canada show that Halifax's GDP grew 6.5% in 2021.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Economic Development in Halifax**

From a policy perspective, economic development entails governments' and communities' efforts to improve the economic well-being and quality of life in their respective jurisdictions. This is often accomplished by attracting, keeping, and growing talent, investment, and jobs; and, by increasing incomes and tax bases.

Halifax Regional Municipality is a significant economic development stakeholder in the city. It manages six business and industrial parks; regulates businesses and land development; invests in major infrastructure; establishes and supports Business Improvement Districts; collaborates with other levels of government and agencies on economic development issues; and provides financial and in-kind support to community organizations and special events.

HRM also provides operational support to three key organizations to further its economic development objectives: Discover Halifax, which promotes Halifax as a destination for business and leisure travelers; Events East Group, which operates the Scotiabank Centre, the Halifax Convention Centre, and Ticket Atlantic; and the Halifax Partnership, which provides professional economic development expertise and services to HRM and oversees much of the implementation of HRM's economic strategy. As a public-private economic development organization, the Partnership leverages funding from private investors and other levels of government as well.

Partnership deliverables to the municipality are outlined in a service level agreement that is reviewed and amended annually.

#### **Current Economic Strategy**

On March 22, 2022, Regional Council approved <u>People. Planet. Prosperity. Halifax's Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy 2022-27</u>, as the new five-year economic strategy for Halifax.

The vision of the Inclusive Economic Strategy is, "A prosperous, growing Halifax that puts the well-being of people and planet first." It is supported by a quantitative vision of growing Halifax's GDP to \$32 Billion and its population to 650,000 by 2037. The Inclusive Economic Strategy has three five-year strategic goals:

- 1) Promote and Maximize Inclusive and Sustainable Growth;
- 2) Attract, Retain, and Develop Talent; and,
- 3) Make Halifax a Better Place to Live and Work.

The strategic goals are supported by 17 five-year objectives that are, in turn, supported by 73 actions. The economic strategy's <u>action plan</u> for years one and two (2022-24) has 73 actions, 39 of which are being led by HRM, 25 by the Partnership, and the remaining 9 co-led by the two organizations. Most of these actions are built into existing HRM and Partnership work plans and budgets.

#### DISCUSSION

This report provides an overview of the local economy and details the implementation of the Economic Growth Plan from April to December 2019.

#### **Economic Snapshot**

### **Population**

Halifax's population grew by 4.5% between 2021 and 2022, the largest annual increase the city has ever seen, bringing the total to 480,582. This growth rate is the second-fastest across Canada's 35 largest cities, behind only Moncton. International migration accounts for 60% of this growth, with 39% coming from interprovincial migration. Halifax represents 47.1% of Nova Scotia's population and accounts for 72.4% of the growth in the provincial population in 2022.

#### **Home Prices**

Between December 2022 and January 2023, the average home price in Halifax increased 13.1% to \$536,744. This is 11.1% lower than the peak observed in April 2022, and 4.2% lower than a year ago. The increase in home prices observed in January 2023 is also the first increase since September 2022.

#### **GDP**

The latest GDP estimates published by the Conference Board of Canada show that Halifax's GDP grew 6.5% in 2021, compared to 5.8% in Nova Scotia, and 4.5% across Canada. This increase in GDP is attributed mainly to the easing of health restrictions and sustained population growth. They forecast that 2022 will see GDP grow by 3.2% in Halifax, 3.2% in Nova Scotia, and 3.0% in Canada.

#### **Labour Force Statistics**

The unemployment rate for Halifax in January 2023 was 4.2%, 1.5 percentage points lower than January 2022. The total number of jobs increased by 18,200 positions (+7.5%) from a year ago and was up 1,100 positions (+1.1%) from a month ago. Across industries, other services (except public administration) added the most jobs (+4,600), while transportation and warehousing lost the most (-3,900) over the past year. The most recent data point from Statistics Canada (Q3 2022) shows that there were almost 12,500 vacant jobs in Halifax.

#### Inflation

Halifax saw an annualized inflation rate of 6.6% in January 2023, 0.8 percentage points lower than the previous month but 2.0 percentage points higher than a year ago. However, this marks the first time inflation has dropped below 7.0% since April 2022. Inflation rates were 6.8% and 5.3% for Nova Scotia and Canada, respectively.

