



COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

DISTRICT 12 NEWSLETTER

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

**A MESSAGE FROM
COUNCILLOR STEELE**

Happy May, District 12!

Is it really May already? Time is flying and before we know it, summer will be here. As the days continue to get longer and the weather warmer, I hope you can take some time to explore our beautiful parks and trails.



April was a busy month with many great events and initiatives. Take a look at my newsletter below for updates on what's happening around the district.

Mother's Day is coming up and I want to wish all the mothers and mother figures out there a Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for everything you do. Your invaluable contributions shape families, communities and our society.

As always, please reach out to me with any of your municipal questions or concerns. I love to hear from you!

You're Invited



**District 12 Town Hall
with Councillor Janet Steele**

Join your local councillor for an evening of conversation, community, and connection.

 BLT Community Centre, Multipurpose Room
1492 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Lakeside
 Thursday, May 7
 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Please register in advance by emailing Emily Simonov at smithem@halifax.ca

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TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

BEECHVILLE LAKESIDE TIMBERLEA COMMUNITY CORNER

Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Community Centre Now Open!

After years of planning, the BLT Community Centre officially opened on April 17. Thank you to everyone who helped bring this important



community asset to life. I want to recognize former Councillors Reg Rankin, Richard Zuraski, and Iona Stoddard for championing the project, working with the community, and securing municipal funding, as well as federal and provincial partners Geoff Regan and Iain Rankin for their critical support. The BLT now has a shiny new \$23.6 million community centre that will serve residents for generations to come.

Check out more details about this upgraded facility and upcoming programs [here](#).

BLT Trail Meeting

On April 15, MLA Rankin and I hosted a community meeting to discuss interest in community management of the trail. Provincial and municipal staff outlined available supports, and approximately 200 people attended, demonstrating strong community interest. Many residents expressed enthusiasm for forming a new association or volunteering in specific ways.

Abby Brothers (NS Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage) and HRM Active Transportation Manager Emma Martin will follow up with those who signed up. If you missed the meeting and would like to be involved, please email me and I will pass your name along.

Main Street Visioning Workshop – St. Margaret’s Bay Road

The Main Street Workshop in Beechville, Lakeside, Timberlea at the Lakeside Fire Hall had the second highest attendance of all our workshops with over 50 attendees of diverse ages! The attendees were positive and passionate about the opportunity to present their visions for St. Margaret’s Bay Road.

Prominent themes included access to recreation opportunities (including maintaining access to the BLT Trail and Governor’s Lake), supporting the growth of local businesses, and providing a more safe, walkable, and accessible main street corridor.

Check out the [Suburban Plan newsletter](#) for next steps in the Suburban Planning Process.

Community Policing Office Open House

On Monday, April 20, the RCMP hosted an open house at 1820 St. Margaret’s Bay Road, featuring a Mobile Command



Post and the four new community policing officers. The officers are actively engaging with residents and will continue building connections in the community. I’m pleased to share that Constable Geoff Matthews will join me at my May 7 town hall at the BLT Community Centre.

The new officers are working with Citizens on Patrol, delivering fraud-prevention presentations, visiting schools, increasing school-zone patrols, conducting speed enforcement, attending community events, and coordinating with other units to address thefts in the region.



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CLAYTON PARK, WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CORNER

Halifax North West Trails Association

Join the Halifax North West Trails Association for a volunteer trail work party on Saturday, May 2 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Meet at 69 Westridge Drive to help spread and rake wood chips along the Mainland Common Loop trails. Volunteers are encouraged to bring garden tools (shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows or carts), dress for active outdoor work, and pitch in to improve trail safety and accessibility.

Well-Being Expo – Canada Games Centre

On April 18, 27 organizations and service providers took over the CGC to meet the community and offer services to promote community wellbeing. Councillor Morse and I were there to promote some of HRM’s services including the Vulnerable Persons Registry and Emergency Preparedness literature. It was an added plus to have NS Public Health Mobile Clinic there providing vaccines and advice.



I hope to see you at this year’s bird walk at Belcher’s Marsh! [Click here](#) to register.

Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes Volunteer Recognition

The BMBCL Volunteer Recognition was an opportunity to discuss the proposed national urban park with the Friends of Blue Mountain and to recognize Mary Ann McGrath for her leadership of the group.



Upcoming Partial Closure of Mainland Linear Trail to Facilitate Water and Sewer Work

There are plans to close access to the Mainland Linear Trail from Radcliffe Drive to past Brackley Place and Thackeray Close street to trail connectors to facilitate the necessary underground work for the new Fairview/Clayton Park Junior High School. This work will begin soon but I don’t have precise dates to share. When this closure occurs, I have been advised that it will last approximately six weeks.

Please watch for a provincial public service announcement that will announce this closure.

Notary Clinics at Keshen Goodman

Legal Info Nova Scotia will be offering two free Notary Clinic sessions at the Keshen Goodman on May 21 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and May 28 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

At these clinics, notaries can witness signatures and certify true copies of documents. Each appointment is 15 minutes long, with two lawyers available on-site. Registration is available in 10-minute increments. Please find the registration link and additional details [here](#).



HALIFAX WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL APPROVES REGENCY LINKS DEVELOPMENT



On April 21, Halifax and West Community Council voted to support the staff recommendation to approve a development proposal for 3,830 units spread across 18 buildings ranging in height from 12 – 28 storeys. The build-out for this project will take place over the next 20 years starting with an extension of Regency Park Drive to Washmill Lake Drive with traffic lights to be included at this intersection.

The project was unanimously supported by Community Council due to the following: the communities of Fairview, Clayton Park and Mount Royal will be better connected to community infrastructure such as the Canada Games Centre, the Keshen Goodman Library and the Lacewood Transit Terminal due to the developer funded road extension being included in the development. In addition, the development will include increased access to the Mainland Linear Trail and Geizer Hill, sidewalks, protected bike lanes and enhanced transit access.

Traffic and the lack of traffic lights at Grand Haven Blvd were some of the key concerns raised by members of the public. Concerns about wind and stormwater runoff were also raised at the public hearing and in written correspondence. A key minimum standard is that post-development stormwater flows must be balanced with pre-development flows. In practical terms, a

development is not permitted to increase stormwater discharge rates beyond what exists today. The applicant will be required to design and engineer a system that captures, manages, and treats stormwater prior to release, with discharge rates matching existing (pre-development) conditions.

Specific details regarding how stormwater is collected, treated, and discharged - including any connections to municipal infrastructure - are addressed through the detailed engineering submissions reviewed by Halifax Water and HRM Development Engineering. These designs also ensure that stormwater management does not rely on surrounding parks, trails, or forested areas to manage additional runoff beyond existing conditions.

Wind studies are required at the permitting stage, during detailed design. The wind study standards are set out in the development agreement and must be met before a permit can be issued. These studies assess pedestrian comfort and safety on and around the proposed development, and the agreement specifies the criteria and methodology to be used to demonstrate compliance at the detailed design and permitting stage.

For more information, visit the planning application [webpage](#).



Grand opening of the new BLT Community Centre on April 17



2026 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

It was a pleasure to present the 2026 Volunteer Awards to the District 12 recipients. Congratulations and thank you for your service to the community.



From Left to Right: Deputy Mayor Patty Cuttell, Ismat Hussain, Michael Beals, Shelia Higgins-Beals, Olena Riabova, Lauren Donnelly, Mickey Yankilevich Myself and PJ Kapilan

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PARTIAL PARK CLOSURE – AMALFI WAY PARK

Halifax Regional Council will consider the closure of a portion of Amalfi Way Park during the Tuesday, May 26, 2026, session of Regional Council. The affected area is located at the intersection of Amalfi Way and Timberlea Village Parkway.

The proposed partial park closure would allow for the intergovernmental transfer of land to the Province to support the construction of a childcare centre on lands adjacent to the proposed public school site. Residents seeking more information can review the related [staff report](#) on our [website](#) or contact municipal staff at 902-499-6343 or realestate@halifax.ca.

