



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 15.2.4
Halifax Regional Council
September 9, 2025

TO: Mayor Fillmore and Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM: Councillor Cathy Deagle Gammon, Chair, Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee

DATE: August 21, 2025

SUBJECT: Ice Rink Availability, Allocation and Rate Fee Considerations

ORIGIN

August 21, 2025 meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, Item 10.3.2.

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee request that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report with:

1. An update on the Long-Term Arena Strategy and the approach to future facilities planning for arenas;
2. A review of the impacts of the single, flat rate as set by the HRM Rate Fee By-law for Spring and Summer and the dates for those seasons on Provincial Sport Organizations; and
3. Information on the implementation of the current ice allocation policy, challenges and opportunities for improvement.

BACKGROUND

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee received a presentation from the Bedford Skating Club to consider the challenges of ice surface availability at the Bedford Skating Club.

For further information refer to the attached presentation dated August 21, 2025.

DISCUSSION

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee considered the presentation and approved a motion to Halifax Regional Council as outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications at this time.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations were identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meetings of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee are open to public attendance and members of the public are invited to address the Standing Committee for up to five (5) minutes during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Standing Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications at this time.

ALTERNATIVES

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee did not provide alternatives.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Schedule 3 Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee Terms of Reference subsection 5(c):

Oversight – Community Building Initiatives

5. The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee shall oversee the Municipality's Community building initiatives in the areas of arts, culture, recreation and heritage and related facilities strategies by:

...

- (c) overseeing the progress on the Municipality's Community building and enhancing strategies and any related initiatives.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Presentation dated August 21, 2025

Attachment 2 – Request to present July 22, 2025

Attachment 1 Community Planning Presentation

Item 10.3.2

Presented by Marni Tuttle
President of Bedford Skating Club



Bedford Skating Club

Mission

Provide the highest quality programs in a welcoming environment to everyone who want to skate:
promoting fitness and a life-long passion for our sport.

Volunteer Leadership

Our club is run by dedicated volunteers.

Professional Coaching

We provide highquality professional
coaching for all levels.

Inclusive Programming

Everyone is welcome to participate and
enjoy skating.

Community Impact

1 of 5 Clubs in HRM
1 of 16 in Nova Scotia

Bedford Skating Club - About Us

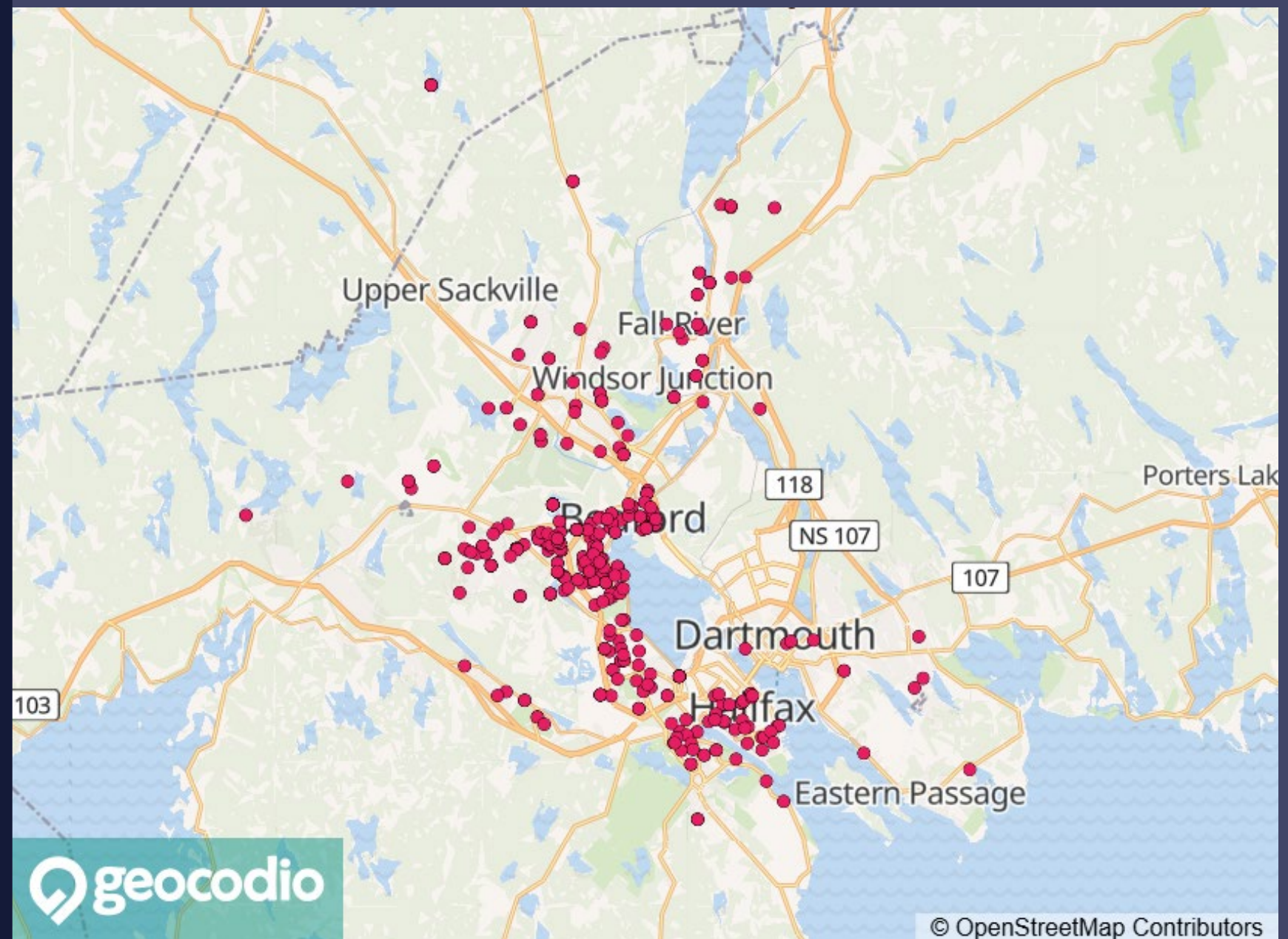
National Club/School Award winner for Nova Scotia in 2025

