



WELCOME FEBUARY!



February is African Heritage Month and there are great [events planned](#) to celebrate people of African descent including the February 14th [Opening Ceremony & Reception - 130th Anniversary of the "Colored](#)

[Hockey League of the Maritimes"](#) ! February 17 [is Nova Scotia Heritage Day](#) and the 2025 honouree is [Nora Bernard](#).

Keep reading for more information on Budget Committee dates and times, the property tax assessment appeal process, the Halifax Water H2O Financial Assistance Fund, recruitment for the Inclusion Support Advisory Committee and much more!

To discuss a municipal program or service, please contact me at: Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca or 902.579.6746.

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FEBUARY MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council and Regional Centre Community Council meetings will be held on:

Budget Committee:

Wednesday, February 5 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 7 at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency)

Wednesday, February 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 14 at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency)

Wednesday, February 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, February 20 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 21 at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency)

Wednesday, February 26 at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 28 at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency)

Regional Council:

Tuesday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m. (Special)

Tuesday, February 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Halifax & West Community Council:

Tuesday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council:

Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Standing Committees:

Tuesday, February 18 at 10:00 a.m.

- Audit & Finance Standing Committee

Thursday, February 27 at 1:00 p.m.

- Transportation Advisory Committee

Please confirm dates and times on our [municipal website](#) as they are subject to change.

DID YOU KNOW...

February is African Heritage Month.

February 2 is Ground Hog Day

February 4 is World Cancer Day

February 10 is International Epilepsy Day

February 11 is International Day of Women and Girls in Science

February 13 is Wear Red Day – Women’s Heart Health

February 14 is Valentine’s Day

February 14 is International Book Giving Day

February 15 is National Flag Day

February 15 is International Childhood Cancer Day

February 15 is Canada’s Agriculture Day

February 17 is Nova Scotia Heritage Day

February 20 is World Day of Social Justice

February 21 is International Mother Language Day

February 22 is World Thinking Day

February 25 is World Spay Day

February 27 is World Non-Governmental Organization Day

February 28 is the First Day of Ramadan

NOVA SCOTIA HERITAGE DAY – FEBRUARY 17



[Nora Bernard](#) is the 2025 Nova Scotia Heritage Day honouree. Ms. Bernard, from Millbrook First Nations,



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was instrumental in ensuring justice, recognition and compensation for the survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. Ms. Bernard founded and became president of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Association in 1987 and was instrumental in launching the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history on behalf of residential school survivors.

On December 5, 2013, the province introduced legislation to make the third Monday in February a brand-new statutory holiday, beginning in 2015.

The [Department of Labour and Advanced Education \(LAE\)](#) took the lead on implementing the new holiday. LAE launched a naming campaign that engaged Primary to Grade 12 classes in local schools. Students were asked to work together to create a suggestion for a holiday name that would instill pride in being Nova Scotian, as well as a suggestion for a [remarkable person, place or event](#) that have helped to make Nova Scotia what it is today.

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH GALA DINNER – FEBRUARY 22



The Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia is hosting a Gala event presented by RBC to

celebrate and honour the Black Presence in Arts & Culture in Nova Scotia and Canada. The 2025 African Heritage Month Gala Dinner will take place on Saturday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m. at the Halifax Convention Centre. It will be an evening of great cultural entertainment, artistic engagement, and food.

The headlining award-winning Canadian artist, Reeny along with a host of cultural performers will provide some great entertainment. The spectacular evening will also include a pre-reception Cultural Village that will highlight organizations that support and elevate Black Culture, Heritage and Art.

For tickets and more information click [here](#).

BUDGET 2025/26



The municipal budget funds all costs associated with servicing a growing municipality. This includes day-to-day municipal operations, capital priority initiatives approved by Regional Council and capital projects and investments to purchase, construct, rehabilitate and replace municipal assets.