If you would like your comments to be part of the public record, please email clerks@halifax.ca

DISTRICT 12 – 2026/27 CAPITAL WORK

Below you will find a list of the planned capital work for 2026/27 in District 12:

Street Recapitalization

- Lakelands Blvd (Trunk 3 to Chain Lake Dr)

Asphalt Overlay

- Edward Laurie Dr (Wedgewood Ave to Marlwood Dr)
- Wilson Blvd (Wedgewood Ave to Edward Laurie Dr)

Micro surfacing (a thin coating that protects and extends the life of an existing road)

- Chain Lake Dr (Washmill to Civic 127)

New Sidewalk

- Lakelands Blvd – Bus Stop Connection

New Crosswalk

- Lancaster at Kingsley (basic marked crosswalk)

New Crosswalk with Pedestrian Activated Beacons

- Parkland Dr at Heathside Cres (RRFB)

Road Safety (Traffic Calming)

- Speed tables – Radcliffe Dr

Crack Sealing

- Kearney Lake Rd (Dunbrack to Highway 102)
- St Margarets Bay Rd (Lakelands to Beechville Park Dr)



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

Emergency Preparedness Week is from May 3 to 9.

Are you and your family equipped to handle any unexpected situations that may arise?

Residents have a big role to play when it comes to ensuring their own safety.



If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to get to you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 72 hours. This week serves as a great reminder to get prepared by:

- Checking your 72-hour emergency kit
- Knowing your key contacts
- Knowing the support services available in your area
- Where to find accurate information to stay informed

To stay informed about emergencies and operations, residents are encouraged to sign up for [hfxALERT](#), the municipality’s mass notification system. Subscribers may receive urgent and non-urgent notifications by phone, email, and/or text message. During emergencies, the municipality communicates with residents via public service announcements, web updates, social media ([@hfxgov](#)) and hfxALERT. Residents may also contact 311 for more information about emergency operations.

By taking a few simple steps today, you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies – anytime, anywhere. Visit our [website](#) to stay informed and to learn more.

EXPLORE BLUE MOUNTAIN BIRCH COVE LAKES

Friends of Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes are offering a series of hikes again this spring to different parts of the wilderness area for all types of terrain for all skill levels. Our guided hikes for those who might want to explore the woods but would feel more comfortable in a group with others leading the way. Spaces are limited and registration is required.

Destination	Length (km)	Date	Time
Blue Mountain Summit	2.0	May 9, 2026	10:00 am
Fox Lake Lookoff	3.2	May 16, 2026	9:30 am
Susies Lake Flagpole Hill	2.2	May 23, 2026	10:00 am
Ash Lake	7.0	June 6, 2026	9:00 am
Charlies Lake Lookoff	2.2	June 13, 2026	10:00 am
Charlies Lake Loop	3.5	June 20, 2026	9:30 am

Check out their [website](#) for the schedule and to register.

DISTRICT CAPITAL FUND

Each councillor has a small fund that can be used to support non-profits to undertake activities that will benefit the community. To apply, we require a letter of request, including the name and address of the non - profit group, and explanation of how the funds will be used and a completed [Capital Request Form](#).



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Rockingham Heritage Society Mural

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

May is [Asian Heritage Month](#), a time to honour the rich history, cultures, and contributions of Asian communities in Canada. It's an opportunity to learn, reflect, and celebrate the diversity that strengthens our country.



You can take part by:

- Exploring books, films, and stories that highlight Asian Canadian experiences
- Attending local or virtual events, exhibitions, and cultural festivals
- Supporting Asian-owned businesses in our community
- Starting conversations about the importance of inclusion and cultural understanding

Stay tuned for more updates on events taking place across the municipality to celebrate Asian Heritage Month on our [website](#).

NOVA SCOTIA WALK DAY 2026

Nova Scotia Walk Day 2026 takes place on May 13 and celebrates how walking connects us to each other while promoting safe, walkable communities



across the province. Community, workplace, and school walks are happening across Nova Scotia, with public walk listings now [available online](#) for anyone looking to join or support a local walk.

