

Request for Regional Council Consideration		
<p>X Agenda Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Wednesday the week prior to the meeting)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one working day prior to meeting)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor</p>
<p>Date of Meeting: August 5, 2025</p>		
<p>Subject: Follow up letter- Lobbyist Registry – Halifax Regional Municipality Charter /Lobbyist Registration Act</p>		
<p>Motion for Regional Council to Consider:</p> <p>That Regional Council direct the Mayor to write a letter to the Province requesting a response to the municipality's 2018 request for the expansion of the provincial <i>Lobbyist Registration Act</i> to include regulation of lobbying conducted at the local government level.</p>		
<p>Reason:</p> <p>In 2018 the municipality requested an amendment to the <i>Halifax Regional Municipality Charter</i> to expand the provincial <i>Lobbyist Registration Act</i> to include regulation of lobbying conducted at the local government level. To date, HRM has not received a response to this request.</p>		
<p>Outcome Sought: Increased public transparency and accountability.</p> <p>Increased public transparency and accountability of public office holders is more important now than ever. Around the world we are seeing a weakening of democratic institutions and a tendency to ignore the public good to the benefit of a chosen few.</p> <p>Our democracy is currently very fragile with Regional Council receiving directives from other orders of government to reverse decisions made by a duly elected Council. And to exacerbate the situation, Nova Scotia's current municipal governance model is under consideration for change during the term of a democratically elected council.</p> <p>The public has a right to be fully informed on who is privately lobbying municipal council to influence council decisions. The public may wish to be enabled to analyze the linkages between campaign financing contributions and contributors and those regularly lobbying the Council.</p> <p>With the recent discussions on strong mayor power possibly being granted to Nova Scotia Mayors, it is imperative this accountability mechanism be accorded to HRM in advance of any possible governance changes.</p>		
<p><i>Councillor Janet Steele</i></p>		<p><i>District 12</i></p>