



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Mayor Zebian and members of Council

Submitted by: _____
Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Date: July 9, 2024 Committee of the Whole

Subject: Right to Know Week

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

MGA Part XX Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Nova Scotia Freedom of information and Protection of Privacy Act

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

It is recommended for Committee of the Whole to recommend that Council:

DECLARE SEPTEMBER 23 TO SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 AS RIGHT TO KNOW WEEK IN A MANNER SUBSTANTIVELY THE SAME AS IN ATTACHMENT A OF THE REPORT TITLED "RIGHT TO KNOW WEEK" TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE DATED JULY 9TH, 2024.

BACKGROUND

International Right to Know Day was first introduced in 2002 in Sofia, Bulgaria to bring awareness among citizens of their right to access government information, while promoting freedom of information as essential to both democracy and good governance.

Right to Know Week recognizes the importance of the right of access to information held by government and other public bodies. Access to information is essential to both democracy and good governance, and it provides individuals with the knowledge to address public issues, hold government accountable, and become active participants in the democratic process.

Property ☐	Public Opinion x	Environment ☐	Social ☐	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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DISCUSSION

Since 2002, Right to Know Day has been celebrated around the world on September 28. Right to Know Week is celebrated across Canada each year to raise awareness of the importance of access rights and open, transparent government. More information on Right to Know Week is also available on the [Information Commissioner of Canada's website](#).

Since the introduction of International Right to Know Day, certain principles have emerged that form the core of the Right to Know movement.

1. Access to information is a right of everyone.
2. Access is the rule. Secrecy is the exception.
3. The right applies to all public bodies.
4. Making requests should be simple, speedy, and free.
5. Officials have a duty to assist requesters.
6. Refusals must be justified.
7. The public interest takes precedence over secrecy.
8. Everyone has the right to appeal an adverse decision.
9. Public bodies should proactively publish core information.
10. The right to know should be guaranteed by an independent body.

NEXT STEPS

Social media posts via the Municipal Facebook page and website to publicize International Right to Know Week.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this endorsement.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council may choose not to proceed with the proclamation and request staff provide alternative direction such as requesting further information on a specific topic.

ATTACHMENTS

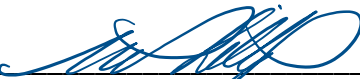
Attachment A: Proclamation

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

I support the recommendation.

Report Prepared by: _____

Deanna Snair, Municipal Clerk

Report Approved by:  _____

Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer



Proclamation

RIGHT TO KNOW WEEK

September 23 to September 29, 2024

- WHEREAS** the **West Hants Regional Municipality** has adopted the principles of openness, transparency and accountability; and
- WHEREAS** sections 462 through 502 of the *Municipal Government Act* gives citizens a right of access to information in the custody or under the control of the **West Hants Regional Municipality**
- WHEREAS** access to information ensures citizens of Nova Scotia have the opportunity for meaningful participation in the democratic process; and
- WHEREAS** a celebration of the right of citizens to access information will facilitate informed public participation in policy formulation, ensure fairness in government decision-making and permit the airing and reconciliation of divergent views; and
- WHEREAS** the **West Hants Regional Municipality** joins all other Canadian jurisdictions and democracies world-wide in acknowledging international Right to Know Week.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, **Abraham Zebian, Mayor of the West Hants Regional Municipality**, do hereby proclaim **September 23 to September 29, 2024**, to be Right to Know Week in the **West Hants Regional Municipality**.

Dated at **76 Morison Drive, Nova Scotia**

this 23rd day of July 2024.

Abraham Zebian, Mayor



West Hants