HALIFACT HOME ENERGY UPGRADE PROGRAM

The HalifACT Home Energy Upgrade (HHEU) program has just launched. The program helps homeowners cut their energy use by 50 per cent to improve home comfort and lower energy costs, provides financing and valuable technical support services to property and homeowners to cover initial costs and help project manage cost-saving energy upgrades.



The HalifACT Home Energy Upgrade program directly advances Regional Council's priority of strengthening communities by reducing carbon emissions through initiatives for homeowners. Through the program, residents can affordably upgrade their properties leading to future cost savings that help enhance quality of life throughout our municipality.

Visit our [website](#) for more information.



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COMMUNITY CLEAN UP GARBAGE DISPOSAL

As spring begins, I know many groups are eager to organize community cleanups.

I want to remind folks that when you are planning the clean ups, please ensure you coordinate how the garbage will be disposed of. There are a few options:

- Garbage and recycling can be disposed of by dividing it between participants and placing it curbside with your household waste. This material will count towards the limit of six garbage bags per single unit household and sorting rules still apply. There is no limit for the amount of recyclables you can put out for collection.
- Participants may also deliver collected garbage directly to the Otter Lake Waste Facility. If your event is registered in the [Pick-Me-Up program](#), your tipping fees will be waived. Please email Solid Waste staff at wasteless@halifax.ca two weeks prior to your event to make drop off arrangements.
- If neither of these options can be accommodated by your group, please contact 3-1-1 two weeks prior to your event to arrange collection by HRM staff.
- For more information on community clean ups, please visit our [website](#).



I appreciated the update from Chris Rogers, Community Navigator with Halifax Regional Libraries on the many community activities taking place at the Keshen Goodman Library.

SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION



Registration for summer camps started last month and there is still space in some of our summer camp programs. Check out our [website](#) to see what's available and to register.

Registration for aquatics at summer pools and beach sessions 1 and 2 will open on Tuesday, June 16, while beach sessions 3 and 4 will open Tuesday, July 21.

ENGAGE HALIFAX

Want to stay up to date on municipal projects and opportunities to provide feedback? Visit [Engage Halifax](#), the municipality's online hub for public engagement. You can explore active projects, learn about upcoming initiatives, and share your input on planning, transportation, parks, housing, and more.

PEDESTRIAN PATHS THROUGH WORK SITES

Regional Council approved amendments to the Administrative Order on Construction Site Management on April 14 to require Pedestrian Management Plans around construction sites. This includes providing protected, accessible walkways when sidewalks are closed. Learn more [here](#).



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SPRING CLEAN UP

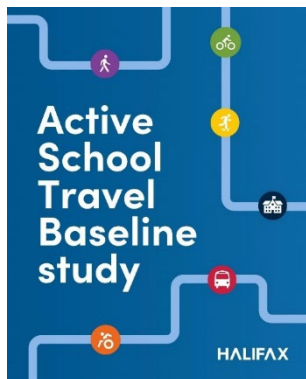
The municipality's multi-week spring cleanup program includes street, sidewalk and bicycle lane sweeping, removal of debris and litter, emptying of garbage cans and other general spring maintenance. Street and sidewalk cleaning.

A substantial street cleaning program takes place every year between April and November to ensure streets are kept reasonably clear of debris for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. The program also helps decrease the amount of debris and sediment entering the storm drain system.

Eight municipal vacuum street sweepers and two tandem broom trucks are used for an initial cleaning of approximately 1,500 kilometres of roadway and 3,000 kilometres of curb in the core areas of Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford.

To learn more about our spring clean up programs, visit our [website](#).

ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL PROGRAM



The Action Transportation team are looking for teachers interested in facilitating in-class activities for our Active School Travel Program Baseline Study.

Active School Travel (AST) refers to any human-powered way to get to or from school, including

walking, biking, and rolling with scooters or mobility devices. Every school community and every student can benefit from AST!

The municipality has created several activities for teachers to promote the program in their classrooms. You can also take part in a survey to provide your feedback.

Learn more about the project on our [website](#).