#### **Commercial Real Estate**

Halifax's overall office vacancy rate remained unchanged in Q4 2022 from the previous quarter at 13.3%. This was 1.1 percentage points lower than Q4 2021. Over the same period, average office space rent increased by \$0.64 (per sf). The downtown office vacancy rate in Q4 2022 was 18.2%. The overall industrial space vacancy rate, at 4.1%, declined 0.4 percentage points from Q3 2022, but increased 0.2 percentage points from a year ago. The average gross rent increased \$0.85 (per sf) over the year as well.

#### **Business Confidence**

The Partnership also conducts an annual business confidence survey and derives a business confidence index score from the results. The 2023 survey is in the field now. Results will be available in late March.

### **Implementation by Goal**

Below are highlights of Partnership and HRM activities to December 2022 to advance the economic strategy's four goals.

#### 1. Promote and Maximize Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

The Inclusive Economic Strategy intends to promote and maximize inclusive and sustainable growth by making it easier to do business in Halifax, supporting the economic recovery and restoring confidence post-pandemic, growing Indigenous and African Nova Scotian economic prosperity, increasing housing stock, working nationally and internationally to attract investment and trade, helping companies compete both locally and abroad, supporting investment in innovation, and capitalizing on strategic opportunities like major infrastructure projects. The target is to grow our GDP to \$25 billion by 2027.

Highlights from April to December 2022 related to promoting and maximizing inclusive and sustainable growth include:

• Increasing Housing Stock. HRM plays an important part in supporting affordable housing and increasing housing stock though land use policies in its Regional Plan and Community Plans (e.g., Centre Plan). Since April 2022, Planning and Development has removed barriers to the development of a variety of housing types including tiny homes, converted shipping containers, and shared housing (which is most often associated with seniors housing and single room occupancies). In December 2022, staff presented a report to Council recommending updates to planning and land use documents to establish consistent region-wide policies and regulations for short-term rentals. Council approved these amendments in February 2023. They will be implemented in September 2023.

In August of 2022, Regional Council designated six properties as surplus for affordable housing. Over the next several months, staff will be engaging with non-profit housing providers to gauge interest in the lands. Additionally, this past fall HRM accepted applications for the 2022/23 Affordable Housing Grant Program. In November 2022, the federal government announced that HRM will receive funding from the Rapid Housing Initiative (under round three).

- Regional Plan Review. The Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (the Regional Plan) sets out a common vision, principles and long-range, region-wide planning policies outlining where, when, and how future growth and development should take place between now and 2031. Its second review began in 2020. Work to date has included a detailed scope of the review and proposed amendments that align with Regional Council's goals, including responding rapidly to current housing conditions. A public hearing by Regional Council on the "Phase 3 amendment package" was held on September 27, 2022. A new policy framework and a draft revised Regional Plan (Phase 4) will be released for public review and Council approval in Spring 2023. Detailed information can be found on the Shape Your City project website.
- Cogswell District and Community Benefits. The Cogswell Redevelopment Program entails the conversion of 22 acres of road infrastructure into a mixed -use neighbourhood, extending the entrance

of the downtown northwards and reuniting communities presently separated by the existing interchange lands. Construction of the District began in March 2022.

As part of the social benefits program outlined in the construction tender, Dexter has engaged two community liaisons from the African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaw communities to help with the development and implementation of Workforce and Supplier Diversity plans. A Social Benefits Advisory Committee, representing five equity seeking groups, has also been created to assist with the plan's development and implementation.

- Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotians Action Committee and Plan (REPAC).
   On October 21, 2022, members of African Nova Scotian communities and representatives from the private, public, post-secondary and community sectors, gathered in Halifax for the second annual African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity Summit to report on the Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotian Communities Action Plan. The second Annual Progress Report on this community-led initiative can be found here.
- Rural Economic Development. In May 2022, with additional funding from HRM, the Partnership hired a new Account Executive solely focused on supporting businesses in rural parts of HRM. With HRM support, Discover Halifax also hired an Account Executive focused on rural tourism. Both are supporting tourism-based and other businesses throughout rural parts of HRM. As of December 31st, the Partnership's Account Executive has met with 74 rural-based businesses. Common themes emerging from those discussions indicate COVID-19 was generally good for businesses in rural HRM as consumers tended to increase their support for local companies. Employers' biggest challenges are labour shortages and finding housing for newcomers.
- Investment Attraction. Halifax continues to be a sought-after location for business expansions and relocations. Between April 1 and December 31, 2022, the team helped attract 10 new companies to Halifax that will create up to 285 expected jobs. The team is working closely with partners, including Nova Scotia Business Inc. and Invest in Canada, to put forward a collaborative Team Nova Scotia approach to awareness building and business attraction efforts.

