



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

Item No. 5

Halifax Regional Council
December 12, 2023

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: November 14, 2023

SUBJECT: Legislative Update – 2023 Fall Sitting

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

2023 fall sitting of the Provincial Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The relevant statutes for each piece of legislation passed during the 2023 fall sitting, as well as Council's outstanding legislative requests, are outlined in the Discussion section of this report or in the attached legislative request tracking sheet (Attachment A).

BACKGROUND

Halifax Regional Municipality was created by, and gets its authority from, the Province of Nova Scotia. As a result, when the Municipality seeks to take an action outside the scope of its delegated authority, it must request that the province grant such authority through new legislation, legislative amendments, or by requesting that the province undertake an action on the Municipality's behalf.

Regional Council has a number of outstanding legislative requests with the province, with the oldest dating to 2008. Council's legislative requests are tracked by Government Relations and External Affairs (GRE), who work with staff across the organization to coordinate efforts to advance requests. Following sittings of the Provincial Legislature, Council is provided with a report which outlines relevant legislative changes with potential impacts on the municipality, as well as relevant updates on the status of outstanding requests.

The 2023 fall sitting of the Legislature commenced on October 12, 2023, and concluded on November 9, 2023. During the sitting, twelve (12) government bills were passed. The most notable legislation from HRM's perspective includes:

1. Bill No. 329 - Amendments to the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter & the Housing in the Halifax Regional Municipality Act*;
2. Bill No. 340 – *The Municipal Reform Act (2023)*;
3. Bill No. 320 – Amendments to the *Tourist Accommodations Registration Act*; and

4. Bill No. 339 - *Financial Measures (Fall 2023) Act*.

An overview of these legislative changes is provided in the Discussion section below. The legislative overviews provided are not exhaustive – they instead convey salient aspects of the new and/or amended legislation.

Prior to the 2023 fall sitting, HRM had eighteen (18) active legislative requests submitted to the province for consideration. Two (2) of Council's outstanding requests were addressed, either in whole or in part, by legislation approved during the fall sitting. These include the authority for the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to discharge development agreements, as well as the request for the authority for HRM to provide tax exemptions for destroyed commercial properties (See the discussion of Bill 329 below for further details on both). An updated legislative request tracking sheet is included with this report (Attachment A).

DISCUSSION

1. Bill No. 329 - Amendments to the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter & the Housing in the Halifax Regional Municipality Act*

Bill 329 introduces amendments to the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* ("HRM Charter") and the *Housing in the Halifax Regional Municipality Act*, the stated objectives of which are to provide "legislative authority to speed up development approvals, increase density and reduce barriers to housing builds in HRM." Bill 329 contains numerous amendments, but at its core, the legislative changes will have wide-ranging implications for development decisions in HRM as well as the potential for significant impacts on municipal finances.

Below is a high-level outline of some of the key amendments in Bill 329, which reflect the final iteration of the legislation that received Royal Assent.¹ Several amendments were made to Bill 329 during the legislative process, which were in response to some of, but not all, the requested changes put forward by HRM.

- Giving the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the Minister) broad authority to make decisions on development in HRM without a recommendation from the Executive Panel on Housing or the municipality. These new powers include:
 - Authority to make an order designating any or all of the municipality as a special planning area.
 - Authority to approve development agreements or amendments to development agreements, as well as the authority to amend or repeal land-use by-laws, subdivision by-laws and municipal planning strategies in special planning areas without the recommendation of the Executive Panel on Housing.
 - Authority to approve development permits and subdivision approvals in special planning areas, with the Executive Panel on Housing also being granted this power.
 - Authority to make regulations prescribing timelines for the issuance or approval of development permits, agreements and related documents and set penalties for missing the timelines.
- Imposing a two-year freeze on any increases to municipal permit and development fees, capital cost charges, including Halifax Water regional development charges, and incentive or bonus zoning charges and agreements. Any increase during this period requires ministerial approval.
- Imposing a two-year limitation on the creation of any new incentive or bonus zoning agreements, capital cost contribution agreements or local improvement charges, which can only be done if the "formulas and methods for calculating charges" used in the new agreement are:
 - the same as those in effect at the time Bill 329 came into force; or
 - in accordance with formulas approved by the Minister.

¹ For a detailed clause-by-clause analysis of Bill 329 (as originally introduced for First Reading), see the linked information report prepared by Planning & Development staff: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/231017rci06.pdf>.

