



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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Item No. 15.3.2

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Included on Agenda</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b>
<b>Date of Council Meeting: May 27, 2025</b>		
<b>Subject: Municipal Litter Strategy</b>		
<p><b>Motion for Council to Consider:</b> That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to prepare a staff report outlining a comprehensive litter strategy. The strategy should be informed by a regional scan of successful anti-litter campaigns, relevant bylaws and maximum associated fines, with a specific focus on litter and debris from commercial, industrial, and construction sources. The report should explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fresh marketing, education material, and media campaigns related to the negative impacts of littering and related fines,</li><li>• A proactive anti-litter approach targeting retail, construction and commercial properties,</li><li>• Enhanced and sustained bylaw enforcement at landfills and Construction and Demolition (C&amp;D) facilities, including the monitoring and fining of haulers transporting unsecured garbage, and</li><li>• Ongoing litter pickups in coordination with facilities that accumulate the most litter.</li></ul> <p><b>Reason:</b> The intent of this motion is to address the significant and often overlooked source of litter in our region: commercial, industrial, and construction-related debris. While public messaging frequently targets individual behaviour, the reality is that a substantial volume of litter along our roads and highways originates from commercial activities. This includes unsecured loads travelling to landfills or C&amp;D facilities, poorly managed waste from retail and industrial properties, and debris accumulation around construction zones. The scale and impact of this type of litter far exceeds that of individual infractions, both in terms of volume and environmental harm. In addition, flying industrial debris and on roads pose serious safety risks for drivers, contributing to chipped windshields, tire damage from nails or sharp materials, and hazardous driving conditions.</p> <p>To effectively address litter in the municipality, both individuals and industry must be held accountable. A cleaner environment depends on changing personal habits and strengthening HRM's responsibility. When commercial and industrial sources of litter are visibly and consistently managed, public spaces become cleaner and less prone to further littering—reinforcing the well-documented principle that "litter attracts litter." By combining education</p>		

and enforcement, and by focusing on major contributors as a starting point, we can influence broader behaviour, protect public safety, and create a more responsible and cost-effective approach to a serious environmental problem.

**Outcome Sought:** A staff report that includes an evidence-based, targeted litter management strategy, reasonable and sustainable bylaw enforcement for commercial and industrial sources of litter, and compelling fines for bylaw infractions. A cost-benefit analysis of having greater bylaw enforcement should also be included, where the cost of having additional staff is considered alongside the revenue generated from fines and overall public safety and environmental health.

*Councillor Nancy Hartling*

*District 13*