



**COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY**

DISTRICT 4 NEWSLETTER

COLE HARBOUR - PRESTON - WESTPHAL - CHERRY BROOK

**DEAR RESIDENTS,**

Happy March, District 4!

Spring is just around the corner! I am most certainly looking forward to the warmer and brighter days ahead!

I would like to remind folks that daylight savings is quickly approaching. Don't forget to set your clocks forward by one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9.

March Break is fast approaching, and I hope that all our families will have the opportunity to make memories that will fill their spirits and recharge their energy.

We continue to press on with budget discussions and I am happy to say that we are on track for the final budget deliberation to be completed this month.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with your municipal questions or concerns. I love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

March 2025

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S 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.



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COLE HARBOUR - PRESTON - WESTPHAL - CHERRY BROOK

## COUNCILLOR DROP-IN



The following Community Drop-In session is planned for the month of March. Please feel free to drop by to discuss any municipal concerns or questions, I would love to see you!

**Tim Hortons**  
**Forest Hills Parkway**  
**Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

## COMMUNITY CORNER

### Sherwood Development:

HRM planning staff are still actively reviewing the preliminary proposal for mixed residential use. They have not received an application for any building permits to date. They do have a Final Subdivision application under review for a townhouse lot on Sherwood, but they do not yet have a timeline.

### Broom Road Development:

HRM planning staff are still actively reviewing the preliminary proposal for mixed residential use. They have not received an application for any building permits to date.

### Potholes:

Staff have been busy fixing potholes in and around our district the past week or so. The intense freeze/thaw weather our winter has given us wrecks havoc on asphalt, as we can clearly see. Please continue to report to 311 the potholes you see so they can track them and get them on their lists for repair.

### Caldwell Road Phase 2:

This completion of Caldwell Road has been pushed out to 2026 due to utility pole relocation delays. The delays are due to easement issues, capacity issues, and HRM not having the ability to hurry the process. We are waiting on third party work. Very sorry for the continued frustration this delay causes.

### Astral Drive Recapitalization:

Astral Drive is slated for 2025 for the first phase of the recapitalization project. Phase One will be from Selig to Stratford including integrated traffic calming. Knowing that Caldwell Road would be delayed yet another year, staff worked hard to get the detailed design work for Astral completed in time to be able to begin phase one this year. Very thankful they got it done in time! Thank you!

### Colby Drive Traffic Islands:

The Transportation Standing Committee unanimously passed my motion to amend the Traffic Calming AO to allow for the removal of the islands prior to the recapitalization of the street. This will allow speed tables to replace the islands in a future year once the AO is amended.



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## NEIGHBOURHOOD & VOLUNTEER SERVICES

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

Learn more and register now at [halifax.ca/volunteer-training](https://halifax.ca/volunteer-training)

Upcoming spring training workshops:

**March 6 | Leadership & Teamwork**  
6:30-8:30 p.m. | Cole Harbour Place, training room  
Course code: 00102684

**March 20 | Communication & Conflict Resolution**  
6:30-8:30 p.m. | Cole Harbour Place, training room  
Course code: 00102685

**April 16 | Strategic Planning 101**  
6-8 p.m. | Chocolate Lake Community Centre, multi-purpose room  
Course code: 00102304

**May 1 | Boards 101**  
6:30-8:30 p.m. | Halifax Central Common, multi-purpose room  
Course code: 00102645

**May 14 | Volunteer Recruitment & Retention**  
6:30-8:30 p.m. | Findlay Community Centre, boardroom  
Course code: 00102690

**June 23 | Strategic Planning 101**  
6:30-8:30 p.m. | Cole Harbour Place, training room  
Course code: 00102686

March 2025

## 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](https://www.oif.int/), 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! Click [Here](#) for more information as event details are finalized.





