



COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH
DISTRICT 8 NEWSLETTER
HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

WELCOME MAY

Welcome May! May 11 is Mother's Day. I want to take a moment to acknowledge all the moms, stepmoms, mother figures, and grandmothers out there for what you do every day. Being a mom is one of the hardest jobs and I hope you take a moment to acknowledge and appreciate the mother figures in your life.

On May 10, the North End Business Association will be hosting a series of events and activities for Open City Day. Open City Day is a day to celebrate small business and local entrepreneurs in the north end, who help make our community so vibrant.

Keep reading to find out more about Asian Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Week, and National Public Works Week.

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

MAY MEETING DATES

Regional Council:

Tuesday, May 13 at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, May 27 at 10 a.m.

Halifax and West Community Council

Tuesday, May 20 at 6 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council

Wednesday, May 28 at 6 p.m.

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



Stay Informed, Stay Connected

Get the latest updates from
Councillor Virginia Hinch

Email richark@halifax.ca to subscribe to
my monthly e-newsletter



COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

May is [Asian Heritage Month](#), a time to honour the rich history, cultures, and contributions of Asian communities in Canada. It's an opportunity to learn, reflect, and celebrate the diversity that strengthens our country.

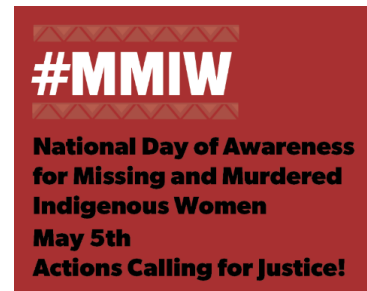
You can take part by:

- Exploring books, films, and stories that highlight Asian Canadian experiences
- Attending local or virtual events, exhibitions, and cultural festivals
- Supporting Asian-owned businesses in our community
- Starting conversations about the importance of inclusion and cultural understanding

By celebrating Asian Heritage Month, we can deepen our understanding and appreciation of the rich diversity that makes Canada a unique and vibrant country.

Stay tuned for more updates on events taking place across the municipality to celebrate Asian Heritage Month on our [website](#).

NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS/ RED DRESS DAY



Wear red on May 5 in support of the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

and Girls (MMIWG).

According to the National Inquiry into MMIWG, Indigenous women and girls represented 16% of all female homicides in Canada. Service agencies estimate that of the trafficked or exploited women and girls they served, 51% of were Indigenous.

This day calls on each of us to speak out against the staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people.

In recent years, red dresses have become a symbolic representation of the more than 1,000 MMIWG across Canada. According to tradition, red is the only colour spirits can see, and is a way of calling the spirits of those missing and murdered back to their loved ones. On May 5, wear red to not only honour the voices of these women and girls, but to show your support of survivors, community members and those affected by the intergenerational trauma of this ongoing issue.



COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

OPEN CITY HALIFAX

Open City is an annual celebration of entrepreneurs and the small business that make our communities vibrant and welcoming. This year Open City will take place on Saturday, May 10.

There will be over 40 different North End Business who will be putting on different sales and promotions during the Open City event. In addition to the sales and promotions put on by business, the North End Business Association will be organizing some fun activities including busker performances, local vendor markets, and more.

To learn more about Open City Halifax and what businesses will be participating in Open City please visit the Open City [website](#).

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Mental Health Week, which runs from May 13-19 is an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of mental health for Canadians. Mental health is an essential part of overall health and well-being, and it is crucial to take care of our mental health just as we take care of our physical health.

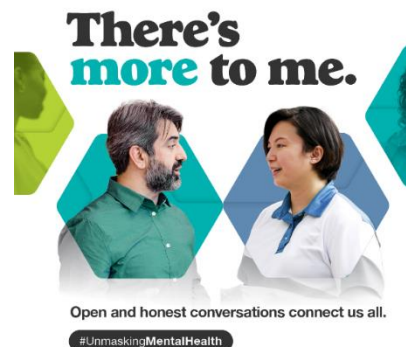
In Canada, 1 in 5 people experience a mental health problem or illness each year. This year's theme from the Canadian Mental Health Association is "Unmasking Mental Health." Many who live with mental health or substance use challenges often feel pressured to wear a "mask" to avoid judgment and discrimination. But the more we hide, the heavier that mask becomes — and the more isolated we may feel.

During Mental Health Week, Canadians are encouraged to prioritize their mental health and to seek support if needed. By doing so, we can promote a healthier and more resilient society.

The Canadian Mental Health Association has a great list of resources on Mental Health. Check them out by downloading one of their helpful and informative toolkits on their [website](#).



Had a fun night out with my Council colleagues at a taping of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*.





COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA TRANSPHOBIA AND BIPHOBIA

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia is recognized annually on May 17 as it was on this day in 1990 that homosexuality was declassified as a mental disorder by the World Health Organization.

Everyone has the right to be wholly themselves and we all share a responsibility to actively promote equity, diversity and inclusion and to stand against the prejudice, discrimination, stigma, hostility and violence experienced by the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

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

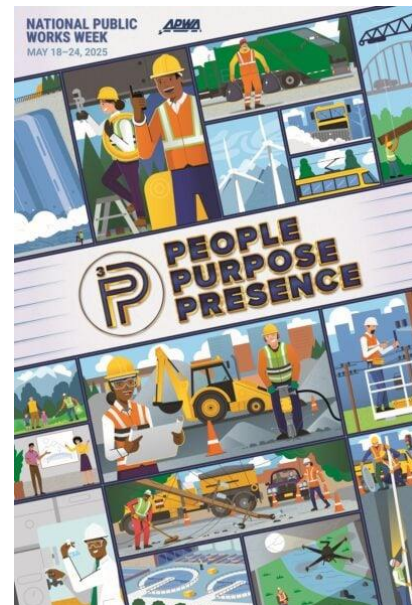
NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

This week is National Public Works Week, and I want to give a big thank you to the incredible team working behind the scenes to keep our community safe, connected, and thriving.

