

# Councillor Virginia Hinch

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

DISTRICT 8  
NEWSLETTER



## JANUARY 2025

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely holiday season and found some time to relax and enjoy your holiday with friends and family.

A New Year symbolizes a time for a fresh start for many! It's a time where we try to accomplish new goals or continue working towards goals set in years past. I hope whatever you have in store for 2025, that it is a successful and joyful year.

As we enter the height of the winter season, I want to remind residents of District 8 to sign up for hfxALERT to get the latest information on when parking bans will be in effect. You can sign up to hfxALERT by visiting our [website](#).

If you have any questions regarding a municipal program or service, please contact me at 902-237-8373 or [virigina.hinch@halifax.ca](mailto:virigina.hinch@halifax.ca)

If you would like to receive my e-newsletter directly to your inbox, please reach out to me directly with your request and I will add you to the mailing list

## JANUARY MEETING DATES

### Regional Council:

Tuesday, January 14 at 10 a.m.  
Tuesday, January 28 at 10 a.m.

### Halifax and West Community Council

Tuesday, January 21 at 7 p.m.

### Regional Centre Community Council

Wednesday January 22 at 10 a.m.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change, please confirm on our municipal [website](#).



## EMERA OVAL OPEN FOR THE 2024/2025 SEASON

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that the Emera Oval, located on the Halifax Common, is now open.

Every year, the Emera Oval is transformed into the largest outdoor, artificially refrigerated ice service east of Quebec City. The skating surface is equal to three NHL hockey rinks, and the facility includes an accessible washroom, street parking on Cogswell Street and wheelchair access to the ice surface.

Beginning on Monday, January 6, the Oval will host a Sensory Skate every Monday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will be no music playing or any large group bookings during that time.

Free equipment rentals, including skates and helmets, will be available. Valid ID is required for all rentals. CSA-approved multi-impact hockey helmets are mandatory for children 12 years of age and younger. However, all skaters are encouraged to wear a helmet for their own safety.

A full schedule of public skate times can be found on our [website](#).



## OVERNIGHT WINTER PARKING BAN IN EFFECT

The municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect from December 15, 2024 through March 31, 2025. The overnight winter parking ban is enforced from 1 to 6 a.m. during declared weather events and snow removal operations. Residents are encouraged to plan ahead when snow is in the forecast and secure off-street parking when the overnight winter parking ban is enforced.

The municipality has two zones for the overnight winter parking ban:

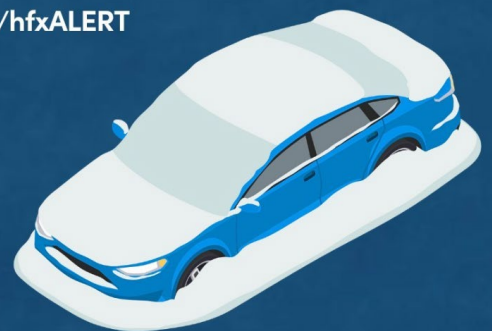
**Zone 1 – Central** refers to the Halifax peninsula and downtown Dartmouth within Highway 111 (the Circumferential Highway) and some surrounding areas.

**Zone 2 – Non-Central** is a designated area outside of Zone 1 – Central. Residents are able to determine which zone they're in by searching their address using the interactive tool available [here](#).

Overnight winter parking bans will continue to be communicated to residents via hfxAlert, our [website](#) and [@hfxgov](#) on X.

The municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect from **December 15 to March 31.**

[halifax.ca/hfxALERT](http://halifax.ca/hfxALERT)



## ROADS AND WINTER OPERATIONS

Winter is here!

With each weather event, crews are responsible for clearing approximately 4,322 lane kilometres of streets. Stretched end to end, that's the same distance as driving from Halifax to Winnipeg. Crews also clear about 1,000 kilometres of sidewalks, six kilometers of protected bike lanes/local street bikeways, 11 kilometers of multi-use pathways and approximately 2,300 bus stops across the municipality.

Property owners, never clear snow from your property onto the street or sidewalk. Please ensure the snow is piled on your own property. It is against By-Law S-300 to throw or pile snow in the street or on the sidewalk. This is a serious problem that can cause safety issues for pedestrians and other users as it complicates clearing for crews. When this happens, crews are often forced to double back, delaying service on the rest of their routes. The municipality has enhanced enforcement in place to address non-compliance with the by-law.