- Requiring that the municipality create a trusted partner program by a date “to be specified via regulations”, which may prescribe processes and procedures for the governance or administration of residential development approvals and may distinguish between classes of applicants based on their municipal accreditation status.²
- Exempting healthcare facilities, including long-term care facilities, from land-use by-laws and subdivision by-laws.
- Giving HRM’s CAO the authority to discharge a completed development agreement in whole or in part.
- Giving HRM’s CAO the authority to “modify or discharge a private covenant in so far as it is more restrictive than the current zoning for the land it governs with respect to height or density.”
- Requiring the development office to grant all variances respecting setbacks or street walls unless the development officer can demonstrate that they materially differ from the intent of the Municipal Planning Strategy. A decision to reject a variance can be appealed to the Utility and Review Board (UARB) with the onus on the development officer to demonstrate the conflict. The UARB is required to award costs against the municipality when a decision is overturned on appeal.
- Enabling Regional Council to adopt public participation programs by means other than policy.
- Enabling Regional Council to agree to development agreements in principle prior to finalizing minor administrative amendments. The CAO is given authority to finalize those outstanding administrative amendments without a requirement to return to Regional Council.
- Removes the ability of Regional Council to require a larger notification distance for site plan approvals and variance appeals.
- Providing the municipality with clear authority to offer tax concessions to destroyed commercial properties.

While some of the amendments are generally supported by the municipality, others raise significant concerns relating to their potential impacts on municipal processes, authorities, and finances. Of particular concern are the changes conferring broad authority to the Minister regarding development throughout HRM. The changes create uncertainty around current development proposals, staffing resourcing, long-term municipal planning as well as the potential to conflict with and undermine Council direction. It is not clear, for example, what criteria the Minister may use to establish new special planning areas or for designating the entirety of HRM as a special planning area.

Additionally, the two-year freeze on any increases to development fees and charges (subject to ministerial approval) may significantly impact municipal budgets and resources at a time of unprecedented growth in HRM as well as heightened inflationary pressures. As originally introduced, the two-year freeze would have also applied to any new development fees or charges, which would have also been subject to ministerial approval. Limited amendments were made to Bill 329 during the legislative sitting to enable HRM to create new incentive or bonus zoning agreements, capital cost contribution agreements or local improvement charges where the method to calculate the charge is consistent with a prescribed formula approved by the Minister or is the same method as those that were in effect on November 7, 2023. This change was made in response to concerns raised by HRM that the inability to collect new charges would dramatically constrain the ability of the municipality to finance growth supporting infrastructure, as well as to deliver affordable housing programming, among other challenges. The amended provision still represents a limitation on HRM’s ability to collect new fees and charges but provides some clarity and helps to alleviate some of the most acute concerns raised by the two-year freeze.

Bill 329 also includes a number of amendments generally supported by HRM. For instance, the change enabling the CAO to discharge completed development agreements addresses an outstanding legislative request from Council dating from September 2023.³ This request was put forward by Council to support HRM’s application under the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF).

² HRM had already committed to the creation of a similar trusted partner program prior to the introduction of Bill 329 as part of HRM’s Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) application.

³ Legislative request from September 26, 2023 meeting of Halifax Regional Council (Item 18.1): <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/230926rcmins.pdf>.

Additionally, amendments to section 87 of the HRM Charter (relating to tax reductions for destroyed buildings) to provide the municipality with clear authority to offer tax concessions to destroyed commercial properties, addresses another legislative request from Council dating from October 17, 2023.⁴ This request was brought forward in the context of providing tax relief to commercial properties destroyed by the 2023 wildfires. Concerns were raised that subsection 71(2) of the HRM Charter, which generally prohibits HRM from granting tax concessions or direct financial assistance to businesses, may prohibit the granting of tax relief for destroyed commercial properties. The amendment clarifies that HRM may do so for destroyed commercial properties notwithstanding the prohibition in subsection 71(2).

It is challenging to assess the full implications of Bill 329, as it provides the Minister with significant discretionary decision-making authority; it remains to be seen how these new powers will be utilized. Staff will continue to monitor the full scope of potential impacts of Bill 329 for the municipality.

Link to Bill No. 329: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-64-session-1/bill-329>

2. Bill No. 340 – The *Municipal Reform Act* (2023)

Bill 340, the *Municipal Reform Act*, introduces amendments to several pieces of legislation to bring into force aspects of the provincial-municipal service exchange renegotiations. The service exchange renegotiations have been ongoing since 2021 and concern various aspects of the fiscal and legislative relationship between the province and NS municipalities.

