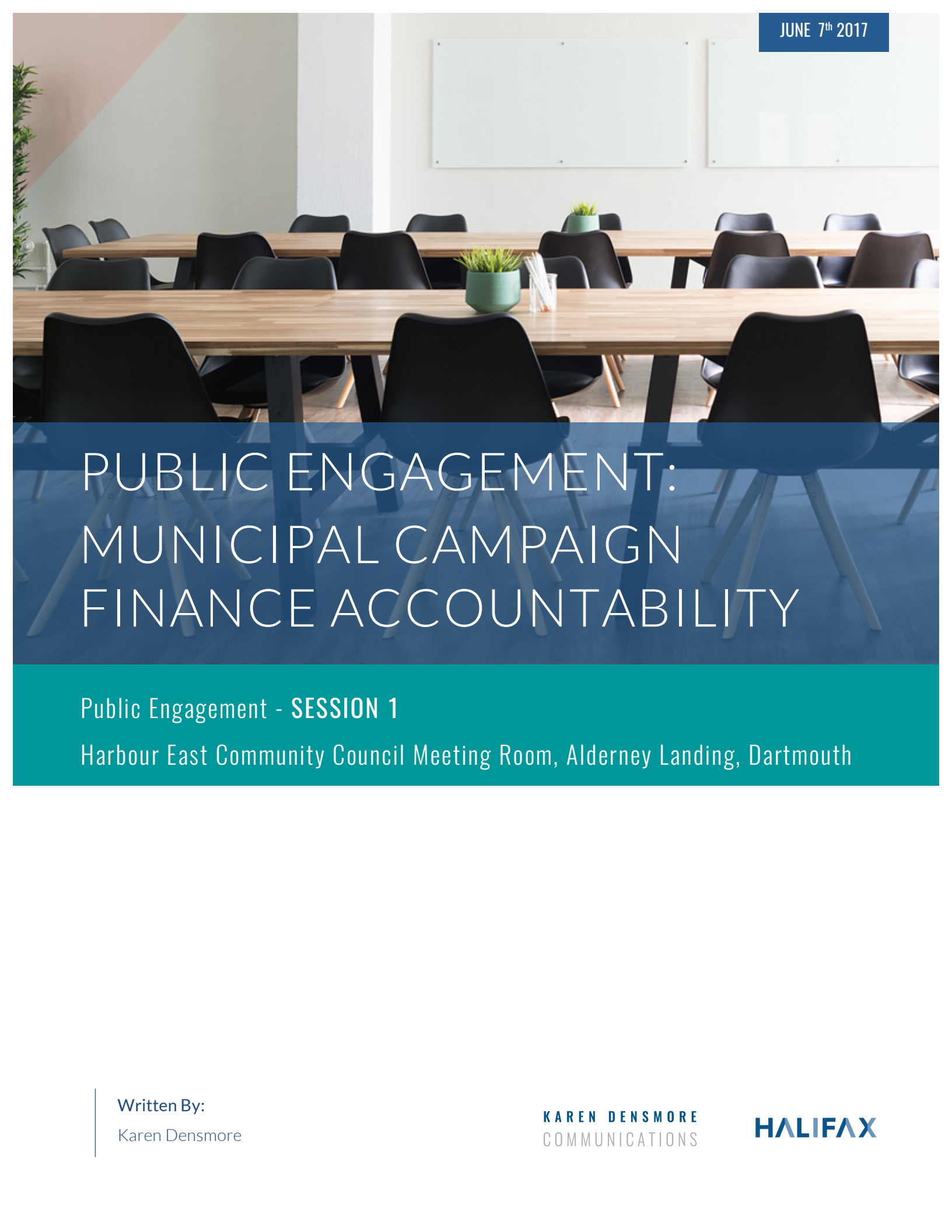




JUNE 7th 2017

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

Public Engagement - **SESSION 1**

Harbour East Community Council Meeting Room, Alderney Landing, Dartmouth

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COMMUNICATIONS

HALIFAX

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	2
Decision Making Process	3
Engagement.....	4
Areas of Influence	5
Why is Campaign Finance Accountability Important?	5
Who Can Contribute?.....	5
Maximum Contribution Limits.....	5
Campaign Contribution Timelines	6
Maximum Spending Limits.....	6
Disclosure, Expenses, Deficits and Surpluses	7
Citizen Values to Shape By-Law	7
Summary.....	8
Public Engagement Schedule	9
How to Participate.....	10

