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**Item No. 13.2.1**  
**Executive Standing Committee**  
**June 16, 2025**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Executive Standing Committee

**FROM:** Zoya Hussain, Chair, Youth Advisory Committee

**DATE:** June 3, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Youth Advisory Committee – 2024 Annual Report

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### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

Initiated by the Youth Advisory Committee through the Legislative Assistant.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On January 16, 2018 Halifax Regional Council approved Administrative Order 2017-011-GOV, *Respecting the Youth Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality*. The Youth Advisory Committee reports to the Executive Standing Committee. The purpose of the Youth Advisory Committee is to advise the Municipality on the impact of municipal policies, programs, and services on youth.

The current membership is available on [Halifax.ca](http://Halifax.ca)

#### **DISCUSSION**

##### **2024 Work Plan**

The Committee identified 3 priorities for 2024 and received presentations from community members, groups and organizations, Committee members, and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff to better inform the Committee on issues around these priorities.

The Youth Advisory Committee approved their 2024 Work Plan on April 15, 2024.

The 2024 Work Plan was approved by the Executive Standing Committee on April 22, 2024.

The three priorities for learning and action were specified in the 2024 Work Plan:

**Priority 1: Governance** *with an emphasis on youth engagement.*

**Priority 2: Special Projects** *with an emphasis on addressing colonial pasts and social supports.*

**Priority 3: Economic Development and Supports for Youth** *with an emphasis on youth prosperity.*

Further information on the 2024 Work Plan is outlined in Attachment 2.

#### Summary of Activities

The Youth Advisory Committee's business for the period covering January 18, 2024 to November 21, 2024 included the following:

- 5 presentations from members of the public
- 7 Committee led discussions
- 5 staff presentations
- 2 staff updates
- 2 motions passed

The Committee also has a standing information report titled Memorandum from the Legislative Assistant re: Requests to Present to the Youth Advisory Committee.

The activities of the Youth Advisory Committee were guided by the Administrative Order 2017-011-GOV, *Respecting the Youth Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality*, and by the Youth Advisory Committee 2024 Work Plan.

Further information on the Summary of Activities is outlined in the Attachment 1.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No financial implications identified.

#### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

No risk consideration identified.

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Youth Advisory Committee is comprised of 10 citizen members. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

No environmental implications identified.

#### **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Administrative Order Number 2017-011-GOV, *Respecting the Youth Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality*

#### Reporting

17. The Chair, or designate, may present the annual report to a meeting of the Executive Standing Committee.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Summary of Activities

Attachment 2 – Approved Youth Advisory Committee 2024 Work Plan

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Report Prepared by: Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.497.7548

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## ATTACHMENT 1

### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Committee determined they needed to be better informed about priority issues identified below. Thus, the Committee received presentations and updates from community members, groups and organizations, Committee Members, and HRM staff to better inform the Committee on issues around these priorities.

Following is a list of the presentations, updates and discussion relevant to each priority area and the recommendations to the Executive Standing Committee that emerged as a result.

#### PRIORITY 1

**Governance** *with an emphasis on youth engagement.*

##### **Presentations:**

Date	Topic	Community Presenter	HRM Staff Presenter	Committee Member
January 18	Overview of 2024 Municipal Election		Liam MacSween, Manager, Elections and Special Projects and Iain MacLean, Municipal Clerk	
March 21	Housing and Homelessness Update		Max Chauvin, Director, Housing and Homelessness	

##### **Updates:**

Date	Topic	Community Presenter	HRM Staff	Committee Members
February 15	National Youth Week 2024		Adam Huffman, Community Developer, Youth Section	

##### **Discussions:**

Date	Topic	Community Presenter	HRM Staff	Committee Members
January 18	2024 Work Plan Discussion		Catie Campbell, Legislative Assistant	
March 21	Youth Advisory Committee – 2023 Annual Report		Adam Huffman, Community Developer	
April 15	Draft 2024 Work Plan		Catie Campbell, Legislative Assistant	

April 15	Youth Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report		Adam Huffman, Community Developer, Parks and Recreation	
May 16	Discussion on 2024 Election		Catie Campbell, Legislative Assistant and Adam Huffman, Community Developer	
October 17	Cyril Jurdak O'Brien – Future Planning Session			Cyril Jurdak O'Brien
November 21	Cyril Jurdak O'Brien - Committee Community Engagement			Cyril Jurdak O'Brien

**Outcomes:**

April 15, 2024:

Motion approved that the Youth Advisory Committee approve the 2024 Work Plan as circulated and recommend that the Executive Standing Committee review and approve the Youth Advisory Committee 2024 Work Plan as amended.

Motion approved that the Youth Advisory Committee review and approve the report dated March 22, 2024 and forward it to the Executive Standing Committee for information.

**PRIORITY 2**

**Special Projects** *with an emphasis on addressing colonial pasts and social supports.*

**Presentations:**

Date	Topic	Community Presenter	HRM Staff Presenter	Member Presenter
May 16	Overview of JustFOOD	More Vail, Community Food Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre		

**PRIORITY 3**

**Economic Development and Supports for Youth** *with an emphasis on youth prosperity.*

**Presentations:**

Date	Topic	Community Presenter	HRM Staff Presenter	Member Presenter
February 15	By-law M200 Respecting Standards for Residential Occupancies – Communication Strategy – Youth Advisory Committee		Allison Patriquin, Supervisor, Building Standards	

<b>April 15</b>	<b>Elizabeth Fry Society – Gayle Collicutt</b>	<b>Gayle Collicutt, Manager of Supportive Housing, Elizabeth Fry Society</b>		
<b>May 16</b>	<b>United Nations International Day of Play – Alex Smith</b>	<b>Alex Smith, International Play Association - Canada</b>		
<b>September 19</b>	<b>Patricia Mercer – Pheonix Youth Outreach</b>	<b>Patricia Mercer, Phoenix Youth Outreach</b>		
<b>October 17</b>	<b>HRM's Mobile Youth Support Team</b>		<b>Olivia Polk, Youth Outreach Worker</b>	
<b>October 17</b>	<b>Mathew Dixon and Angelina Simmonds - African Nova Scotian Justice Institute</b>	<b>Mathew Dixon, African Nova Scotian Justice Institute</b>		
<b>November 21</b>	<b>Youth Advocate Program</b>		<b>Christopher Saulnier, Youth Advocate Community Worker</b>	

**Updates:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Community Presenter</b>	<b>HRM Staff</b>	<b>Committee Members</b>
<b>October 17</b>	<b>Youth Services Plan</b>		<b>Adam Huffman, Community Developer, Youth Section</b>	

**INFORMATIONS REPORTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Standing Item</b>	<b>Memorandum from the Legislative Assistant re: Requests to Present to the Youth Advisory Committee</b>

### Approved Youth Advisory Committee 2024 Work Plan

The duties of the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) are specified in s Administrative Order-2017-011-GOV (AO 2017-011-GOV)<sup>1</sup>, as indicated below:

#### *Duties of the Committee*

6. *The Committee shall advise Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on matters related to youth as follows:*
  - a. *identify and advise on youth access to existing and proposed municipal services and facilities;*
  - b. *advise and make recommendations about strategies designed to achieve the objectives of the Committee; and*
  - c. *receive and review information directed to it by Council and its committees, and to make recommendations as requested.*
7. *To advise business units in responding to issues and concerns of youth, when requested to do so by the Chief Administrative Officer.*
8. *To host community consultations related to youth in the Municipality, including an annual Town Hall Meeting, and report to the Executive Standing Committee on the issues identified through such community consultations.*
9. *Significant municipal matters, plans and programs having an impact on youth shall be referred to the Committee for its consideration and recommendations to Regional Council through the Executive Standing Committee*

To effectively carry out the duties specified above, it is important for YAC Members to be informed about issues facing youth in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). Thus in 2024, YAC will continue to devote time to becoming better informed about these issues and approach the following priorities through a youth focused lens.

The three items listed in the Subcategories/Action column listed below were identified at the January 2024 YAC meeting as priorities for learning. WACH believes that devoting time to learning about these issues will enable them to more effectively perform the duties specified in AO-2017-011-GOV.

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<sup>1</sup> [Administrative Order Number 2017-011-GOV Respecting the Youth Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality](#)

The actions listed in the Performance Outcomes column indicate YAC's desire to convert their learning to action.

