



June 6, 2019

To Mayor and Members of Council  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
c/o Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk  
P.O. Box 1745  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 3A5

On behalf of the Halifax Food Policy Alliance, we are writing to express our excitement to see the Halifax Regional Municipality's Centre Plan Package A advance toward adoption.

The [Halifax Food Policy Alliance](#) (HFPA) is a partnership of individuals and organizations that represent different sectors related to the food system. Together, we are working to achieve our vision for the municipality where no one is hungry and everyone has nutritious food that they enjoy, for generations to come, sustained by local producers.

The HFPA was happy to provide feedback on the previous draft Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy (SMPS) and Land Use By-law (LUB) for the identified Package A areas to the Centre Plan Project Team on May 3, 2018. We are pleased to see that some of the opportunities HFPA identified to strengthen the directions and policies outlined in the documents have been incorporated in the latest version.

The SMPS and LUB contain many components that work towards improving food security within the Regional Centre including:

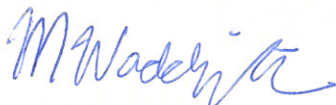
- Farmers Market Use and Urban Farm Use being listed within Table 1 of the LUB as permitted Urban Agriculture uses within all Package A zones;
- The inclusion of the accessory keeping of bees and up to six hens per lot within all Package A zones (LUB Part III, Chapter 3, Sections 63 and 64);
- The processing and sale of urban agriculture products permitted as accessory to urban agriculture uses (LUB Part III, Chapter 3, Section 62(1) and 62(2));
- The inclusion of gardening plots, barbeque areas, communal kitchens and greenhouses within the definition of amenity space (LUB Part XIV, Chapter 1, Section 243(9));

- The expanded definition of Farmers Market Use to include dairy products, grain products, meat, poultry and fish (LUB Part XIV, Chapter 1, Section 243(74));
- The prohibition of new drive-throughs (LUB Part V, Chapter 1, Section 83);
- The classification of food banks and soup kitchens as a Personal Service Use (LUB Part XIV, Chapter 1, Section 243 (168)) thereby allowing them in all Package A zones;
- The definition of Affordable Community or Cultural Indoor Space being broadly defined to allow Community Kitchens as a possible public benefit (LUB Part XIV, Chapter 1, Section 243(7));
- The consideration of community food security and urban agriculture within comprehensive development districts (MPS Part 3.6.1 – Policy 3.30(s)); and
- The monitoring of Community Gardens (MPS KPI 6.4), which we recommend also include monitoring of the number or active garden plots within the garden. In addition, the proximity of housing to food outlets is a key performance indicator of food security that we would recommend you consider adding to the Centre Plan KPI's.

We would like to sincerely thank the Centre Plan Project Team for considering and incorporating our feedback. Many of the identified policy directions align with our vision of a healthy, just and sustainable food system for HRM. We look forward to working with the Municipality as Package B is developed and opportunities to increase access and production of food in established neighbourhoods are explored. We also look forward to working together in the future towards the development of a Food Action Plan for HRM and as the Plan and By-law Simplification Project expands into the suburban and rural areas of HRM.

If we can be of any assistance in the future work, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Madeleine Waddington  
Co-Chair



Aimee Gasparetto  
Co-Chair