INTRODUCTION

In early 2015, Halifax Regional Council recognized there was a lack of clarity regarding election campaign finance. More had to be done to strengthen accountability. The Municipality entered into conversations with the Province, which oversees rules for municipal campaign finance.

As a result, the Province of Nova Scotia (April 2016) made amendments to the Halifax Regional Municipal Charter to allow for a municipal by-law that provides greater clarity on how election campaign finances are administered. Currently, Halifax Regional Municipality is the only municipality in Nova Scotia directed to do so.

Halifax Regional Council has instructed staff to continue the conversation and engage the public to gain a better understanding of the values and ideas citizens would like to see represented in the by-law.

Karen Densmore Communications has been engaged to gather feedback from elected officials, former candidates and the public on election campaign finances. Input and feedback will be taken into consideration when crafting the new by-law and related recommendations for Council to consider.

The public engagement will focus on the five main areas that correspond with the mandate of the by-law:

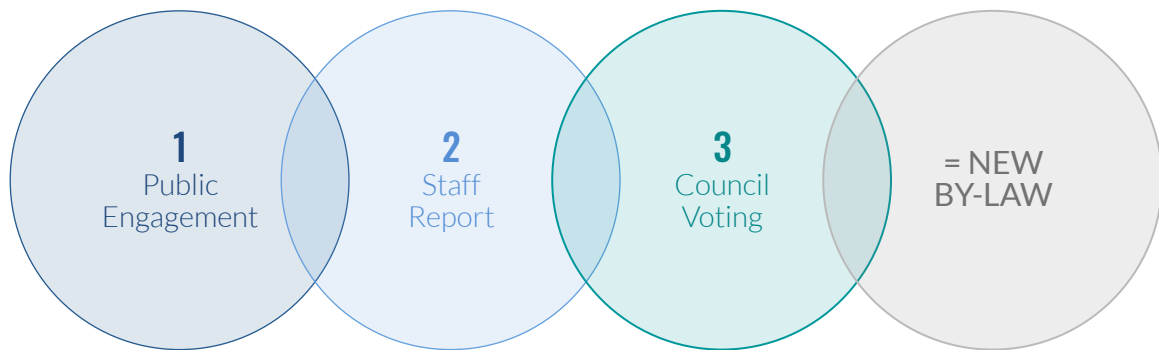
1. **Who Can Contribute?**
2. **Maximum Contribution Amount**
3. **Campaign Contribution Timelines**
4. **Maximum Spending Amounts**
5. **Disclosure, Expenses, Deficits and Surpluses**

These five areas do not exist in isolation; they are inter-connected. They are important in considering how the campaign process can include more rigor and accountability, without creating barriers for people interested in running for office.

Information collected during the public engagement will be shared with staff in a summary report after each session and posted on Shape Your City, the municipality's online engagement site. A final report will also be shared publicly, highlighting the main themes from the engagement.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

This public engagement is part of a three-step decision-making process, including the public engagement, the staff report and Council's vote on the by-law. The public has a chance to influence and share their ideas upfront, to inform the development of the by-law. The public will also have an opportunity to provide feedback when the by-law goes before the Executive Council.