The amendments approved in Bill 340 currently relate to municipalities other than HRM. The province has made clear during the renegotiation process that it will be seeking to develop a distinct service exchange memorandum of understanding (MOU) with HRM; the details of which are yet to be fully determined as of the time of writing. Consequently, the direct relevancy of Bill 340 and how it might be applied to HRM specifically is yet to be fully determined. However, it is anticipated that HRM's MOU will be broadly consistent with changes put forward for other municipalities, albeit with slight variations.

Below is an overview of the changes included in Bill 340:

- Amends the *Correction Act* to remove the current requirement for municipalities to make mandatory annual contributions towards corrections. The provisions are substituted with a requirement that municipalities make annual contributions towards corrections “as determined by a calculation prescribed by the regulations”. The amendments allow for municipal units to be excluded from this requirement via regulations.
- Amends the *Housing Supply and Services Act* to remove the current requirement for municipalities to make mandatory contributions towards the net operating losses for public housing the residents of that municipality. The provisions are substituted with a requirement that municipalities make annual contributions towards the net operating losses for public housing, with the amount to be prescribed via regulations made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The changes leave open the possibility of municipal units being excluded from this requirement via regulations.
- Amends the *Education Act* so that, in the future, ownership of schools built prior to 1981 would transfer back to the province when they are deemed obsolete, with municipalities given the first right of offer to purchase the building at a negotiated price, unless excluded by the regulations.
- Amends the *Municipal Grants Act* and moves elements of the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant (MFCG) formula into regulations so it is “more flexible and easier to adapt to the changing needs of municipalities, and enabling government to implement the new formula agreed to by municipalities.”⁵

⁴ Legislative request from October 17, 2023, meeting of Halifax Regional Council (Item 15.1.4):

<https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/231017rcminsdraft.pdf>

⁵ HRM does not receive provincial equalization funding under the Municipal Financial Capacity Grant (MFCG).

- Amends the *Municipal Grants Act* to clarify that a grant in lieu of property taxes for a fiscal year is only payable for property as shown on the filed assessment roll for the relevant year.

The province has indicated that they are aiming for the amendments, as well as supporting regulations, to take effect on April 1st, 2024. It was further noted that the supporting regulations “will allow for those municipalities not covered by the renegotiated agreement to be addressed separately.” Staff have requested that the province commit to scheduled discussions with HRM with the aim of finalizing a Provincial-HRM MOU to come into effect on April 1st, 2024, aligning with the timeline for other municipalities.

Should the provisions in Bill 340 relating to mandatory corrections and housing contributions be applied to HRM, it is anticipated that it may relieve the municipality of approximately \$12 million in mandatory payments to the province next year. While this would benefit HRM taxpayers, it would not have an impact to savings in terms of general rated expenditures to deliver municipal services.

Link to Bill No. 340: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-64-session-1/bill-340>

3. Bill No. 320 – Amendments to the *Tourist Accommodations Registration Act*

Bill 320 introduces amendments to the *Tourist Accommodations Registration Act*, the primary intent of which is to increase the availability of longer-term housing options by disincentivizing short-term rentals through enabling higher registration fees. Under the Act, short-term accommodation operators are required to sign up with the provincial registry and pay an annual fee. The changes in Bill 320 enable the annual fee to be set at different amounts based on the type of accommodation (hosts) as well as the size of the community where it is located; all of which will be set out via regulations. This will allow for higher fees to be imposed in areas where it is determined that there is a greater housing need.

The province has indicated that they plan to bring forward the supporting regulations in spring of 2024, which will include the following:

- Fees for short-term rental units located in a host’s principal residence will be set at \$10 across the province.
- Fees for units that are not located in a host’s principal residence will range from \$240 in the most rural communities to \$3,600 in the centre of HRM.
- Fees for intermediate tourism zones and the borders of those zones will be determined through “analysis and engagement”.
- Higher maximum fines for hosts and accommodations marketing platforms that do not follow the requirements under the Act.

The changes will not impact traditional accommodations such as hotels and motels, the fees for which will continue to range from \$50 to \$150 depending on the number of bedrooms.

Bill 320 also renames the *Tourist Accommodations Registration Act* as the “*Short-term Rental Registration Act*.” The Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing will take over responsibility for the Act and the associated registry.

