



COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH
DISTRICT 8 NEWSLETTER
HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

WELCOME MARCH

Happy March and Welcome Spring! As we are nearing the end of snow season, I would like to thank our winter road operations crew for all their hard work this winter.

February was a busy month for us as Councillors with ongoing budget debates that will continue into the month of March.

March is a busy month with the start of Ramadan, and St. Patrick's Day being celebrated this month. Daylight Savings time ends on March 9 which means longer sunshine filled days are ahead. March break is also happening this month!

International Women's Day is also celebrated on March 8. I hope you take some time to acknowledge an awesome woman in your life.

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

MARCH MEETING DATES

Regional Council:

Tuesday, March 18 at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, March 25 at 10 a.m.

Budget Committee

Wednesday, March 19 at 9:30 a.m.
Friday, March 21 at 9:30 a.m.

Halifax and West Community Council

Monday, March 17 at 6 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council

Wednesday, March 26 at 6 p.m.

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



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



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INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' DAY

March 8 is International Women's Day (IWD). It's a global day to recognize and celebrate women's and girls' social, economic, cultural, and political achievements. It's also a time to highlight the progress made in advancing women's rights and the ongoing efforts needed to ensure their full participation in all aspects of society.

International Women's Day 2025 theme

The Government of Canada's theme for International Women's Day 2025 is Strength in every story.

This year's theme highlights the importance of amplifying the voices of all women, particularly those who continue to face barriers to success. Creating opportunities for women and girls unlocks their potential and drives innovation, supports Canada's economy, and helps ensure a sustainable future for all.

Every woman's story is a testament to resilience, determination, and the power of opportunity. This International Women's Day, celebrate the women and girls in your life and share their stories.



RAMADAN 2025: A HOLY MONTH OF GRATITUDE

The holy month of Ramadan begins at the first sighting of the crescent Moon.

In practicing the self-restraint and gratitude that Ramadan involves, adult Muslims fast from dawn until dusk at this time and exhibit goodwill through acts of kindness and charity.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon. Ramadan is expected to last until March 29 in 2025, however, dates can vary slightly depending on the crescent moon's appearance.

Ramadan Mubarak – Blessed Ramadan





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MARCH IS FRANCOPHONIE MONTH

March is Francophonie Month, celebrating the French language and diverse Francophone cultures through cultural activities held worldwide.

March 20 has been observed worldwide as International Francophonie Day since 1988. The date commemorates the establishment of the Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique, the precursor to the [International Organization of La Francophonie](#), the organization representing countries and regions where French is the first or customary language.

Today, with 300 million speakers worldwide, French is the fifth most spoken language in the world; La Francophonie has 88 member states and governments.

You can learn more about the valuable role the Acadian and Francophone population plays in contributing to the cultural, social and economic development in our region by joining celebrations throughout the month! Visit our [website](#) for more information on various events.

ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY

Halifax Regional Council has approved the 2025/28 Accessibility Strategy, representing an important step in our continued commitment to a more accessible region.

The 2025/28 Accessibility Strategy focuses on how we can improve accessibility throughout the municipality by identifying, removing and preventing barriers for persons with disabilities. In line with the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act, the 2025/28 Accessibility Strategy has 30 recommendations with five key focus areas:

- Transportation and Transportation Infrastructure
- Built Environment
- Information and Communications
- Goods and Services
- Employment

Through deliberate and conscious planning and with this strategy as our guide, the municipality will work diligently to make our municipality a more inclusive place.

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



March is
Francophonie Month

Mars est le Mois de
la Francophonie



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NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CATALOGUE

Starting this spring, Neighbourhood & Volunteer Services (NVS) will offer a wide selection of FREE 101-level workshops for residents.

Check out the new training catalogue and the spring 2025 workshop schedule on our [website](#).



REC FEES ARE CHANGING

Parks and Recreation fees are changing on April 1, 2025.

In 2022, changes to the Parks & Recreation fee structure for recreation programs, services, rentals, drop-ins and membership fees were announced. In accordance with the five-year fee structure changes, Parks & Recreation fees, including membership fees, will be increasing effective April 1, 2025.

