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Councillor Tony Mancini, Halifax Regional Municipality

Councillor Tony Mancini, elected January 23, 2016, is key to Halifax Regional Municipality's work on climate change. Tony represents the City on the Board of Police Commissioners, the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee, Shubenacadie Canal Commission, Community Design Advisory Committee, Transportation Standing Committee, and is Liaison to the HRM Acadian Francophone Community, among other city commitments. In his community work, Tony continues to serve as a Scout Venturer Advisor, member of the School Advisory Council, Vice-Chair of the Halifax Comedy Society, Board Member of HomeBridge Youth Society, Dartmouth sector leader for the Scotiabank Bluenose Marathon, and as an Associate Member of the Halifax Progress Club. Councillor Mancini is a senior partner with Priority Management–Atlantica, and for over 25 years has been involved in training, consulting, and facilitating productivity and workload management programs.



Councillor Richard Zurawski, Halifax Regional Municipality

Richard Zurawski, Councillor for District 12 in HRM, is an educator who has taught a wide range of subjects spanning high school to graduate university courses. With a B.Sc. in Physics and mathematics and an M.A. in educational research, his personal growth as a student and as a life long learner has taken him from a specialization in mathematics and physics to current studies and researches as a PhD candidate at Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) in the faculty of education, specializing in the relationship between the media and the sciences. Richard is a documentary film maker, keynote speaker, an author with four published books, on-air meteorologist and a radio talk show host. As a business entrepreneur, he has successfully managed multi-million dollar productions and liaised with a wide array of business partners around the world, marketing products to a global environment.

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Capital City Heritage

Seamus McGreal is a senior heritage planner with the Halifax Regional Municipality. He consults with stakeholders to establish heritage policies and programs for promoting, conserving, and investing in heritage districts, properties, and other initiatives. Previously, Seamus worked with local communities in Grand Pré, Nova Scotia, to develop a community plan to support the nomination and successful designation of the Landscape of Grand Pré as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) in 2012. Seamus was also Historic Places Registrar with the Province of New Brunswick during which time he participated in the national Historic Places Initiative program. He holds a Masters of Planning degree from Dalhousie University.

Kathleen Fralic is a Planner II with HRM's Heritage and Urban Design team.

She helps to administer HRM's Heritage Property Program and supports the preservation and rehabilitation of heritage properties throughout the community. Previously, Kathleen worked as a Development Planner with the City of North Bay, Ontario. She holds a Bachelor of Community Design with Honours in Urban Design Studies from Dalhousie University and is a Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Shannon Miedema is the Energy & Environment Program Manager for the Halifax Regional Municipality. Shannon has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and Earth Systems Science from Queen's University, a Master of Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University and a Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Kings College. After five years in environmental consulting, she joined the Municipality in 2009 as an Environmental Performance Officer focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Shannon uses her passion, education and experience to lead Halifax towards increased resiliency and sustainability for the betterment of our community, economy and environment.

Aaron Murnaghan is the Principal Heritage Planner overseeing HRM's Heritage Property Program. While fairly new to HRM, Aaron has brought some new perspective to the program by engaging developers and encouraging integrated development projects that help to add viability to heritage properties. Prior to joining HRM, Aaron worked for several years with Parks Canada and the Nova Scotia Museum and also spent several years as a consulting planner in the private sector, working on major development and policy projects across Atlantic Canada. Aaron holds a degree in Community Design from Dalhousie University and a BA in History from Kings College.



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Jo-Ann Roberts, Deputy Leader of the Green Party of Canada

Jo-Ann Roberts is Deputy Leader of the Green Party of Canada. She is an award-winning, veteran journalist. She has been a host on CBC Radio for 20 years, a morning show in the Maritimes for the first 10 and an afternoon show in BC for the second half.

She is an expert on public broadcasting and has taught at the university level and provided workshops on media literacy. She ran for the Green Party of Canada in Victoria in 2015, finishing second with 32% of the vote. Since then she continues to work on issues affecting climate change, housing, democratic reform and income inequality. She has served on a number of community and academic boards.

Jo-Ann now lives in Halifax with her husband Ken Kelly, an urban planner. They have four children and one grandchild.