Link to Bill No. 320: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-64-session-1/bill-320>

4. Bill No. 339 - Financial Measures (Fall 2023) Act

Bill 339 introduces amendments to several pieces of legislation to provide the necessary authorities to implement measures which have financial implications for the province. Those most relevant for HRM include:

- Amendments to the [Gas Distribution System Municipal Taxation Act](#) to extend a 20-year-old tax agreement between NS municipalities, including HRM, and Eastward Energy (formerly Heritage Gas) by 5 years. Under the statute, HRM receives tax revenue from Eastward Energy based on a prescribed percentage of gross distributed revenues.⁶ The Act stated that it was effective for 20 years and was slated to expire in 2024. The amendment extends the tax agreement for another 5 years, or until December 31st, 2028.
- Amendments to the *Sales Tax Act* to implement a previously announced rebate program on the provincial portion of the goods and services tax (HST) in respect of purpose-built rental housing, with the aim of incentivizing more construction. The rebate will be available for purpose-built rental housing, the construction of which must begin after September 13, 2023, before 2031, and be substantially completed by 2036. The new measure mirrors a similar GST rebate programing for new purpose-built rental housing announced by the federal government in September 2023.

Link to Bill No. 339: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-64-session-1/bill-339>

Additional Highlights from 2023 Fall Sitting

Other notable highlights from the 2023 fall sitting are outlined below. Refer to the links for greater detail.

- [Bill No. 327](#) (Amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Act*) - Enables the use of automated flagger assistance devices (AFAD) in road construction projects without the requirement for the Traffic Authority to erect traffic signals.
- [Bill No. 337](#) (Amendments to the *Electricity Act*) - Implements changes aimed at adding more renewable energy to the power grid and clearing a path for more energy storage solutions by requiring a public utility to enter into an agreements for the sale of the electricity to specified customers, and the purchase of services from an energy-storage project.
- [Bill No. 319](#) (*First Responders Day Act*) - Proclaims May 1st of each year as First Responders' Day in Nova Scotia; intended as a day of recognition, not a holiday.
- [Bill No. 334](#) (Amendments to the *Health Services and Insurance Act*) – Enables the Minister of Addictions and Mental Health to establish insured service programs to deliver mental health and addictions care as part of a publicly funded healthcare system.

A full list of bills introduced and passed during the 2023 fall sitting can be found here: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-64-session-1>

Staff continue to meet regularly with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, as well as other provincial departments to review and discuss Council's outstanding legislative requests, as well as engage in formal and informal consultations to help advance requests where possible.

⁶ For additional background on the *Gas Distribution System Municipal Taxation Act*: <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20040924001>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications related to the content in this report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

N/A.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was required or undertaken in the development of this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Halifax Regional Council Legislative Request Tracking Sheet – November 2023

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: David Perusse, Government Relations & External Affairs, 902.430.3143

Halifax Regional Council Legislative Requests
[Last updated November 2023]

Active Requests

Particulars of Request	
1.	<p><u>Crosswalk Penalties - Motor Vehicle Act/Traffic Safety Act</u> Request for the Province to consider increasing non-monetary penalties for crosswalk violations.</p> <p>Date of Request: March 10, 2015 – Item 11.5.3</p>
2.	<p><u>Heritage Conservation District Development Moratorium – Heritage Property Act</u> Request that the Province amend the <i>Heritage Property Act</i> and Heritage Conservation Districts regulations, where appropriate, to authorize the Council to adopt a by-law that would suspend specific types of development, for a period not exceeding one (1) year, within the boundaries of an area that Council has identified as part of a background study to establish a Heritage Conservation District.</p> <p>Date of Request: February 23, 2016 – Item 9.1.2</p>
3.	<p><u>Sanctions for Code of Conduct Breaches – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u> <i>*May be enabled via regulations under development following Bill No. 50.</i></p> <p>Request that the Province initiate legislative changes to the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> allowing for the ability to censure Members of Council by remitting remuneration for violations to AO 52, Code of Conduct for Municipal Officials.</p> <p>Date of Request: September 20, 2016 – Item 14.4.1</p>
4.	<p><u>Parking Fines - Summary Offence Ticket Regulations</u> Request that the Province amend the Summary Offence Ticket Regulations to increase parking fines for “other” parking types only; not inclusive parking meter violations, as outlined in Option 1, Attachment D (Appendix A) of the staff report dated February 10, 2017, with the following amendment:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The requested increase to the fine amounts be amended so: (a) all Category A (parking) offences are increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00 (rather than \$45.00 as</p>

