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REC'D - HALIFAX
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CHANDLER O.

June 2, 2008

Valerie Payn, President
Metropolitan Halifax Chamber of Commerce
656 Windmill Road, Suite 200
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1B8

Dear Ms. Payn:

Thank you for your continued support of the Charter and HRMbyDesign legislative amendments. I'd like to brief you on the current status of HRM's legislative needs.

The HRM Charter did not pass through the provincial legislature this sitting. This has implications not only for the powers and clarity that the Charter would have provided, but also for some of the legislative amendments that were requested to support HRMbyDesign which were to be included in the Charter.

As you know, the Charter, modeled off the *Municipal Government Act*, would reduce the time for legislative amendments, as province-wide consultations would no longer be necessary to amend this legislation. The inclusion of the concept of District Council into the Bill was not one supported by HRM's Regional Council, nor was it requested by Regional Council. It is my understanding that this addition may have impacted the ability of the Bill to proceed through the House.

In addition, the legislative amendments necessary to implement HRMbyDesign were tabled as amendments to the proposed Charter. The intent of some aspects of HRMByDesign is to bring clarity and predictability to downtown development, improve the quality of design, and increase protection for heritage. I realize these were amendments also supported by the Chamber, and as the Charter has not passed, the HRMbyDesign amendments have also not proceeded.

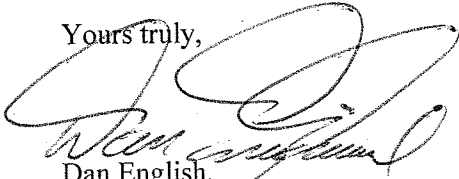
HRM will be seeking further clarification on the deferral, as well as consulting with key stakeholders to determine the best approach for moving forward with the intent of HRMbyDesign. The overwhelming message received throughout the recent public consultation on the draft Downtown Halifax Urban Design Plan has been one of public support for HRMbyDesign's vision for the downtown core of Halifax.

HRM looks forward to the legislation proceeding in the Fall session of the House, once amended to reflect the original intent of the Charter by removing the reference to the District Council concept. We will continue to work with our partners over the coming months to ensure these important amendments can proceed at the earliest opportunity. Your continued support is appreciated.

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In closing, I am pleased to inform you that the necessary changes were made to the Municipal Election Act that will provide the powers for HRM to offer electronic voting in the October 2008 municipal election. This initiative is a first for a Nova Scotia municipality and will provide more alternatives for citizens to vote in the upcoming election.

Yours truly,



Dan English,
Chief Administrative Officer

Copy: Mayor and Council Members
Stephen Dempsey, Pres & CEO of GHP
Dick Miller, Chair, GHP Economic Strategy Committee
Stephen Lund, NSBI

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