MOBILE HOUSEHOLD SPECIAL WASTE DEPOTS

Bring your unwanted a Household Special Waste Mobile Depot near you to be handled and disposed of by experts. The depots will operate rain or shine from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



[Click here](#) for a list of accepted items and more details about upcoming dates. You can also dispose of special household waste at the HSW Depot at 20 Horseshoe Lake Drive.

NEW REAL-TIME HALIFAX TRANSIT ALERT SERVICE

Halifax Transit is offering a new way for riders to keep track of service updates.

Residents can now visit halifax.ca/realtime-alerts and filter their preferred route to quickly see real-time detours, trip cancellations, stop closures and snow plan notifications all in one place.

With this new addition, there are now several ways to stay up to date on transit service:

- [Real-time alerts](#) for short-term detours, cancellations and stop closures
- [Upcoming](#) routing and schedule changes
- [Long-term disruptions](#), including construction-related detours and stop closures

Riders can also continue using third-party trip planning apps to access Halifax Transit data in real time.

For the most current information on detours, cancellations and stop closures, visit our [website](#).



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CURBSIDE GIVE AWAY WEEKEND

Free yourself of clutter and find some great free items of your own during Curbside Give Away Weekend. This event takes place rain or shine, twice a year all across the municipality.

The next event is June 6 and 7. [Click here](#) for more information.



TICK SEASON

Tick season has begun - As temperatures rise, ticks become more active.



Nova Scotia is home to several kinds of ticks, but only blacklegged tick bites can cause illnesses like Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Powassan virus.

Reduce your risk of getting a tick-borne illnesses by educating yourself, staying safe and performing tick checks after being outdoors. Learn more [here](#).

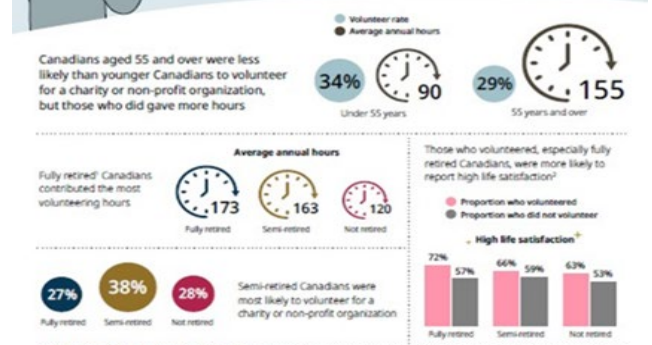
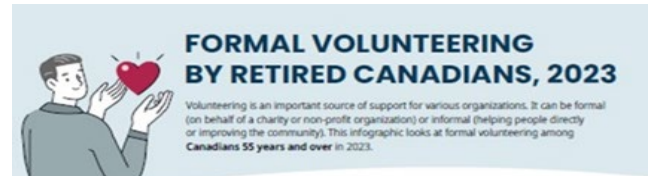
PACK IN AND PACK OUT

When visiting our parks, trails, and beaches, please remember to pack in what you bring and pack it all out. Keeping our shared spaces clean helps protect nature and ensures everyone can enjoy them—let's all do our part to keep Halifax green and clean.

ROAD MAINTENANCE PLANNED FOR DUNBRACK STREET

The Halifax Regional Municipality will complete preventative road maintenance on Dunbrack Street (between Ross Street and Langbrae Drive) during the 2026 construction season. The work involves micro surfacing, a thin surface treatment that helps preserve the existing asphalt.

Construction timing will depend on weather and contractor scheduling, with advance notice provided. Halifax Transit bus stops and roadside access may be temporarily affected. Residents with heated driveways, underground systems, mobility concerns, or servicing issues are encouraged to contact 311 or email contactus@311.halifax.ca.



REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING

	Fully retired	Semi-retired	Not retired
To improve their well-being or health	61%	57%	50%
To network or meet people	50%	51%	40%
Because their friends volunteer	39%	45%	32%

TOP BARRIERS TO VOLUNTEERING

	Fully retired	Semi-retired	Not retired
Health problems or physically unable to volunteer	50%	62%	74%
Gave enough time	45%	52%	51%
Unable to make a long-term commitment	43%	42%	41%

1. Retirement status is based on the self-reported response to the question, "At this time, do you consider yourself completely retired, partly retired or not retired?"
2. Individuals are considered to have high life satisfaction if they selected 8, 9 or 10 on a scale of 1 to 10, where 0 means "very dissatisfied" and 10 means "very satisfied" when asked, "How do you feel about your life as a whole right now?"