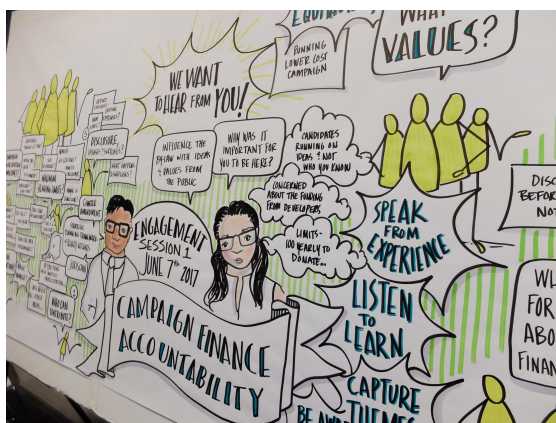


ENGAGEMENT

The engagement schedule included pre-engagement focus groups on May 24th and 25th 2017 with previous candidates and official agents, as well as Councillors who ran in the last election. The engagement will continue to run through the month of June where the public will have the opportunity to fill out a survey online or meet in person at one of the upcoming engagements or the pop up engagement. The following document captures comments and themes that emerged from the first public engagement on June 7th in Dartmouth.

Why is Campaign Finance Accountability Important?

- Candidates should run on ideas and not who they know
- Concerned about the funding from developers
- Limit donations to \$100 / annually



WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO CONSIDER ABOUT CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACCOUNTABILITY?

The following comments (listed on the right) were delivered in response to the five main areas that correspond with the mandate of the by-law. This included comments from the table conversations and breakout sessions. For efficiency, they have been organized into key themes. (listed on the left).

1 WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE?

Individuals	• Individuals only • Two out of three people voted individuals should only contribute.
Others	• One out of two individuals voted that funding should come from taxes.

2 MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

Limits	• Limits on what individuals can contribute • Yes to individual limit if not tax dollars.
\$100 Limit	• Limit to \$100 per donation (Includes In kind donations) • One time donation of \$100 spread over your choice • \$100 per individual (Quebec model) in municipal election year- spread over as many candidates as they choose.
Public funding for campaigns	• Yes, there should be public funding, what is not used goes back to the city. (This will help people with disabilities participate) • No there should not be public funding, let candidates campaign • Spending= Contributions if it all comes from tax dollars (not groups).

3 CONTRIBUTION TIMELINES

Donations made before elections, not after	• Donations should be made before the actual election. (People may give after someone has won for favour)
Within the election year	• From start of election year till close of poll
No timelines required if tax dollars are used	• Redundant if comes from tax dollars