<b>Subcategories/Action</b>	<b>Alignment with Terms of Reference</b>	<b>Person/ Group Responsible</b>	<b>Resources required other service providers, Government, Funds, etc.</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<b>Performance Indicators: How will you measure your accomplishments</b>
<p><b>Priority 1: Governance with an emphasis on youth engagement</b></p> <p><i>The following topics have been identified as being especially important:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Equity, diversity and inclusion within Halifax Regional Police;</i></li> <li>• <i>2024 Municipal election and increased voter turnout;</i></li> <li>• <i>Municipal planning committees and engagement procedures;</i></li> <li>• <i>Intergovernmental relations and the role of HRM; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Employment support for new Canadians.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Sections 3, 5, &amp; 6</i></p>	<p><i>All Committee Members</i></p>	<p><i>Expertise of Committee Members, staff members of HRM, and Halifax community organizations with specialized knowledge about governance, Municipal elections, intergovernmental relations, employment practice and equity, diversity and inclusion.</i></p>	<p><i>2024</i></p>	<p><i>Committee Members will become more knowledgeable about voter turnout best practices, governance structures and employment support.</i></p> <p><i>YAC will provide information to Executive Standing Committee where it is fit.</i></p>	<p><i>Committee Members will review at least (1) existing HRM policy or procedure that impacts the governance.</i></p> <p><i>Committee Members will receive presentations from various HRM Business Units and community groups.</i></p> <p><i>When ideas and recommendations are generated, YAC will forward motions to the Executive Standing Committee.</i></p>
<p><b>Priority 2: Special Projects</b></p>	<p><i>Sections 3, 5, &amp; 6</i></p>	<p><i>All Committee Members</i></p>	<p><i>Expertise of Committee Members, staff members of HRM, and</i></p>	<p><i>2024</i></p>	<p><i>Committee members will become more</i></p>	<p><i>Committee Members will review at least 1 existing HRM policy or</i></p>

Subcategories/Action	Alignment with Terms of Reference	Person/ Group Responsible	Resources required other service providers, Government, Funds, etc.	Time Frame	Desired Outcome	Performance Indicators: How will you measure your accomplishments
<p><i>with an emphasis on addressing colonial pasts and social supports</i></p> <p><i>The following topics have been identified as being especially important:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Renaming of Municipal streets with colonial pasts; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Food insecurity in HRM.</i></li> </ul>			<p><i>Halifax community organizations with specialized knowledge about issues facing youth.</i></p>		<p><i>knowledgeable about:</i></p> <p><i>i) Renaming of Municipal streets with colonial pasts and ongoing work on addressing colonial pasts</i></p> <p><i>ii) Deeper knowledge on ongoing work to support food insecurity measures.</i></p>	<p><i>procedure that acknowledges colonial pasts and food insecurity.</i></p> <p><i>Committee Members will receive presentations from at community organizations concerned with addressing colonial pasts and food insecurity.</i></p> <p><i>When ideas and recommendations are generated, YAC will forward motions to the Executive Standing Committee.</i></p>
<p><b>Priority 3: Economic Development and Supports for Youth</b> <i>with an emphasis youth prosperity</i></p> <p><i>The following topics have been identified as being especially important</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Guidance for first-time renters;</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Sections 3, 5, &amp; 6</i></p>	<p><i>All Committee Members</i></p>	<p><i>Expertise of Committee Members, staff members of HRM, and Halifax Community organizations with specialized knowledge about youth prosperity, guidance for renters, economic development and youth events.</i></p>	<p><i>2024</i></p>	<p><i>Committee Members will become more knowledgeable about guidance for renters, tourism, events, economic development and</i></p>	<p><i>Committee Members will review at least 1 existing HRM policy or procedure that impacts guidance for renters, tourism, events, economic development and free safe spaces for youth.</i></p>

Subcategories/Action	Alignment with Terms of Reference	Person/ Group Responsible	Resources required other service providers, Government, Funds, etc.	Time Frame	Desired Outcome	Performance Indicators: How will you measure your accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tourism, events and economic development; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Free safe spaces for youth and alcohol-free events.</i></li> </ul>					<p><i>safe spaces for youth.</i></p> <p><i>YAC will provide information and resources about guidance for renters, tourism, events, economic development and free safe spaces for youth.</i></p> <p><i>Particular attention will be paid to data concerning these issues that has been collected or should be collected in the future.</i></p>	<p><i>Committee Members will receive presentations from community organizations concerned with guidance for renters, tourism, events, economic development and safe spaces for youth.</i></p> <p><i>When ideas and recommendations are generated, YAC will forward motions to the Executive Standing Committee.</i></p>

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