

Item No. 15.4.3

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: July 8, 2025		
Subject: Strong Mayor Powers		
Motion: Halifax Regional Council directs		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) The Mayor to write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs John Lohr requesting that if the Province is considering Strong Mayor Powers that the Province engage in consultation and discussion with HRM and Nova Scotia's other municipalities prior to making any legislative changes(2) The Mayor to write a letter to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Board encouraging the Federation to adopt a similar position, that any changes should first involve consultations with the Province's municipalities.(3) That both letters be sent by end of day July 22 and copies of the letters and any response be circulated to Council(4) The CAO to provide a staff report on how strong mayor powers have been implemented elsewhere in Canada and what lessons can be learned from that experience		
Reason: There continues to be "swirl" and "chatter" around the potential for strong mayor powers in Nova Scotia. When asked by the press in February and June, the Minister of Municipal Affairs indicated that there are no immediate plans to put forward strong mayor powers here, but that he hasn't ruled them out. The Minister has also indicated that informal conversations have occurred on the topic with some of the Province's mayors, including HRM. The Minister has publicly indicated a willingness to discuss these issues with municipalities. While HRM isn't seeking any legislative changes at this time, HRM should register it's request that if the Province is contemplating fundamental changes to how municipal governance and democracy functions, that this only proceed through engagement and consultation with the Province's municipalities.		
Outcome Sought: Letters setting out HRM's position and a staff report on the potential implications of strong mayor powers		
<i>Moved Councillor Sam Austin</i>		<i>District 5</i>