



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DISTRICT 3 ONLINE NEWS

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE



MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

We've made it to February – and I'm hoping we've reached our quota for snowstorms! Thank you to our amazing Winter Operations teams, contractors and crews who are working hard to keep our streets, sidewalks and bus stops safe.

February is African Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the contributions of people of African Decent in our municipality. You can find out more about what's happening for African Heritage Month in this newsletter below. We also celebrate Valentine's Day next week – a time to show the people around us how much we care.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me with any of your municipal questions or concerns.

Warmly,

WEAR RED DAY

Heart disease is the number one cause of death of women worldwide and the leading cause of premature death in Canadian women. Wear Red Canada Day (WRCD) is celebrated annually on Feb. 13 to raise awareness about women's cardiovascular. I hope you will join me and wear red on Feb. 13 for this significant day of awareness.

This national movement first WRCD occurred here in Halifax in 2018, sponsored by our Women's Heart Health Clinic. WRCD is organized by the Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance, a volunteer group of clinicians, scientists, allied health care providers, and women with lived experience with heart disease from across Canada.

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



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AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH



February is African Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the rich culture, achievements and contributions of African Nova Scotians and communities of African descent in our region and across the nation.

This year's provincial theme, *Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance*, highlights the living legacy of Black Nova Scotians, honouring the impact and perseverance of the long-standing community. Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back over 400 years.

The Halifax Regional Municipality is committed to fostering safe and inclusive communities for all. Our African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office (ANSAIO) are committed to addressing anti-Black racism in our workplaces and communities with the [Anti-Black Racism Framework](#), the [African Descent Advisory Committee](#) advises Regional Council on the impact of municipal policies, programs and services for People of African Descent and we are sponsors of the [Road to Economic Prosperity for African Nova Scotian Communities](#), that encourages community efforts and provides a space for realizing future opportunities for all people of African descent.

This month, City Hall will be illuminated in black, green and red, and the Pan-African flag will be displayed at some of our municipal buildings in honour of African Heritage Month. Take time to commemorate African heritage this month by attending an [event](#) or checking out the [Halifax Public Library portal featuring programs that celebrate the African Nova Scotian community](#).

INTEGRATED TOURISM MASTER PLAN FEEDBACK

Discover Halifax is gathering input on their Halifax Regional Integrated Tourism Master Plan (ITMP 2030) to ensure the ITMP 2030 reflects community goals.

If you or your organization would like to provide feedback, check out the Dartmouth sessions by [registering here](#):

Dartmouth/Cole Harbour

Thursday, Feb. 27 6 – 8 p.m.
Alderney Gate Public Library, Helen Creighton Room

Eastern Shore (Sheet Harbour)

Wednesday, March 5 4 – 8 p.m. *Presentation at 6 p.m.
Sheet Harbour Royal Canadian Legion #58

Eastern Shore (Musquodoboit Harbour)

Thursday, March 6 4 – 8 p.m. *Presentation at 6 p.m.
Old School Gathering Place

You can also have your say through an [online survey and mapping tools, which you can access by clicking here](#).

SUMMER JOB RECRUITMENT

Applications are now open for our summer casual positions in aquatics, inclusion and recreation programming. These positions are ideal for teenagers and students with a fun work college, competitive wages and opportunities to work outdoors in an environment that promotes health, wellness and physical activity.

For more information on dates and locations, as well as a list of job openings, visit our [website](#).



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2025/26 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

This month, Regional Council will be continuing to work with each business unit to direct the 2025/26 budget and business plan and capital plan. This week, we discussed the 2025/26 Operating Budget introduction and the 2025/26 Multi-Year Capital Plan. Staff are proposing a 7.6% increase to the average municipal tax bill (\$189/year annually), but this number can evolve as we go over each business unit budget in detail.

Residents are encouraged to tune in or attend these budget sessions, where we will hear from each business unit and discuss their budget and plan for the next fiscal year and there will be time set aside for public feedback:

Public Safety

Wednesday, Feb. 12 9:30 a.m. (*Contingency: Friday, Feb. 14*)

Community Safety; Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency; Halifax Regional Police; and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment

Operations

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 9:30 a.m. and Thursday, Feb. 20 9:30 a.m. (*Contingency: Friday, Feb. 21*)

Halifax Transit; Parks & Recreation; Planning & Development; Property, Fleet & Environment; and Public Works

Corporate Services

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 9:30 a.m. (*Contingency: Friday, Feb. 28*)

Chief Administrative Office; Finance & Asset Management; Human Resources; Information Technology; and Legal & Legislative Services

Next month, Regional Council will review all the add-ons (“overs”) and subtractions (“unders”) on the Budget Adjustment List then final budget approval is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8. Visit our [website](#) to tune in or confirm the schedule and details.