Councillor Marianne Alto, Victoria

Marianne Alto is a facilitator by trade, active in community for 25+ years. With university degrees in law and science, she is principal in Azimuth Research & Consulting, a firm specializing in organizational change, strategic planning and project management. Previously serving as Coordinator of Victoria's only broad-based women's centre providing educational, advocacy, and support services, she then served as senior assistant to the provincial Minister of Health and senior analyst in the Office the Premier. Marianne remains an active feminist, vigorously advocating for equality, inclusion and fairness for people affected by stigma, stereotype and oppression. First elected to Victoria City Council in 2010, and the Capital Regional District in 2011, she currently facilitates portfolios dealing with First Nations reconciliation and shared governance, housing, balanced economies, harm reduction, arts and culture, transgender accessibility, social enterprise, and poverty reduction, among others.

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Peter Duinker, Professor at Dalhousie University (School for Resource and Environmental Studies)

Peter Duinker is Professor in the School for Resource and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University. He teaches and researches a wide range of themes, most of which deal with forests and environmental assessment. Peter got involved in urban-forest issues when, following Hurricane Juan, Halifax put together its Point Pleasant Park Restoration Task Force in fall 2003. He then joined the team preparing the Point Pleasant Park Comprehensive Plan to help with the forest sections. With his students and research assistants, Peter and city staff prepared Halifax's first Urban Forest Master Plan in 2012. He continues his collaboration with the city by providing ongoing monitoring and research in support of plan implementation. Peter's investigations on urban forests, with his students, address diverse topics including citizens' values, planning, conservation of urban old-growth, naturalization of urban forests, effects of sub-division development on urban-forest biodiversity, effects of climate change on urban forests, establishment of urban orchards, canopy development in urban greenspaces such as cemeteries and golf courses, and others.

At his home in downtown Halifax, Peter is slowly removing the Norway-maple canopy and replacing it with native species associated with Acadian old-growth forests. Peter shares a home with his first wife Maggie and, when not chasing academic pursuits, enjoys home-brewing, choral-singing, cycle-touring, home-renovating, high-score-golfing, and tree-hugging.



Tracey Jones-Grant, Diversity Manager at Halifax Regional Municipality

Tracey Jones-Grant grew up and obtained her schooling in Halifax, graduating from Mount Saint Vincent University in 1984 and a Masters of Library Sciences at Dalhousie in 1986. The daughter of Joan and Burnley "Rocky" Jones, Tracey grew up at the height of the efforts to define Black identity and fight for civil rights. Tracey has worked in the area of diversity from being the Diversity Manager for Halifax Public Libraries to coordinator of Diversity Management for the Halifax Regional School board to most recently as the Managing Director, Diversity and Inclusion for the Halifax Regional Municipality in the newly created Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

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Halifax Diversity and Inclusion Office

The City of Halifax Office of Diversity and Inclusion includes a Managing Director, a Senior Advisor for the African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office, and Diversity Advisors on Accessibility, Immigration/Corporate Training, Indigenous Community Engagement, and French Language Services, along with a Coordinator of Local Immigration Partnerships. The role of the Office is to work with stakeholders to develop and implement a diversity and inclusion framework (Diversity Leadership Working Group), support and advise stakeholders in the development and implementation of diversity and inclusion plans and specific diversity initiatives, promote diversity and inclusion internally and externally, provide diversity and inclusion training to municipal staff, advise on corporate policy through a diversity and inclusion lens, and engage community on diversity and inclusion initiatives of the municipality.



Councillor Lindell Smith, Halifax Regional Municipality

Lindell Smith, elected to Halifax Regional Municipality in November 2016, is a lifelong resident of North End Halifax, and proud father of a beautiful daughter. He has a proven commitment to working within his community and has dedicated himself to serving it. He is a co-founder of Center Line Studio, a non-profit recording studio for youth who want to express themselves through art and music. In keeping with his concern for the whole community and its diverse needs, and in response to the rapid growth and changes within his neighbourhood, Lindell, along with other community leaders, started “The One North End Project”. This group of community leaders from around HRM aims to ensure that all residents benefit from this rapid growth together by encouraging new hiring practices for local businesses and holding community engagement sessions. Lindell was the recipient of the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Education and Community Service, and was chosen as one of five Youth Rising Stars for Nova Scotia. He was the first recipient of the Abby Bryant (humanitarian) Award of Excellence, given to a young person who is recognized for outstanding community service, and is a recipient of The Black Business Initiative’s Industry Development Award awarded by the African-Nova Scotian Music Association.