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COLE HARBOUR - PRESTON - WESTPHAL - CHERRY BROOK

## RCMP HALIFAX REGIONAL DETACHMENT – DISTRICT 4

Cole Harbour / Preston / Westphal / Cherry Brook

January 2025

### General Calls for Service:

891 calls recorded (including self-generated) in January 2025, up 3.7% over the same period in 2024

### Traffic Related

**20 SOTs Issued** in January 2025, up from the **17** issued during the same period in 2024:

**2** Cell Phone

**2** Speeding

**2** Aggressive Driving

**14** Other MVA e.g. No Insurance, Unlicensed Driver, Unregistered Vehicle, etc.

**421 Proactive Assignments** in January 2025, up from the 366 reported during the same period in 2024:

**42** Cell Phone / Impaired / Seatbelt / Speeding Checkpoints / Radar Enforcements

**84 Traffic Stops** in January 2025, down from the 105 conducted during the same period in 2024

### Impaired Driving:

**0** Impaired Driving Charges in January 2025, down from the 4 issued during the same period in 2024

**1** Impaired Driving Suspension in January 2025, down from the 2 issued during the same period in 2024

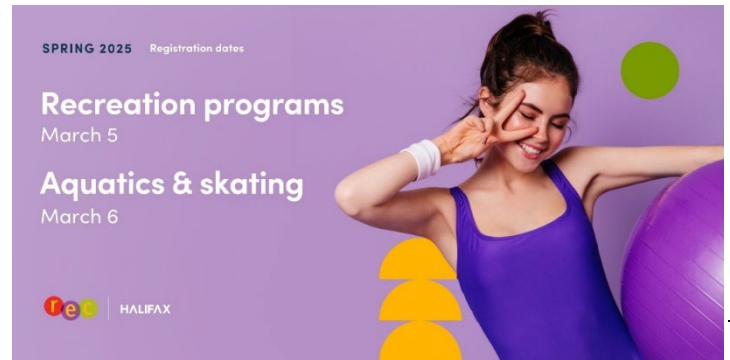
March 2025

**29 Motor Vehicle Accidents** in January 2025, up from the 27 reported during the same period in 2024

**27** Non-Injury **2** Injury

**0 Vehicle/Pedestrian (Or Cyclist) Accidents** in January 2025, down from the 1 reported over the same period in 2024

## RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION



Mark your calendars! Spring 2025 recreation program registration starts on March 5 and 6.

To preview upcoming program information, visit [halifax.ca/myREC](http://halifax.ca/myREC) to see what's available in your community.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. each day for all ages:

**Wednesday, March 5** – recreation programs

**Thursday, March 6** – aquatic and skating programs



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## SNOW CLEARING

Snow clearing in our municipality is a big job and if stretched into a straight line, it would reach from Halifax to Winnipeg. Streets and sidewalks are prioritized based on commuter usage and access to key infrastructure. Learn more: <http://halifax.ca/snow>

## HALIFAX TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES



Halifax Transit implemented service changes affecting Halifax, Bedford, and Dartmouth that began on Feb. 24, 2025.

These service changes include the latest installment of [Moving Forward Together Plan](#) (MFTP) changes, the reinstatement of 25 trips across eleven routes, a minor schedule adjustment for Route 10C on Saturdays, and the publication of updated route maps and schedules to reflect the reopening of Scotia Square terminal.

To learn more about these changes, please visit [here](#).

March 2025

## ROAD/TRAFFIC SIGNAL TESTING

As a member of the Transportation Association of Canada, the Halifax Regional Municipality contributes to national road safety guides and standards.

Test your knowledge of new road signs and traffic signals [here](#) and play a role in making Canadian roads safer.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN



Interested in starting a community garden? Applications for 2025 are now open and will close on March 30.

To review the program handbook and fill out the fillable online forms, visit [here](#).



# COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

COLE HARBOUR - PRESTON - WESTPHAL - CHERRY BROOK

## RESIDENT SURVEY – PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY IN DISTRICT 4

HRM conducted a Resident Survey in the fall of 2024. Dr. Amy Siciliano who works with our Community Safety team took the time to break out our District 4 resident responses to compare with the overall responses. A big thank you to Dr. Siciliano for providing this interesting information!