Residents are reminded to secure off-street parking for the winter months so that crews can safely and efficiently clear streets and sidewalks. Vehicles obstructing snow clearing equipment may be ticketed or towed anytime, particularly in priority areas like bus routes and streets around hospitals and schools. The municipality can also enforce winter parking bans during snow clearing. Sign up for hfxALERT to be notified when the ban is in effect.

For minor (0 to 5 cm accumulation) and average (5 to 15 cm accumulation) winter events, snow clearing updates will be posted three times a day: 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. on our [website](#) and via [@hfxgov](#) on Twitter. For major events (15 cm or greater of accumulation), updates will be posted four times a day: 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Please note: Additional updates may be posted outside of these times as required.

We can't control the weather, but if we work together we can all be better prepared for whatever the season may bring



## Roads and On-street Bikeways



Priority Level	Type of Road	Service Standard for clearing <small>(starts after end of event)</small>	Minimum Accumulation	What surface should look like
1	Main arterial roads, emergency routes, Halifax Transit routes and roads with steep grades	12 hours	2 cm of snowfall	Bare
2	Residential streets, gravel roads and private lanes	24 hours	10 cm of snowfall	Snow covered but passable



## Sidewalks and Protected Bike Lanes



Priority Level	Priority Level Location/type of sidewalk or bike lane	Service Standard for clearing <small>(starts after end of event)</small>	Minimum Accumulation	What surface should look like
1	Downtown Halifax and Dartmouth	12 hours	5 cm of snowfall	Bare
1	Main arterials and school drop-off zones	12 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Bare
2	Halifax Transit routes	18 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Mostly bare with salt for traction
3	Residential streets and walkways	36 hours	15 cm of snowfall	Mostly bare with salt for traction

**When to contact 311**  
 Once the service timelines have expired, you can report any snow or ice removal issues on municipal streets, sidewalks or bike lanes by emailing [ContactUs@311.halifax.ca](mailto:ContactUs@311.halifax.ca) or by calling 311.

Please note, clearing timelines may be exceeded during exceptional weather conditions.

HALIFAX

## 2025/2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Halifax Regional Council has begun the process of reviewing the municipal budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year.

The municipal budget funds all costs associated with servicing our growing municipality. This includes day-to-day municipal operations, capital priority initiatives approved by Regional Council and capital projects and investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace municipal assets. Residents are encouraged to check out these meetings, you can even have the opportunity to speak directly to the Budget Committee during the public participation portion of each meeting:

### **2023/24 Strategic Performance Report and Snapshot - Tuesday, January 14**

Outlining progress on strategic key performance indicators from the [Strategic Priorities Plan 2021-25](#).

### **Budget Introduction and Capital Plan Recommendation - Wednesday, February 5**

High level discussion of the starting point for the 2025/26 municipal budget.

### **Business Unit and Budget Presentations - Wednesday, February 12 to Wednesday, February 26**

Each municipal business unit will present their proposed budget and business plan for discussion.

- Wednesday, February 12 – Public Safety (including Community Safety; Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency; Halifax Regional Police; and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment)
- Wednesday, February 19 and Thursday, February 20 – Operations (including Halifax Transit; Parks & Recreation; Planning & Development; Property, Fleet & Environment; and Public Works).

- Wednesday, February 26 – Corporate Services (including Chief Administrative Office; Finance & Asset Management; Human Resources; Information Technology; and Legal & Legislative Services).

### **Budget Adjustment List (BAL) Review - Wednesday, March 19**

Reviewing all additional items that business units have presented beyond their proposed budgets, including add-ons (“overs”) and subtractions (“unders”).

### **Final Budget Approval - Tuesday, April 8**

Please note these dates are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, visit our [website](#).

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## HRM IS HIRING BUS OPERATORS

Looking for a career that moves you forward? Join us at Halifax Transit, where your journey to success begins behind the wheel. We provide a paid training program that includes both classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction and great benefits.

To learn more, visit our [website](#).



