



WELCOME OCTOBER

October is a busy month for celebrations of the fall season including Thanksgiving. I hope you take time to reflect with family and friends on all the things that we have to be grateful for this year.

October is also a time to acknowledge and celebrate Mi'kmaw History Month. I hope you are able to participate in one of the many events taking place across the municipality and show your support to our indigenous communities by wearing orange.

On Wednesday, Oct 8, I will be hosting a Town Hall with Mayor Andy Filmore. I hope that you are able to attend.

Keep reading to learn more about Halloween safety tips, voluntary water conservation measures, and more.

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

OCTOBER MEETING DATES

Regional Council:

Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. (if required)
Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 10 a.m.

Halifax and West Community Council

Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council

Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 6 p.m.

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





COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

DISTRICT 8 TOWN HALL

On Wednesday, Oct. 8 from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m., I will be hosting a town hall with Mayor Andy Filmore. The town hall will take place in the Multipurpose Room at the Needham Community Centre (3372 Devonshire Ave).

This is an opportunity for me and the Mayor to get feedback from you, the residents of District 8! I hope to see many of you there!

You're Invited

District 8 Town Hall with Councillor Virginia Hinch and Mayor Andy Filmore

Needham Community Centre
Wednesday, Oct. 8
6 - 7 PM

Please register in advance by emailing
Kate Richardson at richark@halifax.ca



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[website](#). Residents can also explore resources at: mikmaqhistorymonth.ca

October is
Mi'kmaw History Month

VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

Halifax Water is urging residents to follow the Voluntary Water Conservation Measures requested for the municipality. Water levels at Lake Major and Pockwock Lake continue to be lower than normal. Despite recent rain, much more precipitation is needed to return to normal levels.

Since implementing the voluntary conservation measures on Aug. 5, Halifax Water has not seen a significant decrease in demand. Mandatory water conservation measures are in effect for customers serviced by Lake Major, however, voluntary conservation measures remain in place for those serviced by Pockwock Lake.

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

MI'KMAW HISTORY MONTH

October is Mi'kmaw History Month, beginning with Treaty Day on Wednesday, Oct. 1. This year's theme is *A'tukwemk aq A'tukowinu'k – Storytelling and Storytellers*. It honours the distinctive stories of Mi'kmaw people—stories shaped by the land and waters, rooted in Mi'kma'ki, and passed down through generations.

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.

Residents are encouraged to learn more about reconciliation and Mi'kmaw history on our

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HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

October is [Disability Employment Awareness Month \(DEAM\)](#) a time to recognize the contributions of people with disabilities in the workforce. Throughout the month, DEAM initiatives aim to bring awareness to barriers experienced by those living with disabilities, and encourages workplaces across country to create inclusive and accessible environments for all.

Did you know?

- Nova Scotia has the highest provincial average of individuals with disabilities, with 38 per cent of Nova Scotians over the age of 15 identifying as having a disability (Canadian average is 27 per cent)
- Nova Scotia became the third Canadian province to create accessibility legislation with the passing of the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act in 2017, following Manitoba (2013) and Ontario (2005)
- According to the Canadian Survey on Disability 2017, the four most common disabilities among Nova Scotian adults include pain related disabilities, flexibility issues, mobility, and mental health related disabilities, with almost 20 per cent of individuals identifying as having a pain related disability

Numbers of individuals with disabilities is expected to grow as our population ages, making the municipality's commitment to improving accessibility and inclusion across our organization, in our programs and services and in the communities we serve increasingly important.

In support of this goal, and in alignment with the provincial accessibility framework, the Office of

Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO developed an [Accessibility Strategy](#) that was unanimously approved by Regional Council in May 2021.

We all play a part in working to break down the barriers that exist for people living with disabilities.



2025-2028 ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY

The municipality has released the 2025–2028 Accessibility Strategy. It outlines 30 recommendations in six key areas to improve accessibility and representation.

The recommendations are to be completed over a three-year period and represent a call to action to create a municipality that is accessible to all, regardless of ability.

Four versions are available: plain text, plain language, condensed and condensed & plain language. To learn more please visit our [website](#).





COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

2025 PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

I want to thank everyone who came out to the 2025 Participatory Budgeting event. We had such a great turn out to the event, and it was really exciting to have 22 different community groups come out and highlight all the great community work being done in District 8.