RCMP ROAD SAFETY STATS

November 2024, District 3
Dartmouth South - Woodside - Eastern Passage

- 288 Calls for Service in November 2024 - up 53.2% from November 2023
- 9 Summary Offence Tickets (vs. 6 issued in November 2023)
 - 1 Speeding
 - 2 Aggressive Driving
 - 6 Other MVA (No Insurance, Unlicensed Driver, Unregistered Vehicle, etc.)
- 120 Proactive Assignments (vs. 32 in November 2023)
 - 34 Cell Phone/Impaired/Seatbelt/Speeding Checkpoints/Radar Enforcements
- 33 Traffic Stops (vs. 35 in November 2023)
 - 1 Impaired Driving Charges (same as November 2023)
 - 1 Impaired Driving Suspension (vs. 0 in November 2023)
- 11 Motor Vehicle Accidents (vs. 3 in November 2023)
 - 8 Non-Injury, 3 Injury
- 1 Vehicle/Pedestrian/Cyclist Accidents (same as November 2023)
 - This accident did not result in injuries

Please Drive Safely!

HERITAGE DAY

Celebrated the third Monday in February, Nova Scotia Heritage Day is an annual reminder of our storied past and an opportunity to honour the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to this province’s unique heritage.

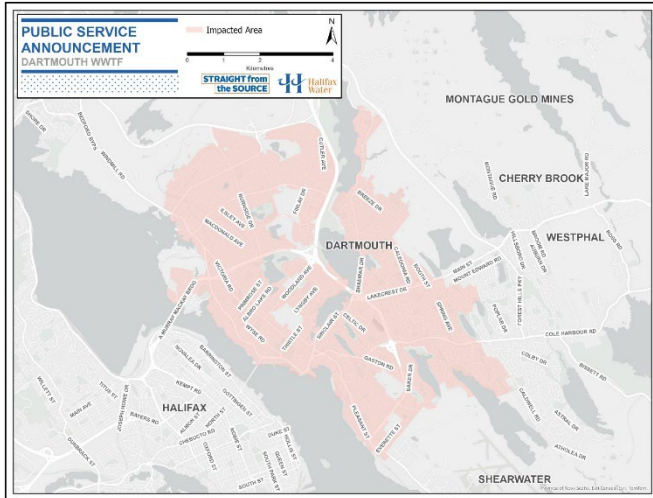
This year’s honouree is Nora Bernard, a Mi’kmaq activist for her community and First Nations across the country who was instrumental in ensuring justice, recognition and compensation for the survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. Learn more about Nora [here](#).



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DARTMOUTH AREA WASTEWATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE



Halifax Water is planning to perform wastewater system maintenance work at the Dartmouth wastewater treatment facility located at 12 Mawioni Place, Dartmouth. This work is tentatively scheduled for a 10-hour period between Feb. 25 and March 31, but it is subject to change depending on the weather. Halifax Water will provide the exact dates this maintenance will take place in advance of the start date.

During this scheduled work, it is estimated that approximately 46,000 m³ of screened wastewater will be released into the harbour from 11 approved relief points between the MacKay Bridge and Eastern Passage. These locations are designed to occasionally alleviate pressure from high volumes in the collection system due to wet weather.

This maintenance work is integral to the system's operation and must be completed by redirecting wastewater flows. This will help minimize the impact on customers and the environment while ensuring customers continue

to have wastewater service during this period.

To reduce pressure on the wastewater system and minimize environmental impact during this temporary maintenance period, we are asking customers to reduce wastewater flows in the areas shown in the map above. Please minimize use of running water, flushing toilets or doing laundry during this time.

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

FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES FEEDBACK

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting Acadian and Francophone residents to share feedback on the *French Language Services Strategy*.