The fee changes will also provide more clarity and predictability for residents:

- New user categories will be based on the age group and type of organization.
- Consistent subsidization for fee categories. For example, the fee structure will ensure all youth programs across the municipality receive the same subsidy.
- Reduced risk of unexpected fee increases. The new fee structure accounts for inflation, helping to reduce unexpected and potentially significant fee increases.
- Predictable five-year review cycle. New requirement to review fee structure every five years.
- No user charge for Parks that are rented for public events that are open to the public, non-exclusive and free of charge.
- Overall standardization, consistency and transparency of fees across the municipality.



Had a great evening with Council colleagues and the Mayor at the African Heritage Gala.

If you have any questions regarding how the Parks and Recreation fee changes will affect you, please email myREC@halifax.ca.



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RECREATION FUNDING ACCESS APPLICATION

The Funding Access Program provides recreation opportunities to children, youth and adults in financial need. Depending on the need, the cost of recreation programs could be 50% or 100% covered by the program.

To qualify, you must:

- Live in HRM
- Show proof of financial need
- Apply before registering for a program

All Halifax Recreation programs are eligible except private swim lessons, birthday parties, third-party programs, and rentals.

Proof of financial need must accompany [your application](#). You must include the following as applicable to your application request.

[Canada Child Benefit Statement](#) for children and youth under 18 years of age
[Notice of Assessment](#) for individuals 18 years of age and over

[Sample Notice of Assessment](#)

Letter from the [Department of Community Services](#)

If you are applying to the Affordable Access Program and would like to provide feedback, please fill out and submit our [Feedback Survey](#).

COMMUNITY MEDIATION PROJECT

Regional Council has approved funding for a Community Mediation Project, to promote public safety, improve community wellbeing and further the civilian delivery of non-core policing functions.

Trained community mediators can help neighbours, relatives, and others resolve conflicts peacefully. Mediation can prevent the escalation of community disputes, reduce harm, and avoid time and cost of resolving conflicts through the legal system.

Staff propose a one-year community mediation pilot (with the possibility of year-by-year renewals).

Once approved in the 2025/2026 Operating Budget, Council has directed the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a contribution of \$100,000 to the United Way of Halifax to create and implement this pilot program.

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





GRANTS TO ADDRESS SYSTEMATIC RACISM

Regional Council has approved funding for 13 projects under the 2024 Anti-Black Racism Grants Program.

The Halifax Regional Municipality's Anti-Black Racism Grants Program offers project-specific funding to eligible registered non-profit organizations and charities within the municipality. Grants range from \$500 to \$10,000 and focus on five key categories:

1. Racial segregation
2. Historic omission
3. Lack of recognition
4. Systemic expropriation
5. Negative portrayal in media and literature.

Out of 28 submissions, 13 projects were selected for their strong commitment to addressing systemic challenges faced by Black communities while aligning with the municipality's commitment to equity and inclusion.

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

WINDSOR STREET EXCHANGE

At the Feb. 25 meeting, Regional Council voted 15-2 in favour of proceeding with the Windsor Street Exchange project under its current design and funding agreement.

The proposed project aims to add active transportation connections and transit priority measures through the intersection, improve the movement of vehicles and goods through the area, and improve the safety for all road users.

The previous design was rejected at the Jan. 28 meeting, when Council raised concerns about the lack of a firm commitment to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and active transportation in the design. On Feb. 25, staff presented a supplementary report with a revised recommendation based on Council input. This includes design and construction of new structures within the project area to accommodate additional dedicated transit lanes and separated pedestrian and cycling facilities.

Municipal staff will also now start planning a second phase of the project, which will include road-widening to provide additional right-of-way for dedicated transit lanes in both the inbound and outbound directions. It will also include separated sidewalks and cycling facilities for active transportation connections from Joseph Howe Drive to Kempt Road.

For background on the Windsor Street Exchange project, please visit our [website](#).



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SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY

HRM wants to make sure you're getting municipal updates where you're most active online.

Take this short survey (less than 10 minutes) and help us understand your experience with social media and how you choose to get information about municipal services in HRM.

The survey closes at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 10.

A link to the survey can be found [here](#)



EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

Employee Appreciation Day is a day dedicated to recognizing and expressing gratitude for the hard work, dedication, and contributions of employees within an organization.

Celebrated annually on the first Friday in March, this day serves as an opportunity for employers to show appreciation and acknowledge the efforts of their staff.

Thank you to those serving our municipality - your work hard to make our communities thrive and a better place to live, work and play!



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

March 9 is the start of Daylight Saving Time, which begins at 2 A.M. Don't forget to "spring forward" and set the clocks one hour ahead!





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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

COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

Virginia 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

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