

HALIFAX

Introduction

The Halifax Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) is the civilian board that provides governance and oversight to the Halifax Regional Police (HRP). The Board also functions as a Police Advisory Board to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Halifax District as it performs contractual policing services for the Halifax Regional Municipality. The Commission is a statutory body created by the *Police Act*, S.N.S. 2004, c. 31. There are seven members of the Board: six are appointed by Halifax Regional Council and the seventh appointed by the Nova Scotia Minister of Justice. Of the six appointed by Regional Council, three of the members are Regional Councillors and three are community members.

The Board is the link between the community and the police service. The Board's authority derives from the Nova Scotia *Police Act* giving the Board the mandate with respect to the HRP to provide:

- (a) civilian governance on behalf of Regional Council in relation to the enforcement of law, the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime in the municipality; and
- (b) the administrative direction, organization and policy required to maintain an adequate, effective and efficient police department,

And with respect to the RCMP, to provide advice to the council in relation to the enforcement of law, the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of crime in the municipality

The relationship between the Board and the police services is unique to Halifax because both the HRP and RCMP provide policing within the boundaries of Halifax. In accordance with the Policing Transformation Study, received by Regional Council and the Board in Spring 2023, the Board is striving toward an integrated operating model between the two police services, subject to the direction of Regional Council.

The policies developed by the Board are intended to guide the Board in its governance role. No policy adopted by the Board is intended to limit or prevent the Chief of HRP from establishing operational policies as per the *Police Act*.

These policies will guide the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners as it establishes its vision, mission, values, strategic planning and work plans to fulfill its mandate.