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**Item No. 13.1.2**  
**Executive Standing Committee**  
**September 15, 2025**

**TO:** Mayor Fillmore and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**FROM:** Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** June 4, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Treat Accessibly Day

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**ORIGIN**

Motion from the May 26, 2025, meeting

THAT the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report to consider recognizing October 16 annually as Treat Accessibly Day as part of the Treat Accessibly initiative.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report recommends that Halifax Regional Council recognizes October 16<sup>th</sup> annually as Treat Accessibly Preparation Day. Treat Accessibly is a Canadian organization which has provided lawn signs and information to promote accessible trick or treating for all. There are no financial implications or risks associated with this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council, recognizes October 16<sup>th</sup> annually as Treat Accessibly Preparation Day.

**BACKGROUND**

Treat Accessibly presented to the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on May 12<sup>th</sup> 2025. From there, the AAC put forward a motion to the Executive Standing Committee requesting a staff report to consider recognizing October 16 annually as Treat Accessibly Day as part of the Treat Accessibly initiative.

**DISCUSSION**

Since their founding in 2017, Treat Accessibly has become the first and only community movement in Canada with the goal of making trick or treating 100% accessible for children with any disability at any home. It aims to bring together neighbours, government, and the private sector to initiate a meaningful,

unifying, diversity-inclusion conversation.

Treat Accessibly has provided 250,000 homes across Canada with lawn signs which inform neighbours that their home will be accessible for trick or treating on Halloween. Across Canada, they have had their signs available at over 700 retail locations, including Canadian Tire and REMAX, and have had information included on millions of Kinder products.

To treat more accessibly, houses can:

- Halloween decor lawn sign by displaying a week before Oct. 31
- Remove stairs and barriers, and treat from your stoop, driveway or garage
- Remove triggers and engagement barriers by being highly visible as families approach
- Permit kids to stay close to parents
- Be educated on non-verbal and non-visible disabilities
- Look out for interaction cues from parents
- Include non-edible treats

Treat Accessibly is hosting their Halifax Halloween Village on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, which is a free house to house trick or treating experience championing accessibility and inclusion. For more information, the public can register by visiting [their website](#).

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No financial implications at this time.

### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

No risk considerations were identified.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

No community engagement was required.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

No environmental implications were identified.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. The Executive Standing Committee could decline to approve the recommendation.

### **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*, S.N.S. 2008, c. 39 as amended:

7A The purposes of the Municipality are to

- (a) provide good government;

(b) provide services, facilities and other things that, in the opinion of the Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the Municipality; and

(c) develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

11 (1) The powers of the Municipality are exercised by the Council.

(2) In the general exercise of its powers, the Council shall take into account the principle of accessibility for its citizens with disabilities.

2017-005-GOV, the *Advisory Committee on Accessibility Administrative Order*

Duties of the Committee

6. The Committee shall advise Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on matters related to persons with disabilities as follows:

[...]

(b) identify and advise on the accessibility of existing and proposed municipal services and facilities;

(c) advise and make recommendations about strategies designed to achieve the objectives of the Committee;