I would like to congratulate the following groups on receiving District Capital Funds as voted on by the residents of the District 8:

- Ecology Action Centre
- Africville Heritage Trust
- Veith House
- North End Community Day Care
- St Stephen's Elementary
- Square Roots North End
- Bus Stop Theatre
- Prescott Street Community Garden
- North End Community Garden
- George Dixon Community Garden
- St Joseph's Alexander McKay Elementary
- North West Kijipuktuk Scouts



DISTRICT 8 COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

On Saturday, Sept. 20 we hosted our first Community Clean Up in District 8! I want to thank MLA Suzy Hansen, Trayvone Clayton, Deedee Slye and the Halifax Solid Waste Education team for all their help with organizing and executing this event.

It was such a great turnout this year and I cannot wait to host this event again next year!





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CANADA POST MAIL DISRUPTION

The municipality is advising residents and vendors that the ongoing Canada Post strike may cause delays in receiving property tax bills and vendor payments. The September tax bill remains due on Oct. 31, 2025.

Residents can sign up for property tax email or text notifications, request a free reprint of their bill, or explore alternate payment options such as online banking, pre-authorized debit, or paying in person at a Customer Contact Centre.

Vendors are encouraged to sign up for electronic payments or submit invoices directly by email. Cheque pickup at Customer Service Centres can also be arranged with advance notice and ID.

For full details and payment options, visit halifax.ca or call 311.

BRAD ANGUISH APPOINTED ACTING CAO

On Sept. 3, 2025, Halifax Regional Council announced the appointment of Brad Anguish as Acting Chief Administrative Officer (A/CAO) for the municipality, effective Sept. 8, 2025.

Mr. Anguish brings more than 22 years of experience with HRM, including leadership roles in Operations, Public Works, and Parks & Recreation. He has also overseen major municipal projects such as the Harbour Clean Up and the Cogswell District project.

Congratulations, Mr. Anguish! We look forward to working with him in this important leadership role.

PERSONS DAY

Oct. 18 is Persons Day in Canada. It marks the day in 1929 when the historic decision to include women in the legal definition of “persons” was handed down by Canada’s highest court of appeal. This gave some women the right to be appointed to the Senate of Canada and paved the way for women’s increased participation in public and political life. Though this decision did not include all women, such as Indigenous women and women of Asian heritage and descent, it did mark critical progress in the advancement of gender equality in Canada.

Learn more about Persons Day [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

Oct. 11 is [International Day of the Girl Child](#), a day dedicated to celebrating the voices and power of girls, championing their rights worldwide, and reflecting on the challenges they continue to face because of their gender.

Canada led the international effort to establish this day to draw attention to the persistent inequalities and dangers that too many girls face around the world. The United Nations subsequently adopted a resolution to formally recognize this important date.

Across Canada and around the world, girls are making an impact and creating positive change in their communities and far beyond. They are leading the way as students, entrepreneurs, volunteers and activists, and proving that you are never too young to shape the future and improve the lives of others.



COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween is just around the corner! We look forward to the fun that comes with this spooky day, but it is important to keep safety a priority.

Trick-or-treaters, parents and guardians:

- Look both ways before crossing the street but try to limit cross-crossing the street (go down one side of the street and up the other). Always watch for vehicles.
- Trick-or-treat with people from your household or your close social group – never go alone.
- Ensure Halloween costumes are bright, reflective, fit well and are warm. Consider using face paint or makeup instead of a mask.
- Carry a flashlight and stay close to well-lit areas.
- Be sure an adult checks all Halloween candy before trick-or-treaters dig in.
- Trick-or-treaters should tell their parents and/or guardians their Halloween route and when they expect to be home.
- Never enter someone's home while trick-or-treating.

Motorists:

- Drive slowly and be careful backing up and drive with extra caution in residential areas.

Homeowners:

- Keep your doorway well-lit; clear of tripping hazards and open flames.
- Give out only commercially wrapped snacks.
- Keep pets inside on Halloween.

Wishing everyone a safe, fun-filled night!



HalifACT Youth Climate Action Fund

HalifACT

YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND

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BLM IN THIS TOGETHER PRESENTS...

YOUTH JAM SKATE

Are you 12-18 years of age? Come learn to Jam Skate!!!

Why Jam Skating?