1. *In your opinion, what are the top three issues facing the municipality over the next five years?*

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Participants who selected: "Crime/policing/drugs" |     |
| Overall (HRM)                                     | 6%  |
| District 4  | 15% |

2. *What, in your opinion, would you say are the top three (3) most significant things that contributed to [an IMPROVED] quality of life in the region?*

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Participants who selected: "Policing – safety – crime reduction" |    |
| Overall (HRM)  | 4% |
| District 4   | 0% |

3. *What, in your opinion, would you say are the top three (3) most significant things that contributed to quality of life in the region?*

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Participants who selected: "Crime/feeling unsafe" |    |
| Overall (HRM)                                     | 7% |
| District 4  | 7% |

4. *Please tell us how satisfied you are with each of the following services provided by the municipality. If you don't know or have not had any experience with the service to provide a rating, please choose 'Don't know / no opinion': Police Services*

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Participants who selected: VERY SATISFIED/SATISFIED |     |
| Overall (HRM)                                       | 68% |
| District 4  | 79% |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Participants who selected: DISSATISFIED/VERY DISSATISFIED |     |
| Overall (HRM)   | 32% |
| District 4  | 21% |

5. *For each of the following service areas, please indicate whether you believe the municipality should increase the level of service, maintain the level of service, or reduce the level of service: Police Services*

|                         |               |            |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------|
|                         | Overall (HRM) | District 4 |
| Increase service levels | 31%           | 41%        |
| Maintain service levels | 56%           | 56%        |
| Reduce service levels   | 13%           | 3%         |

6. *For each of the following service areas, please indicate whether you would be willing to pay additional tax to improve the service. Police Services*

|     |               |            |
|-----|---------------|------------|
|     | Overall (HRM) | District 4 |
| Yes | 37%           | 48%        |
| No  | 63%           | 52%        |

7. *Please rate the various elements of Council's priorities in terms of their importance to you: Providing spaces and resources to support community safety*

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Participants who selected: VERY IMPORTANT/IMPORTANT |     |
| Overall (HRM)                                       | 86% |
| District 4  | 86% |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Participants who selected: NOT VERY/NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT |     |
| Overall (HRM)  | 14% |
| District 4   | 14% |

8. *Please rate the various elements of Council's priorities in terms of their importance to you: Investing in proactive community safety services (for example, emergency planning, education, inspections)*

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Participants who selected: VERY IMPORTANT/IMPORTANT |     |
| Overall (HRM)                                       | 87% |
| District 4  | 88% |



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COLE HARBOUR - PRESTON - WESTPHAL - CHERRY BROOK

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Participants who selected: <b>NOT VERY/NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT</b> |     |
| Overall (HRM)   | 13% |
| District 4  | 12% |

9. Please rate the various elements of Council's priorities in terms of their importance to you: Investing in responsive community safety services (for example, fire and police response)

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Participants who selected: <b>VERY IMPORTANT/IMPORTANT</b> |     |
| Overall (HRM)  | 92% |
| District 4   | 97% |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Participants who selected: <b>NOT VERY/NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT</b> |    |
| Overall (HRM)   | 8% |
| District 4  | 3% |

10. For the following questions, please indicate the extent to which you feel safe or unsafe: How safe from crime do you feel walking alone in your neighbourhood during the day?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Participants who selected: <b>VERY/REASONABLY SAFE</b> |     |
| Overall (HRM)  | 94% |
| District 4   | 93% |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Participants who selected: <b>SOMEWHAT/VERY UNSAFE</b> |    |
| Overall (HRM)  | 6% |
| District 4   | 7% |

11. For the following questions, please indicate the extent to which you feel safe or unsafe: How safe from crime do you feel walking alone in your neighbourhood after dark?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Participants who selected: <b>VERY/REASONABLY SAFE</b> |     |
| Overall (HRM)  | 70% |
| District 4   | 64% |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Participants who selected: <b>SOMEWHAT/VERY UNSAFE</b> |     |
| Overall (HRM)  | 30% |
| District 4   | 36% |

12. For the following questions, please indicate the extent to which you feel safe or unsafe: How safe from crime would you feel walking alone at night in downtown Halifax?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Participants who selected: <b>VERY/REASONABLY SAFE</b> |     |
| Overall (HRM)  | 37% |
| District 4   | 26% |