The Halifax Regional Municipality has the largest Acadian and Francophone community in Nova Scotia, with more than one third of French-speaking Nova Scotians residing in the municipality. It also accounts for more than half of the self-identified bilingual individuals in the province. In 2021, Halifax Regional Council approved the [French-Language Services Strategy](#), designed to strengthen the municipality's engagement with its Acadian and Francophone communities. This strategy includes 33 action items, divided into three phases, to ensure municipal services, programs and decisions meet the needs of French-speaking residents. The first phase of this strategy is complete.

The [online survey](#) can be completed in French or English and will be available until Feb. 16.



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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 project grants (up to \$5,000) or capital grants (up to \$25,000) available in the following categories: community arts; diversity and accessibility; environment and climate change; emergency assistance and neighbourhood safety; community histories; leisure; and recreation. Check out the [2025/26 Program Guidebook](#) prior to applying and find more information about the program on our [website](#).



[Youth Climate Action Fund](#) Display presentation

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](#).

MINIMUM PLANNING REQUIREMENTS CHANGES

The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to learn more about new Minimum Planning Requirements that will affect policies and regulations regarding housing in our region.

Minimum Planning Requirements are provincial regulations that the municipality's land use plans and strategies must meet as required by the province. In August 2024, the province announced [12 new Minimum Planning Requirements](#) to prioritize increasing housing supply.

To comply with the new regulations, the municipality is making changes to the [Regional Plan](#), as well as Community Plans and land use by-laws.

Check out the new requirements and submit your feedback in our online public engagement by Monday, Feb. 24 [here](#).

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



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RCMP ANNUAL PROVINCIAL IMPAIRED DRIVING STATS

The Nova Scotia RCMP is releasing statistics for 2024 on drivers charged for driving impaired by drugs or alcohol.

In 2024, Nova Scotia RCMP charged 1,398 drivers with impaired related offences:

- 695 charged with Impaired Operation of a Conveyance by Alcohol
- 40 charged with Impaired Operation of a Conveyance by Drug (18 more awaiting lab results)
- 166 charged with Refusal of a Demand Made by a Peace Officer
- 479 issued driving suspensions for Impaired Operation

Every year the Nova Scotia RCMP participates in MADD Canada's Candlelight Vigil, remembering and honouring the victims and survivors of impaired driving. Remember that road safety is a shared responsibility. The public is asked to call 911 immediately if you see a driver who is driving erratically or unsafely:

- Driving unreasonably fast, slow or at an inconsistent speed
- Drifting in and out of lanes
- Tailgating and changing lanes frequently
- Making exceptionally wide turns
- Changing lanes or passing without sufficient clearance
- Overshooting or stopping well before stop signs or stop lights

- Disregarding signals and lights
- Approaching signals or leaving intersections too quickly or slowly
- Driving without headlights, failing to lower high beams or leaving turn signals on
- Driving with windows open in cold or inclement weather

Call 911 and provide your location and a description of the vehicle if you suspect impaired driving.

SOUTHDALE SPIRIT LITTLE FREE LIBRARY



Have you checked out the Southdale Spirit Little Free Library (LFL) at 1 Gaston Road? They are a registered

LFL and accessible for strollers, walkers and wheelchairs with parking on site and inclusive books for all.

On International Literacy Day, Sept. 8, they held a grand opening with games, prizes, cake and lemonade – thanks to Halifax Fire for stopping by with a truck to meet the families, answer questions and provide some stickers and hats!

Stop by and pick out a book, or drop off a donation you think someone in the community might enjoy. You can find out more about LFL's [here](#).



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INCLUSION SUPPORT ADVISORY GROUP



We are looking for 8-12 people to make up the Inclusion Support Advisory Group, a volunteer team of residents from all over the region that will be responsible for leading the development of the Inclusion Support Analysis and Evaluation in Parks & Recreation ensuring that key priorities reflect the needs of the disability community. The advisory group will consist of a mixed group of persons with disabilities, parents of persons with disabilities and service providers of persons with disabilities. This group will help in the following:

- the creation of a municipality-wide survey
- analyzing of data to determine key issues
- providing recommendations that will make up the final plan

Applications are open until Monday, March 3, 2025. Any questions about the inclusion support analysis or the advisory committee, please contact inclusion@halifax.ca. To learn more or apply, visit our [website](#).

DARTMOUTH COVE FEEDBACK

Last month, the Friends of Dartmouth Cove group held a public meeting to provide information on the potential infilling of the Dartmouth Cove. HRM voted to consider by-law amendments that would restrict water lot developments in Dartmouth Cove and are currently compiling feedback from a public survey that closed Jan. 31 that will inform the staff report. You can find more information about the Dartmouth Cove planning case [here](#).

