

## **Announcement by Mayor Mike Savage**

### **February 13, 2024**

Good afternoon. We are gathered today in Mi'kma'ki on the traditional and unceded land of the Mi'kmaq people. We acknowledge the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this territory and recognize we are all Treaty People.

Twelve years ago on Feb. 6, 2012, I announced my candidacy for Mayor. I have had the good fortune to be elected three times to the job I love. Today I am here to let you know I will not re-offer for a fourth term.

Being Mayor has been the best job I have ever held, the one that most suits me, in my view. It has challenged me, it has irritated me, it has liberated me and strengthened me. And, it has passed so quickly.

So, yes, I love this job, but 12 years is long enough. It's time for me to plan for life after being Mayor. I don't know what that will be, but I know there is something else; there always is. The work of the City will continue.

It was a difficult decision, but it passes the test my mother gave me more than 20 years ago: *It settles comfortably in both my head and my heart.*

For the next eight months, I will continue to do this job with enthusiasm, advocating for HRM and cities across the country to realize their aspirations, and address the significant challenges we share: homelessness, housing affordability and supply, social equity, and the threats posed by climate change.

Since taking office in 2012, I have come to understand and appreciate that Municipal politics is the most transparent and open order of government. We discuss our positions in public without partisan allegiance, in a way that is honest, messy, and mostly productive.

I am proud to have served with Council colleagues who work hard at what they do, always with the goal of making things better. I thank them all.

I am so proud that we live in a growing city, a city that has gotten younger, and more diverse. I am proud of the way we still pull together in tough times, even if it

sometimes seems the world has become more polarized. Our city has a bright future, and we can overcome the challenges we face, because it's what we do. We've overcome challenges before.

Mostly, I continue to be so proud to represent this community and its people. It is what I will miss most.

Politics can be difficult, especially on those closest to us. My wife Darlene and my children have been with me throughout my political journey and my life. My son was five, my daughter was eight, when I first entered elected office. They have always been so much more than "the Mayor's kids" or "the Premier's grandkids". Today they are remarkable young adults making their way in the world and I could not be prouder.

There will be time for me to properly thank all those who have supported me over my time as Mayor. I have been blessed to work with amazing Mayor's Office staff, colleagues on Council, fellow Mayors, the team at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (which I loved). I have had the opportunity to lead the Big City Mayors Caucus and the World Energy Cities Partnership and participate in the Bloomberg-Harvard City Leaders Initiative.

I want to say how proud I am of HRM staff. They are professionals in every sense of the word. It has been a tremendous pleasure to be a part of this team, and I will miss them.

I would be pleased to meet with anyone contemplating offering for Mayor to offer any advice I can.

For now, however, I will end on this. Thank you to the residents of our community for giving me the enormous honor of serving you. It has been the privilege of my life.

Thank you. Merci. Wela'liq.