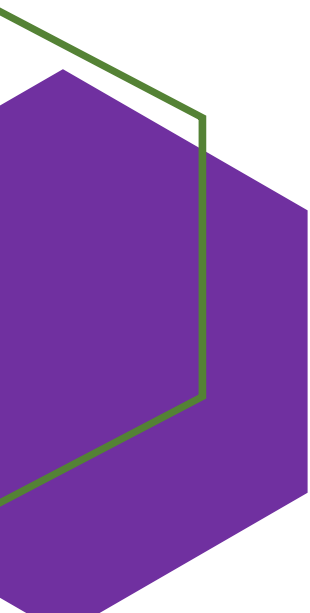


AUDITOR GENERAL

Halifax Regional Municipality



2024-25 Annual Report
and
2025-26 Audit Priorities



About Our Office

- Halifax Regional Municipality Charter establishes Auditor General's role
- Auditor General is appointed by Regional Council
- Audit programs and accounts of municipality and municipal bodies
- Assist Halifax Regional Council in holding itself and administration accountable for the use of public funds
- Establish annual audit priorities based on our assessment of risks in various program areas
- Current Auditor General, Andrew Atherton, began seven-year-term in December 2023

Our Values

Integrity

We value honesty and accountability, holding ourselves to high professional and ethical standards.

Objectivity

We are independent from management of the entities we audit and impartial in our assessments.

Collaboration

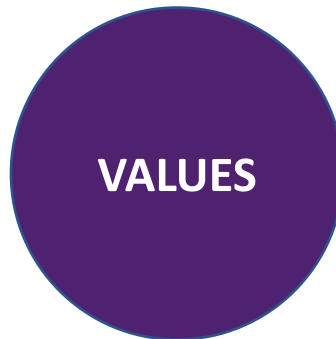
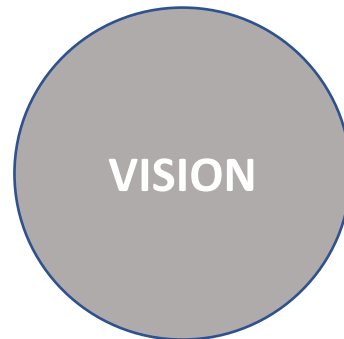
We work together to focus on the significant issues and make practical recommendations for improvement.

Excellence

We develop our knowledge and work to improve our processes.

Our Mission

To deliver independent audits that strengthen accountability and encourage improved efficiency and effectiveness of programs



Our Vision

A relevant, valued, independent audit office, known for professional excellence

What's New

Reports Released

- Management of Business Continuity Audit
- Enterprise Risk Management Audit
- Diversity and Inclusion Audit
- Review of Supplementary Education Funding for HRCE
- Follow-up Review of Outstanding Recommendations – 2019-20 Audits:
 - LED Streetlight Conversion
 - Fleet Vehicle Use, Car Allowances and Mileage
- Follow-up Review – 2022-23 Audits:
 - Corporate Real Estate Development and Sale of Industrial Lands, Land and Building Acquisition and Disposal
 - Halifax Water : SCADA System
- Follow-up Review of Outstanding Recommendations – 2020-21 Audits:
 - Building Permits and Inspections
 - Halifax Regional Police Information Technology

Reports in Progress

- Winter Operations Audit
 - Recreation Program Planning Audit
-

Performance Information

Performance Measures	Target	2024-25
% staff hours on audit versus non-audit activities	85%	88%
% recommendations accepted and plan to implement	100%	100%
% recommendations implemented after 18 months	80%	43%

The recommendation implementation rate for the past four years has been below 80% and the 2024-25 rate is at 43%. Of note are the recent results from our first follow up on recommendations from our audit of Halifax Water SCADA System which has impacted this overall percent. We found only 38% of recommendations were complete. The overall downward trend in implementation rates is of great concern to our office and requires the attention of HRM Management and Councillors.

2025-26 Planned Work

These audits and follow-up reviews are planned to begin in 2025-26 dependent on staff availability; however, some reports may not be issued until 2026-27.

2025-26 Audit Priorities	
Subject	Business Unit
Capital Budgeting	Finance & Asset Management
Facility/ Infrastructure Management and Maintenance	Property, Fleet & Environment
Halifax Water Hiring Processes	Halifax Water
Enterprise Performance Measurement and Reporting	CAO

2025-26 Follow-up Reviews

Our annual work includes following up recommendations from past audits. During 2025-26, we will follow up the following audits:

- HRM IT: Management of Cybersecurity
- Management of Hiring Practices
- Management of Business Continuity
- Enterprise Risk Management

In addition to these 18-month follow-up reviews, we will also follow up outstanding recommendations from the following 2021 and 2022 audits.

- Management of Accounts Payable
- Transit Technology Project Management
- Management of the Fire Inspection Program
- Management of Respectful Workplaces

Contact Information

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