## We're hiring bus Operators

## HALIFAX REGIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY RECRUITMENT

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) is accepting applications for career firefighters until January 16. Career firefighters serve their communities by protecting and preserving life, property and the environment through appropriate emergency management.

The recruitment process is multi-phased and will include an application, aptitude testing, physical abilities testing, a background screening and panel interview. The skills, abilities and competencies measured through each of these phases are in alignment with the requirements for firefighters. Becoming a firefighter is a serious commitment that requires unwavering dedication and extensive preparation at every stage of the recruitment process. Candidates will face rigorous evaluations designed to ensure they are physically and mentally prepared to tackle the challenges of this demanding profession.

HRFE is hosting several community sessions to help potential candidates learn more about the firefighting recruitment process. For information about an information session near you, visit our [website](#).

Firefighting is a rewarding and challenging career. Firefighters work long hours and often under highly physically demanding work. Careers with HRFE offer flexible work-life balance and competitive salaries. For more information, visit our [website](#).



## APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising eligible registered non-profit and charitable organizations that applications for the Community Grants Program have opened.

The program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the region. There are two grants available – a project grant of up to \$5,000 or a capital grant of up to \$25,000.

The program has seven funding categories, which include: community arts; diversity and accessibility; environment and climate change; emergency assistance and neighbourhood safety; community histories; leisure; and recreation. Applicants must indicate the category which best matches the funding request.

Applicants should review the [2025/26 Program Guidebook](#) prior to applying, and first-time applicants are encouraged to contact municipal staff prior to submitting an application.

For more information, visit our [website](#).



## NEW YEAR'S LEVEE

It was such a great way to celebrate the start of 2025 with the return of the New Year's Levee here at Halifax City Hall. So nice to come together with my Council colleagues and all of you to celebrate the beginning of a New Year.



## DISPOSING OF CHRISTMAS TREES

After the holidays, an option for disposing of natural Christmas trees is to place them curbside.

They will be picked up on your regular green cart collection day. Remove all plastic, tinsel, ornaments, metal rings, nails, stands and plastic tree bags.

Did you know? Natural Christmas trees picked up from the curb are processed into mulch for landscaping.

For more on how to manage your waste download the [Halifax Recycles app](#) or visit our [website](#).

## PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) assesses every property in Nova Scotia and mails over 638,000 Property Assessment Notices to property owners every January. If you are a property owner, you should be receiving your latest Property Assessment Notice in the coming weeks.

There is an option to appeal/refute your assessment within 31 days of the date on your Assessment Notice.

To learn more about your assessment, call PVSC assessors at 1-800-380-7775 or email them at [inquiry@pvsc.ca](mailto:inquiry@pvsc.ca).

Visit their [website](#) to learn more.

## HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program provides assistance to low and moderate income Nova Scotians for help with the cost of home heating. Rebates are \$600/household. Find out more and apply by March 31 [here](#).

## SENIORS CARE GRANT

The Seniors Care Grant helps low-income seniors with the cost of household services like lawn care, snow removal, grocery delivery, transportation, small home repairs and phone service, healthcare services like physiotherapy and mental health support and home heating. Grants are \$750 for each household. You can find out more information and the application form [here](#).

## HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### Land Acknowledgement

The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. The municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement:

*"The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People."*

## PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

### Federal Representatives in District 8:

There is currently no Member of Parliament in District 8 the closest Member of Parliament would be MP Lena Metlege Diab her contact information is below:

- **MP Lena Metlege Diab** Halifax West  
1496 Bedford Highway  
Suite 222  
Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 1E5  
  
Telephone: 902-426-2217  
Fax: 902-426-8339

### Provincial Representatives in District 8:

- **MLA Suzy Hansen** Halifax- Needham  
6090 Young St, Suite 1000  
Halifax, NS B3K 3B5  
Phone: 902-455-7300  
[suzyhalifaxneedham@gmail.com](mailto:suzyhalifaxneedham@gmail.com)

## COUNCILLOR VIRIGINA HINCH

Virigina currently serves on the following Boards and Committees along with Halifax Regional Council:

- Grants Committee
- Board of Police Commissioners
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Regional Centre Community Council
- Halifax Forum Community Association
- Indigenous Community Liaison Representation



### Councillor Virginia Hinch

DISTRICT 8

Halifax Peninsula North

902.237.8373

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