The Partnership created a *Living in Halifax Toolkit*, a talent-attraction focused toolkit to add to its existing *Sell Halifax* materials. It provides promotional tools to any Halifax business or organization aiming to attract and retain workers.

Between September and November 2022, the team attended or had a virtual presence at:

- Global Affairs Canada Investment Mission to New York, Boston, and Chicago (October 2022)
- World Energy Cities Partnership AGM in Esbjerg Denmark (October 2022)
- Scottish Government & Lochaber Chamber of Commerce Nova Scotia Business Mission (October 2022)
- The Economist World Ocean Tech and Innovation Summit (October 2022) DEFSEC (October 2022)
- Marine Renewables Canada Annual Conference (November 2022)
- Consider Canada City Alliance visit to Halifax
- Consider Canada City Alliance Board meeting in Niagara Falls, ON
- Business Retention and Expansion. The SmartBusiness Program team met face-to-face with 270 companies between April 1 and December 31, 2022. In all, 335 referrals were generated. Trends in referrals indicate that talent recruitment/immigration, business planning/financing and networking or partnership building are the key discussion points.
- **Legislative Requests to the Province.** Since 2021, seven of HRM's formal legislative requests have been addressed either in whole or in part through provincial legislation. Examples that support

economic strategy objectives include Charter amendments to enable the Municipality to: provide direct financial assistance to businesses for the purpose of supporting and incentivizing accessibility initiatives, such as the provision of accessible taxis (Bill 47; Spring 2021); proceed with the Halifax Central Common Aquatic redevelopment (Bill 103; Spring 2021); enable the Municipality to implement inclusionary zoning practices, as well as provide financial incentives to businesses for the purpose of increasing the availability of affordable housing (Bill 32; Fall 2021); and, enable the marketing levy to be applied to rental accommodations consisting of under 20 rooms, as well as increasing the cap on the marketing levy from 2 to 3 per cent (Bill 204; Fall 2022).

HRM staff continue to engage regularly with provincial counterparts to support the development of additional legislative changes impacting HRM. Notable examples in 2022 include the regulation of escooters (Bill 134; Spring 2022) and short-term rental accommodations (Bill 154; Spring 2022) and streamlining the planning approval process to expedite housing supply (Bill 137; Spring 2022).

- Halifax Innovation Outpost. The Halifax Innovation Outpost that opened at Volta in downtown Halifax in 2020 is a joint initiative between HRM and the Partnership intended to broaden opportunities for start-ups and scale-ups to develop their products and services and to address complex social, environmental, and civic needs. In October 2022, the Outpost, in collaboration with HRM Environment and Government Relations and External Affairs, launched a Food Security and Climate Change Challenge. The fourteen winners have received support, advice, connections, and \$5,000 to help them develop their prototypes. On February 21st, 2023 the six climate action winners presented their prototypes and learnings to Halifax Partnership, Halifax Regional Municipality, and provincial and community partners.
- Halifax Index 2022 and Other Research. The Partnership launched the <u>Halifax Index 2022</u> at a public event on May 27. It includes a <u>"scorecard"</u> to track progress on goals set in Halifax's economic strategy for 2022-27. Insights from the Index continue to be shared through digital campaigns on the Partnership's social channels. The Partnership also continues to update the <u>Economic Dashboard</u>.

The Conference Board of Canada's most recent estimates have Halifax's GDP growing by 6.5% in 2021 and 3.2% in 2022. Annual growth rates out to 2026 are forecasted to be in the range of 1.8% to 2.3%. In order for the 2027 and 2037 GDP goals of, respectively, \$25 billion and \$32 billion (in real 2007 dollars) to be met, annual growth of 3.3% is required. This is significantly above current forecast levels.

### 2. Attract, Retain, and Develop Talent

The economic strategy intends to grow HRM's population to 525,000 and increase the labour force to 310,000 by 2027 by: attracting workers to Halifax from across Canada and around the world; welcoming immigrants and connecting them to best-in-class settlement services; removing systemic barriers to employment; and, preparing business to meet future of work needs.

Recent Partnership and HRM workforce development highlights are:

- Halifax Connector Program. Work continues with the Partnership's Connector Program that matches
  new residents and post-secondary graduates in HRM with established businesspeople and community
  leaders. Between April and December 2022, the Partnership met with 317 new participants
  (newcomers, international students, recent grads, and laid-off workers) and signed on 37 new
  connectors (business and community leaders). One hundred and sixty-seven found jobs in their career
  during this period.
- Recruitment of International Workers. Work continues to attract international workers through the
  Atlantic Immigration Program, Global Talent Strategy, and other federal initiatives. The Atlantic
  Immigration Program is a pathway to permanent residence for skilled foreign workers and international
  graduates from a Canadian institution who want to work and live in 1 of Canada's 4 Atlantic provinces.
  The Global Skills Strategy features faster application processing times, work permit exemptions and

enhanced customer service. Between April 1 and December 31, Halifax Partnership met with 108 employers, resulting in 63 Atlantic Immigration Program referrals and four Global Talent Stream referrals.

