

# 2022/23 Fiscal Framework

Budget Committee

November 23rd, 2021

# Current fiscal year: Opportunities

- **Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lake Regional Park**
  - Provided \$750,000 to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust for purchasing land
- **Peace & Friendship Park renaming**
- **Ten-week free summer concert series**
- **COVID-19 Event Recovery Grant Program for Non-profit Organizations**
- **Adoption of the Tourism Master Plan**



# Current fiscal year: Opportunities



- **Anti-Black Racism Charter**
- **Accessibility Strategy**
- **Administrative policies, including:**
  - FlexWork Halifax program
  - Fair Hiring Policy
  - Proof of Vaccination Policy
- **Moving Forward Together Plan (Halifax Transit):**  
85 per cent complete
- **Windsor Street Exchange project well underway**
- **West Bedford Park & Ride**

# Current fiscal year: Opportunities

- **Mill Cove ferry service linking Bedford and Halifax**
- **On-Demand Private Accessible Transportation Service**
- **COVID-19 Economic Response and Recovery Plan**
- **African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Action Plan**
- **Adoption of Centre Plan Package B:**
  - Enabling over 55,000 new housing units
- **Six projects under CMHC's Rapid Housing Initiative**



# Current fiscal year: Opportunities

- **Redesign projects launched:**
  - Cogswell District
  - Spring Garden Road
- **HalifACT advancements:**
  - Community building upgrades
  - Solar energy measures
  - Procurement under way for 60 electric buses
  - Planned expansion for Ragged Lake Depot
  - Decreased oil usage in HRM buildings
  - Partnership with Efficiency Nova Scotia resulting in savings
  - Hybrid/electric vehicle purchase



**cogswell**  
DISTRICT

# Current fiscal year: Challenges

- **Supply chain issues**
- **Operational responses to COVID-19 and Public Health requirements**
- **Labour market challenges, including:**
  - Skill shortages
  - Overall post-COVID-19 recruitment challenges
- **Inflation**
- **Funding growth and climate change initiatives**
- **Fuel costs**
- **Volume of projects**

# Budget timeline

- **Detailed discussions, along with public input, beginning in February 2022**
- **Time for Regional Council to debate**
- **Final budget expected to be completed on April 12, 2022**

# Budget considerations

- **Inflationary pressures**
- **Revenue losses**
- **HalifACT and the Integrated Mobility Plan, including projects such as:**
  - Electric vehicles
  - Net-zero buildings
  - Multi-modal transit corridors
- **Climate Action Tax**



# Fiscal condition

- **Fiscal condition has been strong**
- **Municipal residential taxes are at lower end of scale in comparison to similar Canadian municipalities**
- **Low debt levels (room to add debt strategically)**
- **Deed transfer taxes**
- **Increasingly rapid growth in population and economy**
- **Prior to COVID-19, Halifax Regional Municipality was one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the country**

# Population and growth

- **Current economic forecasts show that the municipality's population growth will continue to accelerate, estimating:**
  - 9,700 new individuals arriving in 2022
  - Nearly 4,000 new homes being built
- **Municipality's population expected to exceed 500,000 within next five years**
- **Lowered vacancy rates, simultaneous labour shortages and wage increases, price increases and supply chain disruptions**
- **Housing shortage and housing insecurity**
- **Several major cost increases, including:**
  - Rise in fuel costs by 40 per cent
  - Estimated \$2.9 million resulting from RCMP collective agreement
  - \$4 million in contractual increases across the organization
  - \$10 million in approved incremental positions including \$1.5 million in Planning & Development staff; \$2.4 million in TPW; \$2.6 million in HRFE, all needed due to population growth and resulting service impacts

# Fiscal concerns

- **Limit on how many projects the municipality can deliver at any one time**
- **Delays and gaps in supply chain, as well as labour markets, causing extensions to project delivery timelines and increased vendor costs**
- **The municipality is seeking partnerships with other levels of government to access funding programs**
  - Without specific program details, it is not possible to incorporate this potential funding into municipal budget planning

# Summary

**The proposed 2022/23 Fiscal Framework reflects the needs, challenges and opportunities of the municipality.**