Halifax Regional Council Legislative Requests

[Last updated November 2023]

	<p>recommended by Committee of the Whole); (b) all Category B (parking) offences are increased from \$50.00 to \$100.00; and (c) all Category C (parking) offences are increased from \$100.00 to \$200.00 rather than \$150.00.</p>
5.	<p><u>Dooring – Motor Vehicle Act/Traffic Safety Act</u> <i>*May be addressed under future TSA Regulations.</i></p> <p>Request that the Province amend the <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> to prohibit people from opening their vehicle doors until it is reasonably safe to do so.</p>
6.	<p><u>Green Network Plan – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u></p> <p>Request that the Province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i>, as set out in Actions 18 and 61 of the Halifax Green Network Plan, to:</p> <p>(a) enable the Municipality to acquire sensitive environmental lands (e.g. riparian areas, wetlands, steep slopes, etc.) as an environmental reserve through the land development and subdivision process, in addition to existing parkland dedication provisions; and</p> <p>(b) enable a greater range of legislative abilities, such as the ability to enact parkland dedication requirements based on density to address development that does not include the subdivision of land.</p>
7.	<p><u>Lobbyist Registry – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter/Lobbyist Registration Act</u></p> <p>Request staff engage with the Province regarding the possibility of an amendment to the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to expand the provincial <i>Lobbyist Registration Act</i> to include regulation of lobbying conducted at the local government level.</p>

Halifax Regional Council Legislative Requests
[Last updated November 2023]

	Date of Request: October 2, 2018 – Item14.3.2
8.	<u>Transportation Network Company Fees - Motor Vehicle Act/Traffic Safety Act</u> Request that the Province amend the <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> to enable the Municipality to charge Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) per-trip fees. This will enable the Municipality to generate additional revenues as part of the forthcoming regulation of TNCs like Uber and Lyft.
	Date of Request: January 14, 2020 – Item 15.3.1
9.	<u>Construction Mitigation Fund – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u> Request that the Province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to enable HRM to establish a construction mitigation fund to assist with marketing and promotions for business impacted by lengthy construction projects, as well as to provide direct compensation to private sector businesses in those cases where reasonable parking and access cannot be maintained.
	Date of Request: February 25, 2020 – Item 15.1.7
10.	<u>Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate Alignment - Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act</u> Request that the provincial Zero Emission Vehicle mandate, introduced in the <i>Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act</i> , be strengthened to better align with the targets set in HalifACT.
	Date of Request: November 23, 2021 – Item 15.2.2
11.	<u>Photo Enforcement Radar – Traffic Safety Act</u> That the CAO develop a program of photo enforcement in anticipation of the eventual proclamation of the <i>Traffic Safety Act</i> and in accordance with the recommendations set out in the January 2022 consulting report prepared by Stewart Solutions Inc., which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request that staff engage with the Province to establish the necessary framework, including legislation, to enable a successful photo enforcement program under the <i>Traffic Safety Act</i>.

Halifax Regional Council Legislative Requests
[Last updated November 2023]

	Date of Request: March 1, 2022 – Item 15.1.1
12.	<p><u>Authority to Set Speed Limits</u> – <i>Motor Vehicle Act/Traffic Safety Act</i></p> <p>Request that the Province delegate the authority to set speed limits below 50 km/hr to the HRM Traffic Authority.</p> <p>*2017 request for the Province to reduce the speed limit in residential districts identified in section 101(2) of the <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> to forty kilometres per hour (40 km/h).</p>
	Date of Request: November 22, 2022 – Item 15.1.8 & April 11, 2017 – Item 14.4.1
13.	<p><u>Community Benefit Agreements</u> – <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i></p> <p>Request that the Province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to add the power to develop, enter into and enforce Community Benefit Agreements.</p>
	Date of Request: November 22, 2022 – Item 15.1.11
14.	<p><u>Auditor General Term of Appointment</u> – <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i></p> <p>Request that the Province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to grant Halifax Regional Council the authority to determine the length of a fixed-term appointment for HRM’s Auditor General for a non-renewable term not to exceed 10 years.</p>
	Date of Request: February 21, 2023 – Item 15.1.4
15.	<p><u>Market Levy Collection by Platform Operators</u> – <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i></p> <p>Request that the Province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> (section 29A relating to the Marketing Levy) to require that short-term rental platform operators (such as AirBNB and VRBO) collect and remit the marketing levy on behalf of rental operators that are subject to the marketing levy.</p>
	Date of Request: August 22, 2023 – Item 15.1.2