In November 2022, Partnership staff attended the Destination Canada Mobility Forum 2022 in Paris, France and Rabat, Morocco with a team from Nova Scotia Immigration and Population Growth (including the Minister and Deputy Minister) and the province's Regional Enterprise Networks. The forum was for Francophone and bilingual job candidates interested and ready to immigrate, live, and work in Canada, outside Quebec. The Partnership brought eighty-five job postings from 25 Halifax employers and met with more than 300 individuals interested in working in Halifax. Work is now underway to connect candidates identified during the Forum to employers.

- Immigration Strategy. In July 2022, Regional Council endorsed the 2022-26 Immigration Strategy that was developed by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The strategy recognizes the central role immigration plays in Halifax. The municipality's economic growth, social prosperity, and workforce development largely depend on the Municipality's capacity to leverage its strengths to retain immigrants and newcomers who chose to make Halifax their home. The strategy's objectives are:
  - 1. Ensure that municipal services are inclusive of immigrants and newcomers' needs;
  - 2. Create a workplace that facilitates the equal participation and growth for immigrants and newcomers;
  - 3. Attract and retain immigrant talent;
  - 4. Build internal and external partnerships that include immigrants; and,
  - 5. Provide timely and accessible information to immigrants.

As mentioned, Halifax posted its biggest population growth ever (4.5%) between 2021 and 2022, bringing its total population to 480,582. Annual growth in the three prior years ranged from 2.0% to 2.3%. If the population growth rate remains above 2.0%, the 2027 and 2037 population goals will be reached.

Over eleven-thousand jobs were added in and 2022, while the labour force expanded by a little over five thousand (2.0%). In order to meet the labour force goal of 310,000 in 2027, annual growth of 3.1% would be required. Setting aside the anomalies of the shutdown of 2020 (+0.3%) and the rebound of 2021 (+4.0%), in recent years the annual labour force growth rate has been as high as 3.1% and as low as 0.4%. Thus, the recent maximum would have to be maintained in order for the goal to be met.

### 3. Make Halifax a better place to live and work

The economic strategy intends to make Halifax a better place to live and work by increasing Halifax's environmental resiliency and access to arts, culture, recreation; making it easier to move throughout Halifax and the region; and, strengthening the dynamism of the downtown, main streets, and rural centres.

HRM action highlights under this "quality of life" goal are:

• HalifACT. HalifACT 2050 is HRM's plan to make Halifax a zero-emission municipality by 2050. In November 2022, HRM released its first HalifACT <u>quarterly update</u>. Highlights include: the enactment of a 3% property tax dedicated to implementing HaliFACT; the installation of 8.5 kilometres of interim bikeways in 2022; initiation of detailed flood hazard mapping for the entire municipality to inform future resilience projects and policies; construction of the first HRM building (Fort Needham Park washrooms) that meets new net-zero construction standards; and, the launch of the second <u>Climate Action Challenge</u> through the <u>Halifax Innovation Outpost</u> that brings HRM, the Partnership, and community and private sector players to solve municipal and social challenges. Between April and November 2022, HRM leveraged \$4.3 million in funding to support HalifACT projects, in addition to \$88 million for the electrification of HRM's transit fleet.