There are several milestones in the annual municipal budget process. Below are the key dates for the 2025/26 municipal budget process:



- Wednesday, February 5
Budget Introduction and Capital Plan Recommendation.

Each municipal business unit will present their proposed budget and business plan. Below are the scheduled presentation dates for each business unit.

Wednesday, February 12

Public Safety (including Community Safety; Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency; Halifax Regional Police; and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment).

Wednesday, February 19 and Thursday, February 20

Operations (including Halifax Transit; Parks & Recreation; Planning & Development; Property, Fleet & Environment; and Public Works).

Wednesday, February 26

Corporate Services (including Chief Administrative Office; Finance & Asset Management; Human Resources; Information Technology; and Legal & Legislative Services.

Wednesday, March 19

Budget Adjustment List (BAL) Review: The BAL includes all additional items that business units have presented beyond their proposed budgets, including add-ons ("overs") and subtractions ("unders").

Tuesday, April 8

Budget Approval.

Please note these dates are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, visit halifax.ca/budget.

Residents will have the opportunity to [speak directly to the Budget Committee](#) during the budget process. During each meeting, time will be set aside for the public to provide insight and comments.

For more information on the 2025/26 municipal budget process, visit halifax.ca/budget.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS



Property Valuation Services Corporation

[Property Valuation Services Corporation](#)

(PVSC) assesses every property in Nova Scotia and mails over 638,000 Property Assessment Notices to property owners every January. If you are a property owner, you should be receiving your latest Property Assessment Notice in the coming weeks.

There is an option to appeal/refute your assessment within 31 days of the date on your Assessment Notice. To learn more about your assessment, call PVSC assessors at 1-800-380-7775 or email them at inquiry@pvsc.ca.

Visit their [website](#) to learn more.



COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Nova Scotia's Councillor Code of Conduct was adopted by Regional Council at the December 10, 2024 meeting. The new Code of Conduct will replace the previous Administrative Order and has specific guidelines and sanctions for any violations.

The code of conduct includes stipulations for general conduct, the use of confidential information and municipal property, equipment and services, restrictions on any gifts and benefits, relationships with development groups, proper use of influence, business relations, nepotism, fairness, adherence to policy and laws, respecting council decisions, communicating accurately, respectful interactions with Council and staff, and more. You can read the full code [here](#).

2023/24 Strategic Performance Report

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PLAN
2021-25

HRM has released the [2023/24 Strategic Performance Report](#). This annual report uses strategic key performance indicators to provide a high-level analysis of advancement towards the municipality's priorities and outcomes in the [2021-2025 Strategic Priorities Plan](#).

The [Strategic Performance Snapshot](#) has been updated with data for 2023/24. For more information, [click here](#).

RESULTS OF 2024 RESIDENT SURVEY



Residents were asked to share their opinions on municipal priorities, their satisfaction with municipal services and their thoughts on potential and proposed changes and improvements – as well as other key issues impacting communities across the region. This was the 11th resident survey since municipal amalgamation in 1996.

The Resident Survey is one of many inputs to the municipality's planning processes, with the results of the survey being used to measure performance and guide strategic policy and planning decisions as the municipality develops the [2026-2030 Strategic Plan](#).

Key highlights of the 2024 Halifax Regional Municipality Resident Survey showed that housing issues and transportation concerns remain the primary issues facing the municipality and rated residents satisfaction on topics such as municipal services and infrastructure, public safety and the environment. A summary of the results can be found [here](#).



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ICE THICKNESS



The municipality is no longer conducting ice thickness testing as changing climate patterns, including rapidly fluctuating temperatures, have made ice thickness testing no longer feasible or reliable.

Residents are asked to take safety precautions for themselves and their families by avoiding any further recreation activities on frozen lakes and ponds, including walking, snowmobiling, and skating. If you are going to engage in any activity on frozen lakes, make sure to take precautions. You can find a complete list of guidelines from the Canadian Red Cross regarding ice safety by clicking [here](#).

FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES



The Halifax Regional Municipality invites Acadian and Francophone residents to share feedback on the [French Language Services Strategy](#)

through an online survey.

The survey can be completed in French or English and will be available until February 16 at shapemycity.ca.

In 2021, Halifax Regional Council approved the [French-Language Services Strategy](#), designed to strengthen the municipality's engagement with its Acadian and Francophone communities. This strategy includes 33 action items, divided into three phases, to ensure municipal services, programs and decisions meet the needs of French-speaking residents. The first phase of this strategy is complete.

Public Engagement Sessions

Residents will also be able to attend an online engagement session offering the same information in French on Monday, February 3 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

These engagement sessions are intended to collect the community's feedback regarding the current strategy, the completed action items and how to revise and update the strategy to better reflect and meet the community's needs.

The Halifax Regional Municipality has the largest Acadian and Francophone community in Nova Scotia, with more than one third of French-speaking Nova Scotians residing in the municipality. It also accounts for more than half of the self-identified bilingual individuals in the province.



2025 URBAN DESIGN AWARDS



The Halifax Regional Municipality is now accepting submissions for the 2025 Urban Design Awards.

We're recognizing outstanding projects

completed after January 1, 2020 that have helped shape and enhance our communities. For details on categories, eligibility and submission guidelines, visit our [website](#).

STREAMING COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS



Regional Council is using a new system for electronic streaming, to find the council videos – go to our [Agendas, Meetings and Reports page](#) and click the meeting you want to view. Meetings will still be live-streamed and videos will be available after the meeting.

H2O FUND – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



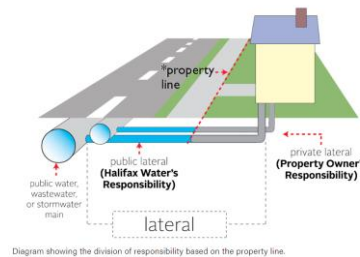
Need help paying your Halifax Water bill? You may qualify for the [H2o Fund](#)

[Financial Assistance Program.](#)

The H2O (Help to Others) Fund is a water, wastewater, and stormwater assistance fund provided in partnership with the Salvation Army to be used by Halifax Water residential customers who are having a hard time making their bill payments. Approved applicants will receive assistance once in a 24-month period to a maximum of \$275.00.

The H2O Fund is not a rebate program. It is intended to assist households in an emergency, especially those with no other resources available. Click [here](#) to access the application form.

HALIFAX WATER - LATERAL LOAN PROGRAM



The [Lateral Loan program](#) was launched on May 1, 2018. It was created to help those

Halifax Water customers who need to replace their private lateral but cannot



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afford or cannot secure a loan with their banking institution to pay for the replacement.

The Lateral Loan can also be used for lead service line replacements.

Click [here](#) to access the Lateral Loan Application form.

MUNICIPALITY RECRUITING FOR SUMMER POSITIONS



The Halifax Regional Municipality is recruiting applicants for summer casual positions. There are a diverse range of jobs in aquatics, inclusion and recreation programming available in communities across the region – the ideal job opportunity for teenagers and students. Applications will open on Tuesday, February 25.

Applicants should refer to individual job postings for closing dates. Wages range between \$17.20 and \$23.20 per hour.

Parks & Recreation staff will be visiting job fairs, schools and community events throughout the winter to support recruitment.

February 2025

For more information on dates and locations, as well as a list of job openings, [click here](#).

2025-2026 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

HRM’s Community Grants Program is accepting applications from registered non-profits and charities located within HRM for the 2025-2026 program. The application deadline is March 31, 2025.