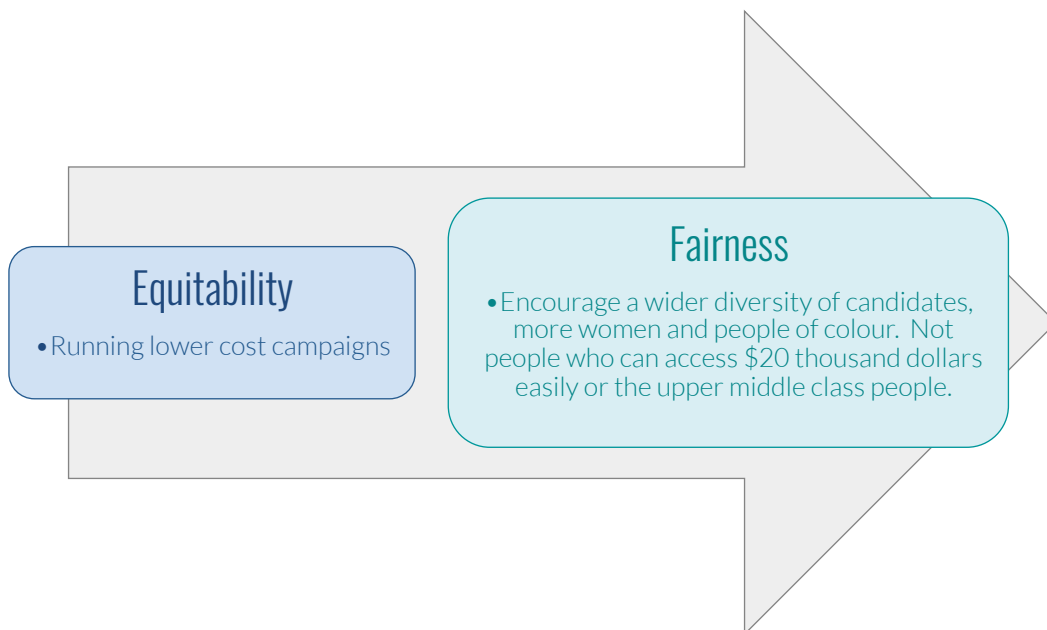
4 MAXIMUM SPENDING LIMITS

Campaigns are less expensive	• Campaign costs have been reduced due to technology • There is less need for a campaign headquarters.
Spending amounts	• Expenses based on geographical size or number of people • Yes- \$0.50 per elector
Equal spending amounts from tax dollars	• Yes to limits - equal amount from tax dollars to each candidate... extra gets put back in the coffer.

5 DISCLOSURE, EXPENSES, DEFICITS & SURPLUSES

Disclosures	• If there is a limit ... do you really need to disclose? • No anonymous donations • Redundant if all from taxes, but publish prior to election
Disclose before election is over	• Disclosure show before election, not after.
Donation made online through Municipal Clerk's Office	• All donations should be made online to municipal clerks who publish them before passing on to candidates indicated.

WHAT VALUES DO WE AS CITIZENS WANT APPLIED TO SHAPE AND INFORM THIS BY-LAW?



IN SUMMARY

The pre-engagement sessions quickly revealed how one focus area cannot be addressed in isolation – they are all interconnected. One cannot make decisions on contributions without understanding expenses, and it’s not possible to fully understand expenses without addressing disclosure requirements.

A few points that stood out from the latest public engagement on June 7th are donations should be disclosed during the election and not after. There was a notion that someone could donate after a candidate had won to gain favour.

There were also suggestions for limiting the donation amount to \$100 from a contributor. The person could split the \$100 among as many candidates as they wanted but there would be an overall \$100 maximum.

Lastly, the comments over public funding were split. One person thought that there should be public funding to candidates and whatever is left over should go back to the city. While another person thought it should be left up to the candidates.

The public engagement will continue with three more public sessions over the month of June.

As previously mentioned, information collected during the public engagement will be shared with staff in a summary report after each session and posted on Shape Your City, the municipality's online engagement site. A final report will also be shared publicly, highlighting the main themes from the engagement.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE



ONLINE ENGAGEMENT:

JUNE 1st - 30th

Background
Document & Survey

Online at
Shapeyourcityhalifax.ca



JUNE 7, 2017

Barboursville
COMPLETED

JUNE 12, 2017

Eastern Shore
COMPLETED

JUNE 14, 2017

Halifax

JUNE 22, 2017

Bedford



SUMMARY REPORTS

Read the Summary
Reports online after
the Engagement
Sessions

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Online

We highly recommend that you review the background document online at **shapeyourcityhalifax.ca**. The document outlines requirements currently in place, key considerations and a jurisdictional scan.

You can participate by taking the survey online at **shapeyourcityhalifax.ca** [hyperlink]

In person

Several public engagement events have been scheduled throughout the month of June.

Wednesday June 7th

6:30pm – 9:00pm

Dartmouth

Harbour East Community Council Room

Alderney Landing,

40 Alderney Dr.

Monday June 12th

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Eastern Shore

Part of the Halifax Green Network public information meeting

Old School Community Gathering Place,

7962 Highway #7, Musquodoboit Harbour

Wednesday June 14th

6:30pm – 9:00pm

Halifax

Halifax Hall in City Hall,

1841 Argyle St., Halifax

Thursday June 22nd

6:30pm – 9:00pm

Bedford -Sackville

Bedford-Hammonds Plains Community Centre

Youth / Seniors Room

202 Innovation Dr., Bedford

Feedback can be sent using the following channels by June 30th.

- **Email:** election@halifax.ca
- **Twitter:** @hfxelections
- **Instagram:** hfxgov
- **Mail:** Election Office