



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

Item No. 15.5.2
Halifax Regional Council
September 23, 2025

TO: Mayor Fillmore and Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM: Mayor Fillmore, Chair, Executive Standing Committee

DATE: September 15, 2025

SUBJECT: Treat Accessibly Day

ORIGIN

September 15, 2025 meeting of Executive Standing Committee, Item 13.1.2.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council recognizes October 16th annually as Treat Accessibly Preparation Day.

BACKGROUND

The Executive Standing Committee received a staff recommendation report dated June 4, 2025 to consider recommending that Halifax Regional Council recognizes October 16th annually as Treat Accessibly Preparation Day.

For further information refer to the attached staff report dated June 4, 2025.

DISCUSSION

The Executive Standing Committee considered the staff report dated June 4, 2025 and approved the recommendation to Halifax Regional Council as outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications are outlined in the attached staff report dated June 4, 2025.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk consideration is outlined in the attached staff report dated June 4, 2025.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meetings of the Executive 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.

For further information on Community Engagement refer to the attached staff report dated June 4, 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental implications are outlined in the staff report dated June 4, 2025.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives are outlined in the attached staff report dated June 4, 2025.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Legislative Authority is outlined in the attached staff report dated June 4, 2025.

Executive Standing Committee – Terms of Reference General Government of the Council

8. The Executive Standing Committee shall act as a review committee for matters related to the general self-governance and administration of the Council as directed by the Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Staff recommendation report dated June 4, 2025

Report Prepared by: Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.497.7548

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Item No. 13.1.2
Executive Standing Committee
September 15, 2025

TO: Mayor Fillmore and Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 4, 2025

SUBJECT: Treat Accessibly Day

ORIGIN

Motion from the May 26, 2025, meeting

THAT the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report to consider recognizing October 16 annually as Treat Accessibly Day as part of the Treat Accessibly initiative.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that Halifax Regional Council recognizes October 16th annually as Treat Accessibly Preparation Day. Treat Accessibly is a Canadian organization which has provided lawn signs and information to promote accessible trick or treating for all. There are no financial implications or risks associated with this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council, recognizes October 16th annually as Treat Accessibly Preparation Day.

BACKGROUND

Treat Accessibly presented to the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on May 12th 2025. From there, the AAC put forward a motion to the Executive Standing Committee requesting a staff report to consider recognizing October 16 annually as Treat Accessibly Day as part of the Treat Accessibly initiative.

DISCUSSION

Since their founding in 2017, Treat Accessibly has become the first and only community movement in Canada with the goal of making trick or treating 100% accessible for children with any disability at any home. It aims to bring together neighbours, government, and the private sector to initiate a meaningful,

unifying, diversity-inclusion conversation.

Treat Accessibly has provided 250,000 homes across Canada with lawn signs which inform neighbours that their home will be accessible for trick or treating on Halloween. Across Canada, they have had their signs available at over 700 retail locations, including Canadian Tire and REMAX, and have had information included on millions of Kinder products.

To treat more accessibly, houses can:

- Halloween decor lawn sign by displaying a week before Oct. 31
- Remove stairs and barriers, and treat from your stoop, driveway or garage
- Remove triggers and engagement barriers by being highly visible as families approach
- Permit kids to stay close to parents
- Be educated on non-verbal and non-visible disabilities
- Look out for interaction cues from parents
- Include non-edible treats

Treat Accessibly is hosting their Halifax Halloween Village on Saturday, September 27th, which is a free house to house trick or treating experience championing accessibility and inclusion. For more information, the public can register by visiting [their website](#).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications at this time.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations were identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was required.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

1. The Executive Standing Committee could decline to approve the recommendation.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, S.N.S. 2008, c. 39 as amended:

7A The purposes of the Municipality are to

- (a) provide good government;

(b) provide services, facilities and other things that, in the opinion of the Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the Municipality; and

(c) develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

11 (1) The powers of the Municipality are exercised by the Council.

(2) In the general exercise of its powers, the Council shall take into account the principle of accessibility for its citizens with disabilities.

2017-005-GOV, the *Advisory Committee on Accessibility Administrative Order*

Duties of the Committee

6. The Committee shall advise Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on matters related to persons with disabilities as follows:

[...]

(b) identify and advise on the accessibility of existing and proposed municipal services and facilities;

(c) advise and make recommendations about strategies designed to achieve the objectives of the Committee;