



West Hants
something inspiring awaits

WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☐	Decision Request ☒	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Committee of the Whole

Submitted by: _____
Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Date: March 25, 2025

Subject: Letter to the Province requesting consultation with local marginalized and equity-denied communities.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

Should Council wish to proceed the following motion would need to be made:

COUNCIL WRITE A LETTER TO THE PROVINCE ASKING HOW THEY PLAN TO FULFILL THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATION OF CONSULTING WITH THE LOCAL MI'KMAQ PEOPLE AND HOW THEY ARE GOING TO ADDRESS THE STRUCTURAL AND SYSTEMIC ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM THOSE DEVELOPMENTS CAN AND WILL CREATE.

BACKGROUND

Property ☒	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☒	Social ☒	Economic ☒	Councillor Activity ☐
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On February 11, 2025 the Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs shared a letter requesting municipalities show their support by asking councils to signal their support for greater resource development that has potential for fracking for onshore natural gas and repeal a ban on uranium exploration and mining within Nova Scotia by writing a letter or sharing a press release.

The letter highlighted the provincial government new emphasis on natural resource development. Nova Scotia and Canada is facing uncertain times, and these new fiscal challenges may have significant impacts on our economy as we attempt to navigate and address potential actions in response to the threat of tariffs.

DISCUSSION

The Diverse and Inclusive Communities committee recently met. During the open floor discussion portion of the meeting, members of the committee raised deep concerns about Minister Lohr's February 11, 2025 letter and the Provincial Government's new intent for mining and fracking.

The Province noted the Legislation introduced on February 18th would lift blanket bans and pave the way for dialogue to ensure natural resource development could happen safely, unlocking a path toward job creation, boosting the economy and making Nova Scotia more self-sufficient.

The committee understands recent events in the world are causing the landscape of our province and country to change. However, they feel strongly that First Nations communities and African Nova Scotians need to be consulted prior to any further resource development.

The committee is requesting Council support their request and write a letter to the Government asking them to respect First Nations and African Nova Scotian communities to ensure proper consultation is followed.

On June 20, 2024 Bill C-226, known as the National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act passed and received Royal Assent.

Environmental racism is a form of systemic racism that results in the disproportionate proximity and greater exposure of Indigenous, Black and other racialized communities to polluting industries and environmentally hazardous activities.

This Bill emphasizes the importance of ensuring that all communities are treated fairly and meaningfully involved in environmental decision-making. Proper procedure and due diligence must be followed by consulting with these historic marginalized and equity-denied communities.

The committee remains very concerned about the implications resource development within our province may have on the land and people within our region.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will draft a letter.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this request.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council may choose not to proceed with this project. This is not the recommendation to Council.

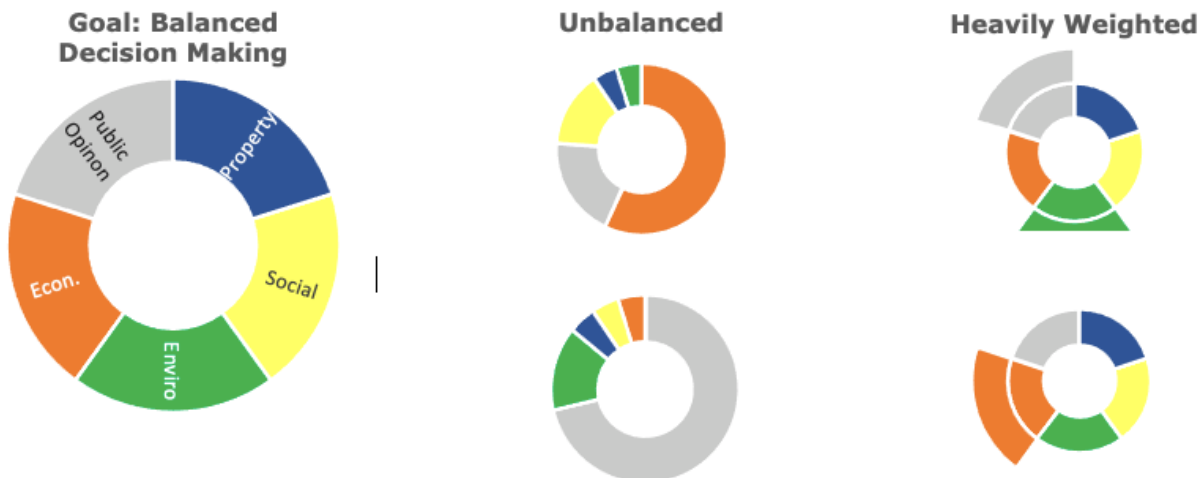
ATTACHMENTS

None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

I support the recommendation.

Council has been provided with a reference taken from the Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy, Appendix C "Decision Making by Council and Committee of the Whole" as a reminder of the principles highlighted for good decision making.



Report Prepared by:

Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Report Approved by:


Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer