



COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

DISTRICT 8 NEWSLETTER

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

WELCOME SEPTEMBER

Happy September! I hope that you had a lovely summer and got to spend lots of time outside enjoying the beautiful weather we had.

Fall for many of us means back to school and back to routine. To all students commencing or returning to school, best wishes to you as you work toward completing your education. Stay safe and have fun!

There are lots of great events happening in District 8 in the month of September, including a litter clean up on Saturday, Sept. 20 and Participatory Budgeting on Thursday, Sept. 25. I hope you can attend one or both of these community events!

Keep reading to learn more about mobile HSW events, Halifax Transit core service plan, and updates on the Regional Plan.

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATES

Regional Council:

Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 10 a.m.

Halifax and West Community Council

Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 6 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council

Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m.

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





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NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

In its commitment to reconciliation and ensuring that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten, the Government of Canada recently passed legislation to make Sept. 30 a federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Formerly known as Orange Shirt Day, this day provides an opportunity to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools and provides a day of quiet reflection or participation in a community event.

Resources

- Read the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report](#) and think about how you can implement the Calls to Action in your own life.
- Watch 215 Reflections to learn more about the intergenerational impacts of the residential school system, presented by Cheryl Copage-Gehue, Indigenous Community Engagement Advisor.
- Read *Out of the Depths: The experiences of Mi'kmaw children at the Indian Residential School at Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia* by Isabelle Knockwood, and other memoirs by survivors.
- Watch *We Were Children* (available on Amazon Prime), *Indian Horse* (available on Netflix), and *Little Bird* (available on Crave).
- Learn about the Mi'kmaw communities whose land you live on and visit the three First Nations in Halifax Regional Municipality.

- Visit Indigenous cultural heritage sites to learn about the traditions, culture, and resilience of your local communities.
- Visit the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, and Peace and Friendship Park in Halifax.
- Have conversations with the people in your life about what reconciliation means and why it's important.
- Support Indigenous artists, drummers, singers, dancers, language learners and small business owners. They are helping communities heal.



MOBILE HSW EVENT

On Saturday, Sept. 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., bring your unwanted Household Special Waste to the mobile depot being held at the NSCC Leeds St Campus located at 5685 Leeds St. Residents attending this mobile depot are encouraged to use the Robie St. entrance to campus.

For more details about the event please visit our [website](#).





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2025 PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IS HERE!

Participatory Budgeting is coming back to District 8! On **Thursday, Sept. 25**, District 8 residents will once again have the opportunity to provide input on how to spend **\$75,000** to support community projects.

On Participatory Budgeting vote night everyone (including children!) is encouraged to come and help choose projects that will help build a stronger community. This is a more engaging and different way to make decisions about how to spend public money in our neighborhood. Community members, like YOU, will propose projects and/or make recommendations on how to spend this money.

If you are a nonprofit organization or community group looking for District Capital Funding to support your community project, I highly encourage you to apply for funding. The maximum amount of funds that will be provided for a single project will be **\$10,000**.

To determine if you are eligible to participate in the Participatory Budgeting vote night you are encouraged to contact my office and speak to Kate Richardson my Council Constituency Coordinator she can be contacted by email at richark@halifax.ca or by phone 902-490-4090.

All funding requests must be submitted to my office by **Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025, by 4 p.m.** This will ensure that my office can vet all applications that have been received and ensure that they qualify for District Capital funding.

You're Invited

Participatory Budgeting with District 8 Councillor Virginia Hinch

📍 Halifax Forum-Maritime Hall
📅 Thursday, Sept. 25
🕒 6 - 8 PM

Get in touch:
virginia.hinch@halifax.ca
902.237.8373



DISTRICT 8 COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Join Councillor Hinch and Halifax Solid Waste Resources for a District 8 Community Clean-Up on **Saturday, Sept. 20**. The rain date will be **Saturday, Sept. 27**.

Stop by anytime between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. to talk about litter and waste management and grab free supplies to pick up litter outside.

Information booths with litter clean-up supplies will be set up at both the Halifax North Memorial Public Library (2285 Gottingen Street) and the Needham Community Centre (3372 Devonshire Ave).

To find out more about the Solid Waste Resources' litter clean-up programming please visit our [website](#).

I look forward to seeing you all there!





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HALIFAX TRANSIT- CORE SERVICE PLAN

Halifax Transit is inviting residents to provide their feedback on the next chapter of transit planning in the municipality to ensure our transit system evolves with the region's growth and the needs of our diverse communities.

The Core Service Plan outlines efficient and targeted improvements to our core transit services, ensuring we meet the immediate needs of riders.

The Strategic Roadmap is an ongoing strategic planning process to follow the Core Service Plan that will include a range of strategic initiatives including:

- analyzing the factors that impact on service reliability
- opportunities for On-Demand and Microtransit services in the region
- planning the integration of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) within the current network
- developing standards which guide upgrades and expansion of transit infrastructure

Together, the Core Service Plan and Strategic Roadmap will create a clear and actionable plan, helping us deliver a transit system that is both responsive and future ready. See [Strategic Roadmap Overview](#) for more information.

How can you get involved?

There are various ways you can get involved, including:

- Core Service Plan survey: Share your thoughts on specific topics like service frequency for routes you regularly travel on, and new transit options. The Core Service Plan survey will be open from August 14 to September 28, 2025.
- Terminal and on-bus pop-up events: Participate in pop-up events at

terminals or on your bus to ask questions and provide feedback directly to Halifax Transit planners and other members of our team.

- Talk to us directly: Call 311 or email TransitPlanning@halifax.ca to share your thoughts with our team, or to ask questions about this project.
- Learn about other municipal strategies and plans: Our team uses other municipal plans when making transit planning decisions. These strategies and plans include:
 - Regional Plan
 - Integrated Mobility Plan
 - Rapid Transit Strategy

How will we use your feedback?

We'll use your feedback and data we've collected about the system to help inform transit changes. We'll also look at key performance measures such as:

- the number of passengers on services throughout the network
- how many passengers get on or off a bus at a stop
- the number of times the bus is too full to pick up more passengers
- how often the bus arrived on time

From there, we'll present your feedback and this data to Regional Council in a "What We Heard" report. Feedback will also be incorporated when preparing the Core Service Plan 2025–27.

We want to hear from you!

Core Service Plan 2025–27

We're building a new transit plan for the next three years, and your input is essential.

shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/core-service-plan

HALIFAX TRANSIT



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BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

As summer fades and school resumes, prioritizing traffic safety in residential areas is crucial. When students return to school, keeping them safe on the streets should be a top concern. Here are essential tips and reminders for motorists and parents during this back-to-school season.

Respect Speed Limits:

Obey posted speed limits, especially in school zones. Reduced speed limits during school hours protect children traveling to and from school.

Yield to Pedestrians:

Always yield to pedestrians, especially near crosswalks and school zones. Children may not accurately judge traffic, so extra caution is necessary.

Eliminate Distractions:

Avoid distractions like cell phones and eating while driving in residential areas. Focus entirely on the road, as children might unexpectedly enter the street.

Stop for School Buses:

When a school bus stops, stop behind or in front of it as per local laws. Failing to do so endangers students and can lead to fines.

Promote Walking and Biking Safely:

Consider walking or biking to school for physical activity and reduced traffic. Use designated paths and wear helmets while biking.

Safe Routes to School:

Work with schools and parents to identify safe routes to school. This can include walking

groups, carpooling, and advocating for better signage.

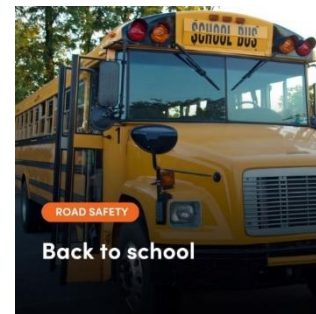
Educate Children:

Teach children road safety, emphasizing looking both ways before crossing, using crosswalks, and wearing reflective clothing in low-light conditions.

Support Traffic Calming Measures:

Advocate for traffic calming measures like speed bumps and narrowing roadways to slow traffic and protect pedestrians and cyclists.

Back to school should be a safe and exciting time for all. By following these tips and fostering responsible driving practices in your community, we can ensure a secure environment for students year-round. Let's make our neighborhoods safer for children during this back-to-school season and beyond.



HURRICANE READY

In an emergency like a hurricane, it may take emergency workers some time to get to you. Have an emergency kit ready and be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for at least 72 hours. That includes your pets! Don't forget items they'll need to stay safe and healthy.

Find hurricane preparedness information [here](#).



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AFRICVILLE MARINA AND SAILING SCHOOL

In partnership with Sail Nova Scotia the Africville Museum have launched their new Marina and Sailing School. This year the Sailing School ran for one week and allowed 15 young people within the community to be introduced to the sport of sailing and foiling. The Africville Museum plans to expand the Sailing School in 2026 to run from May to August.

I was proud to partner with Councillor Purdy, Councillor Young, Councillor St-Amand, Councillor Cleary, Councilor Cuttell and Councillor Steele to provide \$60,000 of Capital Funds to help support this initiative.

On Aug. 21, myself and Councillor St-Amand visited the sailing school and were able to present the cheque for this initiative.



GENDER EQUALITY WEEK

Gender Equity Week (Sept. 22-26) is an opportunity to celebrate the valuable contributions of women and gender-diverse communities while reaffirming our commitment to advancing gender equality within our organization and region.

Gender equality means that all gender identities have equal rights and opportunities.

Conversely, gender inequality, rooted in colonialism and patriarchy, connects to other forms of oppression. It encompasses issues like violence against women and the transgender community, gender stereotypes dictating how boys and girls "should behave," and limited career choices based on gender.

While progress has been made, including electing a predominantly female Regional Council for the first time, there is still work to do.

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VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

Due to the recent prolonged period of low precipitation, water levels within Halifax Water's supply areas have not been replenished. With no significant precipitation forecasted in the coming weeks, these levels will continue to lower.

To conserve water, Halifax Water is requesting that all customers and those who live or work within a building serviced by Halifax Water, follow voluntary water conservation measures until further notice. By reducing our water usage, we can help ease the demand on our lakes/source water and reduce or delay the need for mandatory water conservation measures.

These measures include:

- If it's yellow, let it mellow. Depending on the efficiency of your toilet, each flush uses between 6 to 26 litres of water.
- Shorten your showers. Cut back on the frequency and length of showers.
- Turn off the tap when not in use. Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth, shaving, washing your face etc.
- Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.

Limit activities that use excess water, such as:

- Watering lawns.
- Washing vehicles.
- Filling pools.

Please visit the Halifax Water [website](#) for a full list of ways to conserve water.

ENHANCED SECURITY AT CITY HALL

Enhancements to security screening are in place at Halifax City Hall. All visitors will be required to present identification, place any bags or loose items in a bin for X-ray screening and walk through a metal detector and before entering the building.

These updates align with safety practices in place at other municipal buildings and are part of our efforts to create a safe space for everyone.

Watch the video to see how the screening process works. Plan ahead and learn what to expect, including information on prohibited items and accessibility accommodations to learn more please visit our [website](#).



Proud to sponsor and attend the 5th Annual Anti- Racism Basketball tournament at Citadel High School.



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UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF HRMS'S REGIONAL PLAN

On Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, the Halifax Regional Municipality received a letter from the Province of Nova Scotia's Minister of Municipal Affairs in response to the municipality's submission of the updated Regional Plan.

In the letter, the Minister indicated that the Regional Plan, as submitted, could not be accepted by the province and therefore could not be approved.

Underway since 2020, the Regional Planning process has incorporated years of extensive public engagement to inform updates to the 2014 Regional Plan – aimed at supporting sustainable growth across our region.

On Thursday, June 19, 2025, Regional Council [passed a motion](#) to repeal the existing 2014 Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (also known as the Regional Plan) and adopt the proposed 2025 Regional Municipal Planning Strategy with related amendments to other planning documents including the Regional Subdivision By-Law, Secondary Municipal Planning Strategies and Land Use By-Laws.

In accordance with the [Halifax Regional Municipality Charter](#), adoption of the Regional Plan and other planning documents is subject to provincial review and approval.

Over the past several months, municipal Planning & Development staff have been actively working with provincial staff to address feedback that had been previously received from the province. The decision by the province to not approve any of the proposed amendments was not expected, given the

ongoing collaboration with provincial counterparts leading up to and following the submission for approval.

Moving forward, this means that the [current 2014 Regional Plan](#), last amended in May 2025, remains in effect, as the new proposed amendments have not been approved by the province. Over the coming weeks, municipal staff will re-engage with the province to determine the next steps on the planning process and ensure the Regional Plan is updated in a way that aligns with provincial interests and fulfills the municipality's obligations under existing legislation.

For more information on the Regional Plan, including a copy of the Aug 8. letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, visit the [website](#).



Attended Kerala Festival with MLAs Suzy Hansen and Lisa Lachance. Special thanks to all the organizers for putting together such a great event.



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HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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:

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.

"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:

- **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

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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

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