Jam Skating is a groovy way to MOVE in the movement, while also contributing to solving environmental issues primarily by serving as a sustainable mode of transportation that reduces carbon emissions and reliance fuel to maneuver around our city.

FUN • MUSIC • GIVEAWAYS

Let's go beyond acknowledgement and learn how to take meaningful action in the preservation of the land and communities, by addressing environmental pollution/racism through many forms of art (jam skating) and movement (jam skating).

LET'S GO!

Date: Sunday October 12/25

Time: 7:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Emera Oval

5775 Cogswell Street, Halifax, NS

We, as YOUTH are the FUTURE.

WE are EMERGING CATALYST of CHANGE

Register at:

inthistogetherblm@gmail.com

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COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

SEMI-ANNUAL CRIME AND TRAFFIC STATISTICS

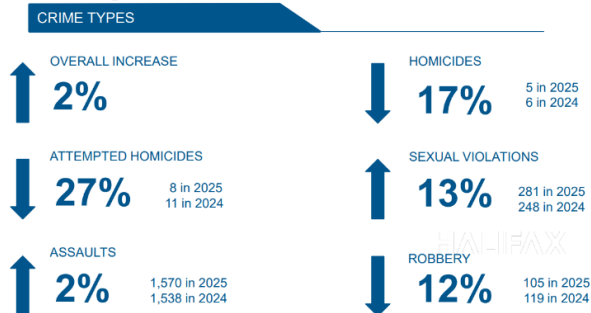
Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and RCMP Halifax District have released their first joint semi-annual report, covering January–June 2025.

Key highlights:

- Calls for service across HRM increased 7% compared to the same period in 2024, with proactive policing activity (such as foot patrols and traffic stops) seeing notable growth.
- Crimes against persons were up slightly overall, with increases in assaults, sexual violations, and firearm-related incidents.
- Crimes against property rose in HRP areas, particularly shoplifting, while RCMP areas reported fewer shoplifting cases but more fraud and theft under \$5,000.
- Traffic collisions decreased overall, though HRP and RCMP continue to respond to impaired driving and serious collisions.

You can read the full report [here](#).

Crimes Against Persons - HRM



Halifax Regional Police/ RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment 9 HALIFAX

AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING

Regional Council has directed the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate \$1.5 million from the Density Bonus Reserve to fund affordable housing projects in the regional centre.

The program provides project-specific grants to non-profit and charitable housing providers for new construction, conversions, repairs, acquisitions and studies.

The AHGP supports municipal priorities to increase the supply of affordable housing and to improve and maintain existing stock. Since 2021, the program has awarded \$14 million to create or preserve more than 730 units and rooms of affordable housing.

For more information, read the [staff report](#).

YOUTH POET LAUREATE

Applications have opened for the 2026 Youth Poet Laureate Program.

The program helps young poets (aged 14-18) to hone their writing skills, receive mentorship and engage with their peers on issues that shape our region.

Learn more and apply by 5 p.m. on Oct. 31 on our [website](#).





COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

PARKS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Regional Council has directed the CAO to develop a Park Stewardship Program.

The proposed program will expand opportunities for residents and community groups to take part in the care and enhancement of municipal parks. It builds on existing initiatives such as community gardens and naturalization projects, while adding new components like Adopt-a-Park and more flexible cleanup opportunities.

Halifax has more than 900 parks, ranging from neighbourhood green spaces to wilderness areas. While day-to-day maintenance is performed by municipal staff or contractors, there is strong community interest in contributing to stewardship activities. The Park Stewardship Program will provide a consistent, coordinated framework for this involvement.

The program is expected to launch using existing resources, with future program growth to be assessed and reported back to Council as required.



ANTI-BLACK RACISM GRANTS PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality is now accepting applications for the second year of the Anti-Black Racism (ABR) Grants Program.

Launched in 2024, the program was established to address anti-Black racism through grassroots projects and initiatives.

Anti-Black racism is a form of discrimination uniquely rooted in the history of Black people, informed by the legacies of enslavement and colonization, and experienced daily across the municipality and the world.

Grants ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 are available to support community-based projects developed and delivered at the local level.

Applications will be accepted from Monday, Sept. 15 to Friday, Oct. 31 at 11:59 p.m. Please visit the Halifax Water [website](#) for a full list of ways to conserve water.





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HALIFAX PENINSULA NORTH

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
1003-1809 Barrington St
Halifax, NS
B3J 3K8

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

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