

2014 REGIONAL PLAN

Chapter 6 of the 2014 Regional Plan

The 2014 Regional Plan establishes long-range, region-wide planning policies outlining, where, when, and how future growth and development should take place in the Municipality to the year 2031. Between 2006 and 2011, the Halifax Regional Municipality's population grew to over 409,510 (Census, 2011). This growth has not occurred uniformly across the municipality, but has been focussed mainly in the suburban communities and rural areas within commuting distance of the Regional Centre.

The 2014 Regional Plan targets at least 75% of all new housing units to be located in the Regional Centre and other urban communities, with at least 25% of all new housing units within the Regional Centre itself during the period between 2009 and 2031. The Regional Plan identifies the Regional Centre as the focus for economic, cultural and residential development activities in the Region.

To aid in the successful attainment of this goal, the Centre Plan project has been established to ensure that the desired population growth is supported while maintaining the success of existing neighbourhoods and remaining true to the Guiding Principles for the Centre Plan developed through the 2014 Regional Plan.

The Regional Centre has a unique Vision and set of Guiding Principles for development and growth. These important strategic 'trail markers' for Planning staff are further supported by additional objectives in the Regional Plan, including:

- Adopt a Regional Centre Plan which achieves the vision statement and guiding principles endorsed by Regional Council.
- Adopt heritage plans and programs that further preserve and enhance the viability of heritage properties, streetscapes, and districts.⁸
- Prepare capital and operating expenditure programs that enhance development within the Regional Centre, with emphasis of resources on downtown Halifax and Dartmouth, and take advantage of opportunities to strategically leverage other public and private sector investments.
- Create financial and regulatory incentives to stimulate desired growth"

Link to 2014 Regional Plan: <http://www.halifax.ca/regionalplanning/documents/RMPS2014.pdf>

CENTRE PLAN

The Centre Plan

The Centre Plan will be a comprehensive plan with a deep understanding of the Urban Design Framework for the Regional Centre. The project will work to define policies that will fit within the Guiding Principles and achieve a shared understanding of the future for the Regional Centre among Regional Council, the community, developers, institutions, and other interested parties.

The Centre Plan project will deliver a new **Regional Centre Municipal Planning Strategy** and accompanying **Land Use By-Law**. A new Municipal Planning Strategy for the Regional Centre will replace the current set of three (3) Municipal Planning Strategies in the Centre and their three (3) associated Land Use By-Laws. The project is envisioned as a 24 month project, having started in October 2014.

Link to Centre Plan website: <http://www.halifax.ca/planhrm/centreplan.php>