This year's theme — *"People, Purpose, Presence"* — is a reminder of the heart behind public works. These professionals do essential work every day, often unnoticed, but always vital. Whether it's fixing roads, maintaining water systems, or preparing for storms, their dedication makes a real difference in our daily lives.

To our Public Works team: thank you for your presence, your purpose, and your service to the people of our community!

**International
Day Against
Homophobia,
Transphobia
& Biphobia.**





COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

NON-SUFFICIENT FUNDS FEES

Starting May 1, the municipality began charging a non-sufficient funds (NSF) fee for any pre-authorized payments returned by a financial institution due to insufficient funds, closed accounts or incorrect banking information.

The NSF fee will be \$40 per occurrence and will be applied to the associated account automatically. This change aligns our billing practices with standard municipal and financial institution policies, and it helps recover the administrative costs of processing returned payments.

We encourage residents and businesses to ensure that all banking information is accurate and that sufficient funds are available before making payments to avoid any unexpected fees.

SENIOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING SURVEY

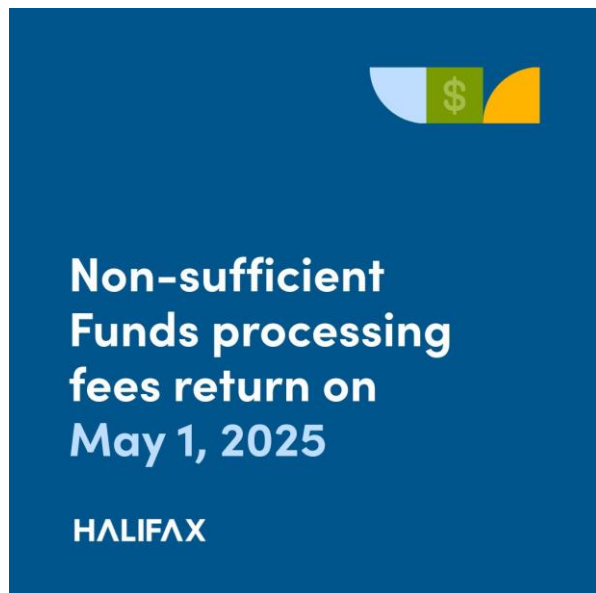
The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to provide feedback on recreation programming for seniors 60 years and older.

Residents are encouraged to complete the survey or attend one of the upcoming public engagement sessions listed on [Halifax.ca/seniors](https://halifax.ca/seniors). The survey will remain open until Wednesday, June 4.

Parks & Recreation is in the process of developing a Seniors Recreation Services plan. This project is aimed at shaping the municipality's recreation programs and services for seniors over the next five years. Seniors' groups and individuals will be actively involved in creating this plan – and a Seniors' Recreation Advisory Group has been established to provide leadership and support to staff during the planning process.

For more information, visit [our website](https://halifax.ca/seniors).

5





COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

ARGYLE STREET- SUMMER STREET OPENING

The Halifax Regional Municipality is excited to announce the seasonal transformation of Argyle Street into a vibrant pedestrian-first space!

From Monday, April 7 at 9 a.m. to Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 9 a.m., Argyle Street between Prince and Blowers streets will be open exclusively to people walking, rolling, and cycling. Motor vehicle access will be paused during this time to create a more welcoming, accessible, and active downtown experience for all.

This seasonal initiative, consistent with previous years, is part of the municipality's ongoing commitment to supporting active transportation, accessible public spaces, and vibrant communities — no construction is involved.



POTHOLES

HRM crews monitor for potholes on our roads year-round, but it's also important for residents to report potholes so that crews are aware of them and can work on getting them fixed.

If you see a pothole please report it by calling 311 or emailing contactus@311.halifax.ca there is also an online form on the halifax.ca website that can be completed. The time range to fix a reported pothole is between 7 and 30 business days and will be dependent on the size of the pothole and if it is considered priority. Crews aim to repair priority potholes on main arterial and major collector roads within 7 business days.

If your vehicle is damaged by a pothole and this damage takes place on a municipal roadway, please contact 311 to begin the claims process with our municipal staff. Once the 311 call is logged the appropriate business units are notified and staff will connect in a timely manner (typically within 10 business days) to deal with your claim.



PUBLIC WORKS

Visit halifax.ca/potholes or
call 311 to report a pothole.



COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

BIKE TO WORK DAY

Friday, May 16 is Bike to Work Day!

Each year on the third Friday in May, everyone is encouraged to try commuting to work via bicycle.

It's a great way to reduce your carbon footprint, improve your health, and enjoy the fresh air.

Whether you're an experienced cyclist or a first-timer, join us in celebrating this fun and eco-friendly initiative!



I had a fun time touring the Halifax Lancers Facility. Got to meet all the Horses of Halifax and learn more about the important work the Lancers do.



Attended the Annual State of the Municipality Address with my Council colleagues.

OUTDOOR PICKLEBALL AND TENNIS NETS

Spring has sprung and so have our outdoor pickleball and tennis nets. Crews have been busy getting courts ready for play, so be sure to check them out soon.

Have a question or concern about a court in your area? Call 311 or email contactus@311.halifax.ca.





COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

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 Shannon Miedema** Halifax
Office Location and Contact Information to come

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

902.237.8373

virginia.hinch@halifax.ca

HALIFAX

halifax.ca | 311