2025 YOUTH POET LAUREATE

The Halifax Regional Municipality is pleased to announce that Asha Abdosh has been selected as the next [Youth Poet Laureate](#). Asha's one-year term will run from January to December 2025.

The Youth Poet Laureate serves as a literary ambassador for youth in the region. During their tenure, the Laureate will seek to inspire and engage local youth by sharing their stories through written and spoken word.

Asha Abdosh is an 18-year-old writer and poet with Ethiopian roots. Since migrating to the region, her identity and lived experience have provided a unique and multifaceted perspective on the world around her. She has committed her years to uplifting marginalized voices and inspiring meaningful dialogue within local schools by participating in councils and leading student associations.

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

STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Halifax Regional Municipality has released the [2023/24 Strategic Performance Report](#). This annual report uses strategic key performance indicators to provide a high-level analysis of advancement towards the municipality's priorities and outcomes in the [2021-2025 Strategic Priorities Plan](#).

The [Strategic Performance Snapshot](#) dashboard has also been updated with data for 2023/24.



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PROFESSIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS GRANTS

The Halifax Regional Municipality is now accepting applications for the 2025/26 Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program. This program supports the operating and artistic capacity of producing and presenting art organizations in the region that advance the profile of the local arts sector, with an overarching goal to foster broad public access to public art.

There are two funding streams: operating assistance and project assistance. The municipality provides up to three-year funding agreements towards the operating funds of eligible groups and annual funding agreements supporting distinct artistic projects. For more information about the program or to discuss your project or eligibility, groups are invited to book a virtual meeting, contact Lindsay Cory, Community Developer (Public Arts), at lindsay.cory@halifax.ca or visit [our website](#). The deadline for the applications is Monday, March 31.



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HALIFAX

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PARK LIGHTING STRATEGY

Regional Council has approved a new Park Lighting Strategy to add lighting in parks to increase safety and accessibility at night and minimizes environmental impact.

Park lighting plays an important role in improving accessibility, visibility, safety and active living in municipal green spaces across the region. Regional Council identified the need for a strategy address nighttime safety, enhance the use of facilities like sport courts and installations of public art.

For more information, read the [staff report](#).

MUNICIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents that campaign finance disclosure documentation for the 2024 Municipal and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial Election is now available on our [website](#).

Within 60 days of 2024 Municipal Election, every candidate was required to provide a *Statement of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures and Statement of Campaign Surplus* in accordance with [By-law C-1100 – Respecting Campaign Financing](#) and the Province of Nova Scotia's [Municipal Elections Act](#).

PINK SHIRT DAY

Wear a pink shirt on Feb. 26 to promote a more kind, inclusive world and raise awareness and funds for anti-bullying initiatives. You can find out more about Pink Shirt Day [here](#).



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SENIOR CITIZEN SCAM

Police are advising citizens to be cautious of a scam that targets seniors that is continuing to occur throughout our region.

In each incident, the victim received a call from someone pretending to be a family member who indicated that they have been arrested, they are in jail and need bail money.

Another person representing themselves to be from the legal system becomes involved in the call and informs the victim that they need to pay money to have their loved one released from custody. In all recent incidents, a suspect made arrangements to pick up the money in person by attending the victim's residence or meeting in a public place. Recently, the scammers have been asking victims to forward their cash to an address via registered mail or a courier service such FedEx.

If you receive a call like this, do not provide or confirm any personal or financial information and hang up the phone. In Canada, law enforcement and court officials will not attend a residence to collect money in relation to bail.

Call police at 902-490-5020 if you've lost money or your identity has been compromised as the result of a scam. You can report a scam where you haven't been a victim to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre or call 1-888-495-8501.

For more information and scam prevention tips, visit the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) and [Halifax Regional Police fraud prevention websites](#).

2024 RESIDENTS SURVEY

2,029 residents responded to the 2024 Resident Survey in the fall and results were presented to Regional Council last month.

These surveys help to inform where Regional Council can focus our priorities to better serve our residents. Residents provided their feedback on what the top issues facing our municipality are, satisfaction with services and much more. You can check out the presentation [here](#) or the full staff report [here](#).