- Integrated Mobility Plan. The Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) guides investment in active transportation, transit, transportation demand management, goods movement and the roadway network in Halifax. The vision of the IMP is to create connected, healthy, affordable and sustainable travel options. The IMP Dashboard displays the most up-to-date figures on and key performance indicators that track the plan's implementation. Quarterly updates are accessible here.
- Decarbonizing Public Transit. Halifax Transit's initial purchase of 60 electric buses is well underway. The Ragged Lake Transit Centre will be expanded to incorporate the buses, the design phase is underway, and buses and chargers have been ordered. On Sept. 6, 2022, all three levels of government announced over \$20.8 million in joint funding for the first phase of the Burnside Transit Centre Ecorebuild Project to replace and expand on the existing Burnside Transit Centre as a net-zero facility. The funding will also support the transition to a zero-emission bus fleet as outlined in the HalifACT plan.
- Electric Vehicle Strategy. The Municipal Electric Vehicle Strategy was presented and adopted unanimously by Halifax Regional Council in November 2021. The strategy provides recommendations relating to public infrastructure, policy requirements, education needs and a municipal light duty fleet transition plan to position Halifax as an EV-ready municipality. Staff are working with WSP to design a fast charging package (175kW) for multiple Municipally owned sites and intend to issue a multi-year RFP for its supply and installation. The sites will span the entirety of the Municipality and fill current gaps in the charging network. Proposed user fees will be presented to Council.
- Rapid Transit Strategy. Staff continue to pursue opportunities to implement both the Bus Rapid Transit
  (BRT) and ferry expansion components of the Rapid Transit Strategy, both from a planning / design
  perspective and seeking opportunities for funding. The ferry expansion work is currently focusing on
  the proposed Mill Cove service, including planning and design work for a new terminal at Mill Cove and
  upgrades that would be required at the Halifax Ferry Terminal. Work related to the BRT has focused
  primarily on the planning, design, and construction for of the transportation corridors included in the
  proposed BRT network including Bayers Road, Robie Street, Young Street, and Herring Cove Road.
- Grand Oasis Festival Series and Downtown Dartmouth Sunshine Series. The second year of Grand Oasis Festival Series was held from June 21 to October 1 with the aim of attracting people back to the downtown. The free festival celebrated music, art, and culture at Grand Parade and included 52 events over 13 weekends. More than 200,000 people attended. The Downtown Dartmouth Sunshine Series was created to as a free, family-friendly music festival with live entertainment at the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Park on Saturdays and Sundays from June 25 to August 28. Total attendance at the Dartmouth stage over the summer was 35,000 visits. Increased food and beverage sales in Halifax and Dartmouth have been attributed to these entertainment programs, as reported by local businesses.

In the transition from the 2016-21 economic strategy to the 2022-27 economic strategy, top-tier goals for GDP, population, and labour force growth were continued. However, a well-being metric was added, specifically one that focused on reducing the share of the population reporting low levels of well-being. The 2022 City Matters survey set the benchmark with 14.4% of respondents reporting a low level of well-being. The results of the 2023 City Matters survey results have just become available and the good news is that the share of reported low well-being has dropped to 12.8%.

HRM's share of Partnership's total annual budget has fluctuated in recent years, largely due to a one multi-year stimulus to the Partnership from the previous provincial government from 2018 to 2021. HRM has contributed \$2,539,960 to Halifax Partnership's 2022-23 budget, accounting for 51% of the Partnership's annual budget. See table below for an annual breakdown.

| Year                | HRM Financial<br>Contributions<br>to Partnership |    | Provincial Share<br>of Total Budget |    | Federal Share<br>of Total Budget |    | Private Sector/<br>Other<br>Share of Total<br>Budget |    | Total<br>Revenue |
|---------------------|--|----|-------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|----|--|----|------------------|
|                     | \$   | %  | \$                                  | %  | \$                               | %  | \$   | %  |                  |
| 2017-18             | 1,699,419  | 39 | 851,439                             | 19 | 475,715                          | 11 | 1,353,943  | 31 | 4,380,516        |
| 2018/19             | 1,847,822  | 33 | 2,207,315                           | 39 | 482,457                          | 9  | 1,057,663  | 19 | 5,595,257        |
| 2019/20             | 1,920,289  | 35 | 2,324,180                           | 42 | 470,562                          | 9  | 742,084  | 14 | 5,457,115        |
| 2020/21             | 2,138,384  | 37 | 2,015,824                           | 35 | 563,350                          | 10 | 1,041,225  | 18 | 5,758,783        |
| 2021/22             | 2,281,456  | 41 | 1,719,569                           | 31 | 658,421                          | 12 | 921,465  | 16 | 5,580,911        |
| 2022/23<br>Forecast | 2,539,960  | 51 | 535,640                             | 11 | 1,020,712                        | 20 | 883,029  | 18 | 5,076,927        |
| 2017-2023           | 12,427,330                                       | 39 | 9,653,967                           | 30 | 3,671,217                        | 12 | 5,999,409  | 19 | 31,751,923       |

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

*People. Planet. Prosperity.* is being implemented with existing budgets. There are no new financial implications as a direct result of the material in this report.

### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

No risk considerations were identified.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Economic development stakeholders and HRM business units were engaged in the economic strategy's creation. There was no community engagement in the development of this report.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

No environmental implications were identified.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee could choose not to forward this report to Regional Council for information.

# **ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT 1: Economic Strategy Updates by Action

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <a href="https://halifax.ca">halifax.ca</a> or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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