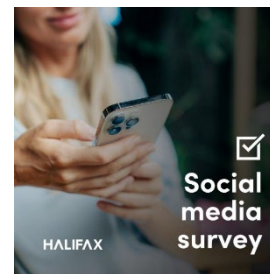
|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Participants who selected: <b>SOMEWHAT/VERY UNSAFE</b> |     |
| Overall (HRM)  | 63% |
| District 4   | 74% |

13. For the following questions, please indicate the extent to which you feel safe or unsafe: How safe from crime would you feel walking alone at night in downtown Dartmouth?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Participants who selected: <b>VERY/REASONABLY SAFE</b> |     |
| Overall (HRM)  | 30% |
| District 4   | 31% |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Participants who selected: <b>SOMEWHAT/VERY UNSAFE</b> |     |
| Overall (HRM)  | 70% |
| District 4   | 69% |

## 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.





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## 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.

## BLOOMFIELD STAFF REPORT

At the Feb. 25 meeting, Regional Council voted unanimously in favour for a staff report that would look at opportunities to address the situation at the closed Bloomfield School site in light of the recent fire, including addressing the timely demolition of the remaining structures as well as options for cost recovery.

The report will also provide an update regarding the Municipality’s buy back rights to the property.

The former Bloomfield School site has sat vacant since 2014, and since being bought in 2021, continues to remain vacant.

The motion indicates that information should be provided to HRM Council to determine what options and opportunities are available to address the unsatisfactory situation currently occurring on the property.

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

## PARKS AND REC SUMMER JOBS



Looking for a great summer job?

Earn \$17.20–\$23.20 per hour in recreation programming, aquatics, or inclusion support.

Visit <http://halifax.ca/recsummerjobs> for a full list of job postings and apply by April 6!





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## GRANTS TO PROFESSIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAM



HRM is accepting applications for the 2025/26 Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program.

The Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program supports the operating and artistic capacity of Halifax-based professional arts organizations to develop and present artistic work as well as strengthen their capacity.

Learn more and apply online until March 31 at <http://halifax.ca/artistopportunities>

## HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE REMINDER

Halifax Regional Police is reminding people to not leave valuables in parked vehicles.

Whether you're parked in a driveway, parkade, parking lot or on the street, following a few simple steps may make your vehicle less attractive to would-be thieves:

- Always lock your vehicle, even when parked in your driveway or garage.
- Make sure to take your wallet/purse with you when you leave your vehicle.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle, especially in plain view.
- Don't leave your garage opener in your vehicle.
- Consider leaving outside lights or motion sensors on during the night.

- If possible, park in well-lit, well-traveled areas.
- Be mindful of starting your vehicle and leaving it unattended.

HRP encourages anyone who has had property stolen from their vehicle to report it to police by calling 902-490-5016 or at our [online crime reporting site](#).

## HALIFAX TRANSIT SNOW PLAN



In the event of inclement weather, several of Halifax Transit's bus routes are put on 'snow plan'.

The objective of this plan is to maintain service levels and minimize interruptions to service by re-routing buses around areas consistently known as 'trouble sections' during a winter weather event.

Halifax Transit apologizes to riders inconvenienced by routes having to go on snow plan, however, the safety of our passengers and employees is paramount when making these decisions.

To find out if your preferred route is on snow plan, please call [311](#).

You can find the Snow Plan Map [here](#).

March 2025



## MUNICIPAL BUDGET



The Halifax Regional Municipality has begun the 2025/26 municipal budget process with the tabling of a preliminary \$1.3 billion operating budget and a \$318.8 million 2025/26 Capital Plan.

Every year, Regional Council approves a Budget and Business Plan and a Capital Plan. These documents represent the annual municipal budget, which funds all costs associated with servicing a growing municipality.

This includes day-to-day municipal operations (e.g. transit, police, fire, garbage collection, snow clearing), capital priority initiatives approved by Regional Council (e.g. HalifACT, Cogswell District project, Integrated Mobility Plan) – as well as capital projects and investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace municipal assets like buildings, roads, active transportation, parks and bridges.

