

Amanda R. Dunfield

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Windsor NS

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February 5, 2026

West Hants Regional Municipality
ATTN. WHRM Council
76 Morison Drive
Windsor, NS
B0N 2T0

Good afternoon Mayor Zebian and Members of Council,

Please accept this correspondence as a formal request for inclusion on the agenda for the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

The basis for this request is as follows:

Whereas the Nova Scotia House of Assembly is scheduled to resume sitting on February 23, 2026, and;

- Public interest and concern regarding the potential introduction of strong mayor powers in Nova Scotia has intensified over the past year.
- The concept of granting strong mayor powers was not publicly introduced prior to the 2021 Provincial election, the 2024 Municipal election, or the 2024 Provincial election, nor was it included in the campaign platforms of any candidates.
- Since that time, the Province of Nova Scotia has undertaken several actions that were not presented to the public before elections and were implemented without public or Mi'kmaq consultation, some of which have been perceived as encroaching on municipal jurisdiction and authority.
- Premier Tim Houston has not stated that strong mayor powers would never be granted. Rather, he indicated that his government would not introduce such powers during the upcoming legislative session, referring specifically to the fall sitting scheduled to begin on September 23, 2025 (Premier Tim Houston confirms no strong mayor powers on the table in this legislature – The Canadian Press, September 16, 2025).
- The stated purpose of strong mayor legislation has been to advance provincial priorities, most notably housing, and more recently, transportation within the Halifax Regional Municipality.
- Public statements issued on behalf of the West Hants Regional Municipality, as well as provincially prepared and publicly available reports, indicate that the region is performing well with respect to both its overall financial position and housing development starts.
- West Hants Regional Council has not yet engaged in a public discussion regarding its position on strong mayor powers (West Hants Mayor Abraham Zebian: A changing municipality deals with a

changing climate, Suzanne Rent, January 19, 2026). This is notable given that a 2025 Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities survey was conducted and several municipalities have since provided correspondence to the NSFM and the Province outlining their respective positions.

Therefore, I respectfully request that Council engage in a publicly visible discussion to clearly articulate the Municipality's official position on strong mayor powers and any potential legislation that could create circumstances in which a majority vote of Council would no longer be required.

In the spirit of reconciliation and recognition,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Amanda Dunfield