

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: June 20, 2023		
Subject: Opening of Comfort Centres in HRM during crisis events		
Motion for Council to Consider: That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report regarding the opening of comfort centres in HRM during crisis events, including an inventory of facilities, both HRM and community owned, that can be used as comfort centres across the municipality, and an evaluation of readiness of the centres to respond in the event of a crisis.		
Reason: This motion was initially discussed with staff last year following Fiona in September 2022. HRM has a loose network of community halls and HRM facilities that operate in both official and unofficial capacities during crisis events. The ability of these centres to function as comfort centres varies, depending on whether they have trained volunteers, generators, communication capabilities, emergency supplies, or air conditioners for cooling centres, etc. In the 2017 Municipal Emergency Plan, Section 3.3 Community Organizations, it is recognized that "groups and organizations, such as services clubs and volunteer organizations, are a valuable resources for emergency response. They will be used to augment HRM's resources. This will be according to arranged agreements and plans, or as required." On the HRM's emergency response page, it is notes that dedicated teams of Joint Emergency Management (JEM) volunteers to offer support by setting up Comfort Centres where you can receive up-to-date information, assistance with food, warmth and access to power during emergencies. JEM volunteers are experienced and highly trained community members ready to help you and your neighbours when they need it most.		
Outcome Sought: The outcome being sought through this motion is to ensure residents across HRM have equitable access to comfort centres in the event of a crisis, and that the comfort centres are appropriately supported to respond to emergencies in regards to facilities, resources, training, communication and engagement.		
<i>Councillor Cuttell</i>		<i>District 11</i>