Halifax Regional Council Legislative Requests
[Last updated November 2023]

16.	<p><u>Authority to Discharge Development Agreements – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u> <i>*Addressed during 2023 fall sitting via Bill No. 329</i></p> <p>Request that the Province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to grant the Chief Administrative Officer the authority to discharge existing development agreements where the terms of the development agreement is more restrictive than the as-of-right zoning.</p>
	<p>Date of Request: September 26, 2023 – Item 18.1</p>
17.	<p><u>Tax Exemption for Destroyed Commercial Properties – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u> <i>*Addressed during 2023 fall sitting via Bill No. 329</i></p> <p>Request that the Province amend section 87 of the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to specifically permit the extension of tax concessions with respect to destroyed commercial properties.</p>
	<p>Date of Request: October 17, 2023 – Item 15.1.4</p>
18.	<p><u>Halifax Water Fees Waived for Affordable Housing – Public Utilities Act</u></p> <p>Request that the Province amend the <i>Public Utilities Act</i> to enable Halifax Water to waive Regional Development Charges for affordable housing developments.</p>
	<p>Date of Request: November 14, 2023 – Item 15.1.3 & November 10, 2020 – Item 11.1.1</p>
19.	<p><u>Permanent Resident Municipal Voting Rights – Municipal Elections Act</u></p> <p>Request that the Province amend the <i>Municipal Election Act</i> to include permanent residents as qualified electors to vote in municipal elections.</p>
	<p>Date of Request: November 14, 2023 – Item 15.2.1 & December 2, 2014 – Item 11.3.3</p>
20.	<p><u>Mi'kmaw Seat Halifax Regional Council – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u></p> <p>Request that the Province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to enable HRM to consider a Mi'kmaw council seat, subject to consultation and agreement with Mi'kmaw representatives.</p>

Halifax Regional Council Legislative Requests
[Last updated November 2023]

	Date of Request: November 14, 2023 – Item 15.2.1
--	---

Inactive Requests

Particulars of Request	
1.	<p><u>Heritage Registration Sunset Clause - Heritage Property Act</u></p> <p>Requesting sunset clause of 90 days for impact clerical errors have on heritage registration.</p> <hr/> <p>Date of Request: April 22, 2008 – Item 12.3</p>
2.	<p><u>Commercial Tax Options – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u></p> <p>*Partially addressed during 2016 fall sitting by Bill 52.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Request that the Province make changes to legislation governing the assessment process so that (a) the annual valuation is averaged over a three-year period, or (b) the full assessment roll is updated every 3-4 years as is the current policy in Saskatchewan and Ontario. 2) Request amendments to the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> that would provide Council with greater legislative authority in setting taxes and charges respecting the general tax rate and area rates for both residential and commercial properties. 3) Request to work with Service Nova Scotia and the Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) to change the commercial tax assessment so it is based on 3 past years of assessment rather than one year. This would increase predictability in annual commercial tax bills by evening out increases. <hr/> <p>Date of Request: November 10, 2015 – Item 14.1</p>
3.	<p><u>Traffic Control Persons for Special Events – Motor Vehicle Act/Traffic Safety Act</u></p> <p>Request that the Government of Nova Scotia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the Nova Scotia <i>Motor Vehicle Act</i> to permit Traffic Control Persons to direct the movement of traffic for special events;

Halifax Regional Council Legislative Requests

[Last updated November 2023]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify the Province’s training and accreditation processes to reflect special events-related roles for Traffic Control Persons and Temporary Workplace Signers; and ‘ • Revise the Province’s TC Manual to include standards, principles and guidelines applicable to special events-related traffic control scenarios.
	<p>Date of Request: April 25, 2017 – Item 14.3.1</p>
4.	<p><u>Removal of Market Levy Cap – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</u> <i>*Partially addressed during 2022 fall sitting by Bill No. 204: levy increased but not removed.</i></p> <p>Request that the Province amend the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Marketing Levy Act</i> (Repealed – Levy provisions now in the HRM Charter) to remove the cap on the marketing levy.</p>
	<p>Date of Request: February 23, 2021 – Item 11.2.1</p>