

Press Release

Windsor – West Hants (August 19, 2019) – The Council of the new Regional Municipality of Windsor and West Hants will consist of a Mayor elected at large and eleven Councillors.

In its decision released today approving the Co-ordinating Committee’s application for eleven polling districts, the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board said the Act creating the new municipality, “reflects an intention to create a new municipal government having a regional perspective”.

The NSUARB decision came following a hearing earlier this spring. The Board heard evidence from the Co-ordinating Committee responsible for bringing the two units together and the Think Hantsport Innovative Development Association (THIDA), which was granted formal standing as an Intervenor in the matter.

The Board noted that the decision reduces the number of elected officials in the region from 15 to 12. The Board said, “with the creation of a new Regional Municipality, representation on the new Council should assume a more regional approach reflected in a smaller number of councillors and polling districts”.

The Board did not accept THIDA’s submission that Hantsport required its own distinct polling district on the new Regional Council. The Board commented that, in this case, “the drawing of polling district boundaries should reflect a Council that is structured to take a regional perspective, rather than protecting parochial or territorial constituencies” within the former municipality.

Kevin Latimer, Q.C., Co-ordinator of the Regional Municipality, said “Creating a new governance structure and polling districts from scratch is a tricky balancing act. We think it’s a great decision - it acknowledges the importance of the public input received through the consultation process and now sets the stage for the new region’s first municipal elections in March 2020”.

Legislation to facilitate the municipal merger was passed by the province last fall. The Act calls for the new Regional Municipality to take effect April 1, 2020. “We thank the Board for accommodating the Committee’s need for clear and timely direction at this time. The Committee will continue to work diligently to ensure that the new municipality gets off to a great start next April”, said Mr. Latimer.

The Committee recently announced the selection of Mark Phillips, current Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Kentville, as the new municipality’s Chief Administrative Officer. He begins work September 16.