- Recognized for CanSkate program
- Efforts for inclusive CanSkate program

Running most (but not all) of the possible Skate Canada programs for 478 skaters

- Waitlist of 268 across all programs
- 2025/26 cancel classes for teens to continue core programs
- 75% female athletes

Skaters seeking national team placements leave for other provinces





Overview of Skate Canada

Skate Canada offers a variety of programs, including **CanSkate** and **Competitive**, catering to all ages and skill levels.

Skate Canada Programs Overview

01 CanSkate: Introduction to Basic Skills

Focuses on fundamental skating skills for beginners.

02 STARSkate: Individual Progress and Skill Development

Offers a pathway for skaters to advance their skills.

03 CompetitiveSkate: Training for Competitive Environments

Prepares skaters for competitive events and performances.

Key Issues Overview

HRM Rate Fee ByLaw

- Sets the regular season as Oct 1 - Mar 31
 - Competitive season begins in summer and qualifying is complete by November
 - Skating commitment is September-March 31
- Importance of year-round morning ticket ice
 - March 14/25 letter cancelling ticket ice





Key Issues Overview

Ice Allocation

- Policy driven:
 - Imperfect model
 - Assumptions in data collection challenge for skating
- Commitment to time for a season
- *Thank you to staff who have been working through this with us*

Key Issues Overview

Ice Availability

- Primary rink assignment is LeBrun
 - Opens and closes based on “regular” season
- All available ice time compatible with skater availability is assigned (school days/late nights/holidays)
- Requirements to create a financially sustainable pipeline for non profit sports club
 - CanSkate is the gateway to ice sports, StarSkate & Podium become volunteers for CanSkate and then officials and coaches





Request to CPED

01 Evaluate impacts of HRM Rate Fee ByLaw

Season is based on what sports?

02 Policy & Processes for Ice Allocation

Can the model be built with inclusion of all ice sports?

03 Review of ice time availability

An update of the ice surfaces review and indoor ice surfaces review that includes consultation and a review of Long-Term Athlete Development for key ice use groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.



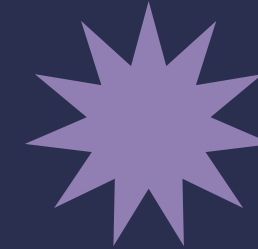
Email

bedfordskatingclubpresident
@gmail.com



Web

bedfordskatingclub.com



Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/BedfordSkatingClub>
<https://www.instagram.com/bedfordskatingclub>

Attachment 2

From: [Office, Clerks](#)
To: [Ross Siegel, Simon](#)
Cc: [Vining, Krista](#)
Subject: FW: [External Email] Request to present at CPED
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 9:49:21 AM

HALIFAX REGIONAL
MUNICIPALITY

July 22, 2025

MUNICIPAL CLERK

Hi Simon – please see the presentation request below.

April

From: Marni Tuttle **Redacted**
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 9:27 AM
To: Office, Clerks <clerks@halifax.ca>
Cc: Bedford Skating Club <bedfordskatingclub@hotmail.com>
Subject: [External Email] Request to present at CPED

[This email has been received from an external person or system]

Chair of CPED,

As a parent of youth athletes and the President of the Bedford Skating Club, I'd like to share with CPED some of the impacts of ice allocation and availability on the provision of Skate Canada's recreational and competitive programs at the Bedford Skating Club.

The goal of the presentation is to impress upon the Committee the:

- impacts of HRM Rate Fee By-law for Spring and Summer on the season for skating athletes,
- challenges for the Bedford Skating Club created by the current ice allocation process and policy, and
- the need to consider whether HRM has and is planning for enough ice surfaces with appropriate availability to support local sports clubs.

The presentation would be provided by me and The Bedford Skating Club's administrator and Skate Canada National Level Coach, Becky Whalen.

You can learn a little bit more about the Bedford Skating Club, one of five clubs located in HRM at <https://www.facebook.com/BedfordSkatingClub/posts/pfbid02uteyfVUNfjFj7dmRouuNTkQMmQHHhaXKda8PLDfiyu1RZzeeK55SKnGvtnuZCHe5l>

Thank you

-Marni

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Municipal Clerks Office

Date Distributed: August 13, 2025
Committee members, William Hatfield,
Maggie MacDonald

Meeting: CPED

Meeting Date: August 21, 2025

Item Number: 10.3.2

Marni Tuttle

[Redacted]
 [Redacted]

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