The 2025/26 municipal budget is a transitional budget. It will be the first budget under the recently elected Regional Council and the final budget of the 2021-25 Strategic Priorities Plan.

It will reflect the previous Council’s decisions and strategic priorities – balancing the continuity of services while adapting to emerging needs and challenges, including the future priorities to

be determined by the current Council in the 2026-30 Strategic Priorities Plan.

The region continues to see rapid population growth, which results in increased demand on municipal services. In addition, the threat of US tariffs on trade, the continued rise of inflation creates a challenging fiscal environment, faced by many jurisdictions.

To accommodate this, Council must balance the need for new infrastructure and maintaining existing municipal assets.

In mid-March, the Budget Committee will review the Budget Adjustment List, or BAL. This includes all additional items that business units have presented beyond their proposed budgets, including add-ons and subtractions.

In April, Regional Council will approve the final version of the 2025/26 Budget and Business Plan and Capital Plan.

For more information about the 2025/26 municipal budget and the schedule for business unit presentations, visit [halifax.ca/budget](https://halifax.ca/budget).



## REC FEES CHANGING



Parks & Recreation fees, including membership fees, will be increasing effective April 1, 2025. If you have any questions regarding how the Parks and Recreation fee changes will affect you, please email [myREC@halifax.ca](mailto:myREC@halifax.ca)

### 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.

If you have any questions regarding how the Parks and Recreation fee changes will affect you, please email [myREC@halifax.ca](mailto:myREC@halifax.ca)

## 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](#)





# COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

COLE HARBOUR - PRESTON - WESTPHAL - CHERRY BROOK

## CLEARING STORM DRAINS, CATCHBASINS AND HYDRANTS



Halifax Water is encouraging residents to check their storm drains/catch basins to ensure they are clear. If you see they are blocked by snow, we ask that customers clear them if they are able, and it is safe to do so.

## WINTER GARBAGE COLLECTION



As snow season continues, please remember to place waste for curbside collection in a spot that won't interfere with sidewalk or

road clearing. To help our crews keep pathways safe and accessible, place waste at the edge of your driveway, not on the sidewalk or road.

## SNOW CLEARING

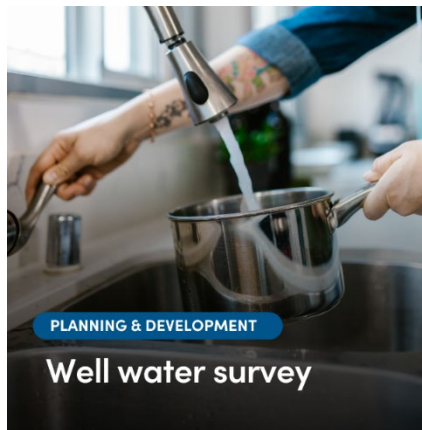


Snow clearing in our municipality is a big job and if stretched into a straight line, it would reach from Halifax to Winnipeg. Streets and sidewalks are prioritized based on

commuter usage and access to key infrastructure.

Learn more: <http://halifax.ca/snow>

## WATER WELL SURVEY



The municipality is inviting residents to participate in a survey about private wells as part of a rural groundwater assessment study.

Your input will help us understand potential impacts and risks on well water quantity and quality. This data will support resilient rural growth by informing decisions on development density and climate adaptation.

Take the survey to help shape a sustainable future for the municipality's rural communities: [halifax.ca/surveys](http://halifax.ca/surveys)

March 2025



## 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 2025

## 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](#).





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## STREAMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regional Council is 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.

## CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at [trish.purdy@halifax.ca](mailto:trish.purdy@halifax.ca) or **902-240-3067**.

For routine municipal matters, please call our **Citizen Contact Centre at 311**.

To reach my office, please call Andrea Rowan at **902-490-7184**.

For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).

Photos from the Black Cultural Centre 2025 African Heritage Month Gala!



I wanted to take this opportunity to remind folks that daylight savings time is quickly approaching. Don't forget to set your clocks forward at 2 a.m. on March 9

March 2025