CLIMATE COMMITMENT BADGES



The municipality's Environment & Climate Change team and the Ecology Action Centre have worked with local artists to create Climate Commitment Badges to inspire residents to set achievable goals for climate action.

Climate 101, Home Energy and Getting Around are the first of several badges that residents can earn by getting informed about these issues, choosing cleaner methods of transportation and exploring how we can make our homes more efficient and less reliant on fossil fuels. Find out how to get involved on our [website](#).



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SOURCING RENEWABLE WIND ENERGY



The municipality has signed an agreement with [Renewall Energy](#) to receive renewable wind energy through their Renewable to Retail licence. Once the Mersey River Wind

Farm is online, this supply of clean electricity will result in a 24% reduction in the municipality's carbon dioxide emissions.

The agreement helps us meet the goals of [HalifACT, our long-term climate action plan](#), which commissions the municipality to support alternative energy sources in order to transition away from the fossil fuels that cause climate change. Purchasing renewable energy is an essential part of achieving HalifACT's target of net-zero municipal operations by 2030. Each megawatt of wind energy can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 2,500 tonnes a year. Electrifying our infrastructure with clean energy also helps the municipality save money. Since Renewall's rates are less expensive than current market rates and will not go up by more than one per cent a year for the next 20 years, the municipality will be able to reduce costs on the roughly \$9 million we spend annually on electricity.

Renewall Energy is part of the Province of Nova Scotia's [Renewable to Retail Program](#), which began in 2015. Renewall's first wind farm will eventually operate 33 turbines and generate 148 MW of electricity. Their licence, granted by the UARB in 2021, will allow Nova Scotians to acquire up to 100% of their electricity from local renewable energy sources.

WINTER OPERATIONS UPDATE



During a storm, our crews have 4,322 lane kms or road, 1,000 kms of sidewalks plus bike lanes, multi-use pathways and

bus stops to clear. They begin their work before the winter weather event even begins by applying salt or brine to streets and sidewalks across the region and snow clearing efforts begin once the snow has begun to accumulate.

Streets and sidewalks are prioritized based on traffic volumes, local amenities such as hospitals and schools and steepness. We work as quickly as possible to get all streets cleared, but Priority 1 roads should be cleared to bare pavement within a maximum of 12 hours of the end of a weather event and Priority 2 Roads should be snow covered but passable within a maximum of 24 hours from the end of an event. You can find out who clears your street and what priority level it is with our interactive map [here](#). More information about the service standards and sidewalk priority levels can be found [here](#).

If your street or sidewalk does not meet the standards, please call 311 and they will dispatch a crew. In exceptional weather events, these timelines may not be able to be met, but we do our best to clear as quickly as possible. For more information on municipal winter operations, please visit our [website](#).



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311 CONTACT CENTRE

More than a telephone number, 311 is your direct connection to municipal services.

Email contactus@311.halifax.ca or call 311 and speak to our helpful operators for information about anything HRM-related: property taxes, illegally parked vehicles, recreation services, pet licenses, by-law concerns, litter and more:

Monday to Friday

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday

9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN DISTRICT 3

Barbara Adams, MLA/ Eastern Passage
barbadamsmla@gmail.com
902-406-0656

Brad McGowan, MLA/ Cole Harbour –
Dartmouth
jbgmcfowan@gmail.com
902-424-2731

Darren Fisher, MP/ Dartmouth-Cole Harbour
darren.fisher@parl.gc.ca
902-462-6453

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

I'm pleased to be serving on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council for this term:

Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council
(Chair)
Regional Centre Community Council (Vice
Chair)
Board of Police Commissioners
Appeals Standing Committee (Chair)
Community Planning and Economic
Development Standing Committee
Canadian Capital Cities Organization

STREAMING REGIONAL COUNCIL

Regional Council are using a new system for electronic streaming, to find the council videos – go to our [Agendas, Meetings and Reports page](#) and click the meeting you want to view. Meetings will still be live-streamed and videos will be available after the meeting.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty People; with that comes roles and responsibilities.

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at becky.kent@halifax.ca or **902-478-5368**.

To reach my office, please call Laura Nooyen at **902-490-1577**. To sign up for my monthly e-newsletter, please e-mail Laura at laura.nooyen@halifax.ca.

For routine municipal matters, please call our Citizen Contact Centre at **311**. For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).

HALIFAX