Application forms and program guidebooks are available [here](#) or by:

- visiting an HRM [Customer Service Centres](#).
- Contacting [311](#)
- E-mailing: nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca

INCLUSION SUPPORT ADVISORY GROUP RECRUITMENT



The Inclusion Support Advisory Group will be a volunteer team of residents from all over the Halifax region that will be responsible for leading the development of the Inclusion Support Analysis and Evaluation in Parks & Recreation and will help to ensure that the key



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priorities accurately reflect the needs of the disability community in the municipality.

The advisory group will consist of 8 to 12 persons with disabilities, parents of persons with disabilities and service providers of persons with disabilities. This group will help in the following:

- the creation of a municipality-wide survey
- analyzing of data to determine key issues
- providing recommendations that will make up the final plan.

[Applications](#) are open until **Monday, March 3, 2025**. Any questions about the inclusion support analysis or the advisory committee, please contact inclusion@halifax.ca.

MINIMUM PLANNING REQUIREMENTS - HOUSING



The Halifax Regional Municipality is inviting residents to learn more about new Minimum Planning Requirements that will affect policies and regulations regarding housing in our region.

The municipality is inviting residents to learn about these changes and submit comments during an online public engagement period that will run to Monday, February 24.

Minimum Planning Requirements are provincial regulations that the municipality's land use plans and strategies must meet as required by the province. In August 2024, the province announced 12 new Minimum Planning Requirements. The intent of these requirements is to have the municipality's land use planning framework, including policies, by-laws, regulations, decisions and development approvals prioritize increasing housing supply.

To comply with the new regulations, the municipality is making changes to the [Regional Plan](#), as well as Community Plans and land use by-laws.

More information can be found on [our website](#). For any questions, please contact 902.943.5139 or regionalplan@halifax.ca.

QUINPOOL ROAD – PAWS HERE



For a list of dog friendly locations along Quinpool Road, [click here](#).



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PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Below are the provincial Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and federal Members of Parliament (MPs) representing District 9 and surrounding areas.

PROVINCIAL MLAs



Krista Gallagher
Halifax Chebucto
208 Quinpool Road,
Suite 102
Halifax

Phone: [902-454-8365](tel:902-454-8365)

E-mail: KristaGallagherMLA@gmail.com



Suzy Hansen
Halifax Needham

Suite 1000 - 6080
Young St. Halifax

Phone: 902-455-7300

E-mail: suzyhalifaxneedham@gmail.com



Lisa Lachance
Halifax Citadel –
Sable Island

5516 Spring Garden
Road, Suite 304
Halifax

Phone: 902-220-3021

Fax: 902-700-4606

E-mail: LisaLachanceMLA@gmail.com



Brendan Maguire
Halifax Atlantic

349 Herring Cove
Road. Suite C.
Halifax

Phone: 902-444-0147

Fax: 902-444-8941

E-mail: brendan@brendanmaguire.ca



Rod Wilson
Halifax Armdale

2625 Joseph Howe
Drive, Suite 21
Halifax

Phone: [902-493-0221](tel:902-493-0221)

E-

mail: info@rodwilsonmla.ca

FEDERAL MP's



Lena Metlege Diab
Halifax West

401-3845 Joseph Howe
Drive
Halifax

Phone: 902-426-2217

Fax: 902-426-8339



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE



Rick Perkins
South Shore – St.
Margarets

517 King St
Bridgewater

Phone: 902-527-5655
Fax: 902-527-5656

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S 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.

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. Another way the municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement: In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty People; with that comes roles and responsibilities.

COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

SHAWN CLEARY, MBA
COUNCILLOR
DISTRICT 9
Halifax West Armdale
Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca



Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3J 3A5

902.579.6746
Shawncleary.ca
halifax.ca 311

facebook.com/shawnclearyhalifax |

Chris Newson, Council Constituency Coordinator: 902.490.1562 | Chris.Newson@halifax.ca

I am a member of Halifax Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council, Regional Centre Community Council and the following boards & committees:

- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Chain of Lakes Trail Association Board of Directors
- Halifax Partnership Board of Directors
- Transportation Standing Committee