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COUNCILLOR SLOW DOWN SIGNS

If you are interested in a slow-down sign for your lawn/personal property, please email me at janet.steele@halifax.ca. These signs are made of plastic and come with the lawn stakes for installation.

Please be informed that the District 12 "Please Drive Slowly" signs are NOT a traffic calming measure, and they have no authority to direct or slow down traffic or make children safer on the streets.



CELEBRATE YOUR MILESTONE WITH A COMMEMORATIVE SCROLL

Are you or someone you know celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary? You can request a commemorative scroll signed by both your district councillor and the Mayor! To request one, simply email me at janet.steele@halifax.ca with the following details:

- Name of the individual or couple
- Occasion (birthday or anniversary)
- Date of the celebration
- Community they live in

We'll take care of the rest and ensure a scroll is prepared to mark the special occasion.

WINDSOR STREET EXCHANGE PROJECT UPDATE

On March 31, Regional Council approved a report on Phase 2 of construction of the Windsor Street exchange. Staff will continue with awarding the construction contract for Phase 2 including future proofing new structures along the corridor where municipal lands permit to accommodate future dedicated transit lanes and separated pedestrian and cycling facilities. Council also approved an increase in the project budget by \$30,000,000 as included in the 2026/27 Capital Plan.



On April 7, the Federal Government announced funding for the Halifax Water work that is part of the project. Coordinating Halifax Water's infrastructure work with the municipality's construction does mean that more work is completed within a single, longer construction phase. However, delivering the projects together under the progressive design-build model approved by Council reduces the overall duration and inefficiencies that would result from two separate projects occurring in the same area at different times, or together without integration. This approach minimizes repeat traffic disruptions and avoids reopening recently reconstructed streets, resulting in fewer and shorter impacts overall for residents, businesses and road users.

The Windsor Street Exchange project is a major transportation and trade infrastructure investment designed to improve safety, reliability and connectivity for people, goods and transit in the Halifax peninsula area.

Learn more about this project and other traffic impacts that may occur [here](#).



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REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for May. Regional Council meetings are held on Tuesdays:

- May 12
- May 26

Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings – including committees [here](#). Meeting agendas (including the specific start time of 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.) and a link to watch the video are generally available by the Friday prior to the meeting. Reports on the items that councillors vote on are available and are linked throughout the meeting agenda.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Halifax and West Community Council normally meets once a month on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#).

Stay tuned for the video link to be shared closer to the next Halifax and West meeting, scheduled for May 19.

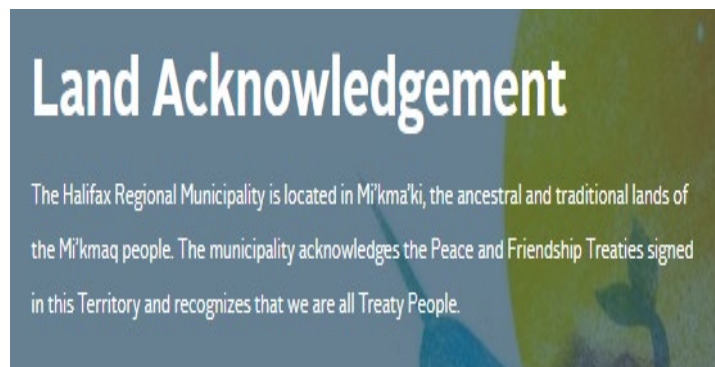
Currently serving on:

- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Executive Standing Committee
- Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee
- Appeals Standing Committee
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Halifax Water Board of Commissioners
- Canada Games Centre Board of Directors
- Otter Lake Community Monitoring Committee

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.



AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Halifax Regional Municipality recognizes that African Nova Scotians are a distinct founding people in Nova Scotia who have been a key part of the province's culture and history.



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