

Statement of General Rate Surplus of the

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Year ended March 31, 2020



KPMG LLP
Purdy's Wharf Tower One
1959 Upper Water Street, Suite 1500
Halifax Nova Scotia B3J 3N2
Canada
Telephone (902) 492-6000
Fax (902) 429-1307

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Mayor and Councillors of the Halifax Regional Municipality

Opinion

We have audited the statement of general rate surplus of Halifax Regional Municipality (the Entity) for the year ended March 31, 2020 and notes to the statement, including a summary of significant accounting policies (Hereinafter referred to as the "statement").

In our opinion, the accompanying statement is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting principles prescribed pursuant to Section 451 of the Municipal Government Act Nova Scotia.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "*Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*" section of our auditors' report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to Note 1 in the statement, which describes the applicable financial reporting framework and the purpose of the statement.

As a result, the statement may not be suitable for another purpose.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.



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Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation of the statement in accordance with the accounting principles prescribed pursuant to Section 451 of the Municipal Government Act Nova Scotia, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the statement.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the statement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.



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- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Halifax, NS

September 1, 2020

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Statement of General Rate Surplus

For the year ended March 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019
(In thousands of dollars)

	2020	2019
General rate surplus, before transfers	\$ 35,120	\$ 26,057
Transfers to reserves:		
Contribution to Municipal Election reserve	-	(700)
Contribution to Parkland Development reserve	-	(2,000)
Contribution to Capital Fund reserve	(24,900)	(6,000)
Contribution to Debt Principal and Interest Repayment reserve	(3,600)	-
Contribution to General Contingency reserve	(6,620)	(17,357)
	(35,120)	(26,057)
General rate surplus	-	-

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the statement.

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

Notes to Statement of General Rate Surplus

Year ended March 31, 2020
(In thousands of dollars)

1. Basis of accounting:

This financial information has been prepared to conform in all material respects to the accounting principles prescribed pursuant to Section 451 of the Municipal Government Act Nova Scotia ("MGA") by The Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing and adheres to their Financial Reporting and Accounting Manual ("FRAM") and is intended for the use of Members of Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality ("the Municipality").

This statement is the net actual result of revenue and expenses of the Municipality's Operating Fund, to the extent that those revenues and expenses are included in the calculation of the Municipality's estimate of required sums as determined under Section 93 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, the basis for the general tax rate. As per FRAM Section 3(1)(a)(iv)D Operating Reserve Fund, if the Municipality's operating fund statement of operations results in a surplus, the surplus shall be transferred to the operating reserve.

2. Significant accounting policies:

Revenue and expenses included in the determination of the general rate surplus are recorded on an accrual basis except as noted below:

- a) Interest expense is recorded on a cash basis;
- b) Debt principal repayments are deducted as an expense;
- c) Inter-fund transfers are included in the financial results of the Operating Fund;
- d) Transfers from the Operating Fund to purchase or construct tangible capital assets are deducted as an expense; and,
- e) Amortization of tangible capital assets, changes in the value of the liability for employee sick leave and the liability for contaminated sites no longer in active or productive use are not included in the determination of the general rate surplus.