

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO STOP A MAJOR TAX HIKE IN HRM!

Halifax Regional Municipality City Council is currently debating a city budget that calls for tax increases and fee hikes for restaurants and other small businesses. The final vote is Tuesday, May 25th and your help is needed to stop this from happening!

The Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association (CRFA) believes a large tax hike would put economic growth on the back burner and lead to less investment in the industry. CRFA needs you to contact Mayor Kelly and your Councillor to tell them to go back to the budget drawing board.

Under the proposal now before council, businesses would be faced with a base rate increase of nearly 14 cents per \$100 of assessment, compared to 4 cents per \$100 of assessment for residents. Restaurants in HRM already pay four times the tax rate as residential rate payers and receive a lower level of service for things such as garbage pick-up. The proposed budget also includes hidden new costs for operators such as higher garbage tip fees and higher fees for criminal background checks required by liquor licensed establishments.

A larger tax burden will not create the vibrant city and economic growth sought by council. Our restaurants, pubs and coffee shops bring a lot to the table in terms of jobs, investment, innovation and tourism. Instead of stifling these businesses with tax and fee hikes, CRFA believes HRM should work with the industry to foster growth and create a more vibrant community.

Operators must tell Mayor Kelly and Councillors to get spending under control without tax increases and bring in a budget that is equitable and fair to both residents and business owners.

HRM Mayor and Council Contact List			
Name	District *	Email	Telephone
Mayor Peter Kelly	Mayor	kellyp@halifax.ca	490-4010
Steve Streach	Eastern Shore - Musquodoboit Valley	streats@halifax.ca	497-2995
Barry Dalrymple	Waverley - Fall River - Beaver Bank	barry.dalrymple@halifax.ca	222-0740
David Hendsbee	Preston - Lawrencetown - Chezzetcook	david.hendsbee@halifax.ca	483-0705
Lorelei Nicoll	Cole Harbour	Lorelei.Nicoll@halifax.ca	478-2705
Gloria McCluskey	Dartmouth Center	mccclusg@halifax.ca	476-1667
Darren Fisher	East Dartmouth - The Lakes	darren.fisher@halifax.ca	497-7166
Bill Karsten	Portland - East Woodlawn	karsteb@halifax.ca	476-1855
Jackie Barkhouse	Woodside - Eastern Passage	barkhoj@halifax.ca	476-5601
Jim Smith	Albro Lake - Harbourview	smithj@halifax.ca	229-8887
Mary Wile	Clayton Park West	wilema@halifax.ca	476-2048
Jerry Blumenthal	Halifax North End	blumenj@halifax.ca	237-0720
Dawn Sloane	Halifax Downtown	sloaned@halifax.ca	488-4812
Sue Uteck	Northwest Arm - Southend	utecks@halifax.ca	221-7651
Jennifer Watts	Connaught - Quinpool	jennifer.watts@halifax.ca	497-4748
Russell Walker	Fairview - Clayton Park	walkerr@halifax.ca	497-7215
Debbie Hum	Rockingham - Wentworth	humd@halifax.ca	476-7212
Linda Mosher	Purcell's Cove - Armdale	mosherl@halifax.ca	476-4117
Steve Adams	Spryfield - Herring Cove	adamss@halifax.ca	497-8818
Brad Johns	Middle and Upper Sackville	brad.johns@halifax.ca	476-1234
Bob Harvey	Lower Sackville	harveyb@halifax.ca	488-4820

Tim Outhit	Bedford	outhitt@halifax.ca	229-6385
Reg Rankin	Timberlea - Prospect	rankinr@halifax.ca	499-3744
Peter Lund	Hammonds Plains - St. Margaret's	peter.lund@halifax.ca	497-7508
*If you are unsure of your district go to http://eservices.halifax.ca/districtLookup/			

Contact your representative today! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Luc Erjavec

V. P. Atlantic Canada
 Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Assoc.
 Halifax, NS B3K 1K1
 Tel:(902)425-8190 ext.101
 Fax:(902) 422-1161
 Email: luc@crfa.ca

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