

## Municipal Boundary Review

The Municipal Boundary Review is a process conducted by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board every eight years as required by the Municipal Government Act of Nova Scotia.

The Municipal Boundary Review examines representation in each municipal unit in the province to determine if the voters are best represented by their voting set-up. Specifically, the review looks at:

- Size of Council
- Geographic Representation (Polling Districts vs At-Large voting)

### The size of your Council?

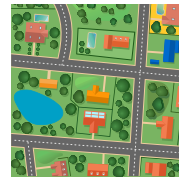


**What is the right number of people (Councillors) to represent your town on Town Council?**

What kind of things might a person consider when deciding if the Council should have more, less, or the same number of people?

- Diversity of ideas - are there different points of view in discussion? Would the number of Councillors change that?
- Decision making - would more or less Council members make it easier to reach a decision? Encourage more discussion before a decision is reached?
- Costs - how does the cost of Council affect the operational budget of the Town and how would that differ with more or less Councillors?
- Participation - what is the right number of people to share the workload? Encourage others to run for Council?

### Geographic representation?



**Should Councillors represent the whole town (at-large) or be elected to represent a specific area at the Council table?**

Some places elect Councillors for a specific area, a **polling district**. In a municipality that votes with **polling districts**, voters vote for a candidate within their area.

The Town of Mahone Bay, which does not have polling districts, elects Councillors '**at-large**' - this means that a voter casts their vote for a certain number of representatives from all of the candidates running for Councillor and those Councillors represent everyone.

- is it better to have Councillors represent a specific area of town in Mahone Bay?
- would polling districts make it easier or harder to find good representation?
- what are the pros and cons of each option?

# Who represents you in Mahone Bay?

**Mayor** - elected separately from members of Council - the role of the Mayor is not part of the Municipal Boundary Review



**Deputy Mayor** - appointed by Policy (see the By-laws and Policies page of the Town website) from one of those elected to a seat on Council. This person will act in place of the Mayor if required.

**Councillor** - there are six seats for Councillors, making the total size of Council seven people (including the Deputy Mayor).

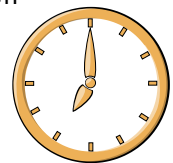
## Role of Individual Councillors

- Attending and participating in meetings, this includes Council, Committee meetings, and meetings with outside (partner) organizations
- Arriving at meetings informed and prepared
- Reading background documentation for meetings and staying up-to-date on municipal matters in town, locally, and provincially
- Representing the Town on community, regional, and provincial (possibly national) committees and working groups
- Finding compromise/agreement to make decisions to represent the best interests of the Town of Mahone Bay and its citizens for the short and long term
- Working with fellow members of Council for establishing priorities, budgets, legislation, and service standards for the community
- Responding to community and individuals who have questions/concerns
- Being aware of issues in the community and bringing them to Council
- Keeping citizens informed of municipal issues and decisions of Council



## How much time does it take?

- There are several hours of preparation for each Council meeting.
- There are two regular Council meetings each month and generally additional "special" Council meetings each month - Special Council meetings are meetings needed to address issues in a timely manner and/or create additional time to discuss a specific issue
- Council meetings tend to take three or four hours
- Councillors are each appointed to Committees of Council as well as regional and provincial committees and working groups. Current appointments are for 6 - 9 committees each, but some of those appointments come with additional working groups and sub-committees. Each of these meetings requires time to read documentation, prepare, and possibly participate in activities of committees (ex: trips to the Windfarm in Ellershouse) as well as the time spent in meetings



## Costs associated with Council

2019-20	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor #1	Councillor #2	Councillor #3	Councillor #4	Councillor #5	Total
Salaries	19,535.88	11,824.02	10,281.96	10,281.96	10,281.96	10,281.96	10,281.96	82,769.70
Expenses	6,634.33	-	2,628.61	1,120.13	-	646.39	1,323.52	12,352.98
Total	26,170.21	11,824.02	12,910.57	11,402.09	10,281.96	10,928.35	11,605.48	95,122.68

2020-21	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor #1	Councillor #2	Councillor #3	Councillor #4	Councillor #5	Total
Salaries	19,535.88	11,824.02	10,281.96	10,281.96	10,281.96	10,281.96	10,281.96	82,769.70
Expenses	1,035.76	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,035.76
Total	20,571.64	11,824.02	10,281.96	10,281.96	10,281.96	10,281.96	10,281.96	83,805.46

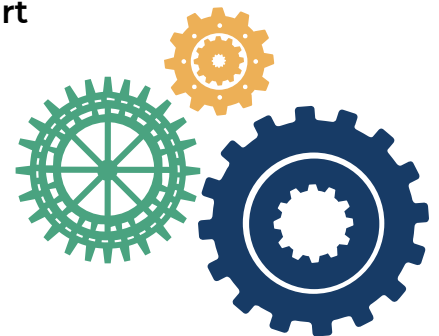
2021-22	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor #1	Councillor #2	Councillor #3	Councillor #4	Councillor #5	Total
Salaries	19,672.64	11,906.70	10,353.98	10,353.98	10,353.98	10,353.98	10,353.98	83,349.24
Expenses	2,683.89	-	639.69	234.64	-	54.40	365.00	3,977.62
Total	22,356.53	11,906.70	10,993.67	10,588.62	10,353.98	10,408.38	10,718.98	87,326.86

Costs generally associated with members of Council include their honoraria, expenses such as mileage and meal allowances when they are away over a meal time. Expenses decreased during the pandemic, particularly during 2020, as regional meetings and conferences were canceled. For information on eligible expenses, read the Expense Policy on the Town website.

## Recommendation of Council

Council will make a final application regarding the size of Council following the completion of the Public Consultation Phase. As part of the Public Consultation Process recommended by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board Council has declared a preferred Council size for the purpose of discussion.

Council has declared their preference for Council size is six Councillors plus a Mayor.



**Please join us for a Public Discussion:**

**Wednesday, September 7th  
7pm at the new fire hall**

If you are not able to join us for the public meeting, or even if you can and you want to submit comments in advance, please forward them to us - we want to know what you think. This whole process is about YOUR representation at the local level.



Email: [clerk@townofmahonebay.ca](mailto:clerk@townofmahonebay.ca)

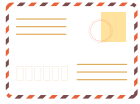


Mail: PO Box 530, Mahone Bay, NS, B0J 2E0

# Your participation matters!

This process is about ensuring the best representation for you! Town Council has a role to play as your local government, but only to make a recommendation. Council wants to know what **YOU** think so that their recommendation is the best reflection of the opinion of the community.

## Share your thoughts:



Read the information in this mailer. Consider the question of representation in Mahone Bay and what you think is best.



Review the information on our website.  
Find the Municipal Boundary Review tab on the homepage of our website.



Do you have questions? Ask us.  
Staff and Council are happy to answer questions.

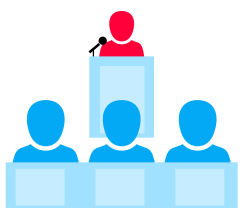


Send us your thoughts on Council size and geographic representation. Everything that we receive before September 19th will be considered when Council makes their decision.



Join us for a public discussion about this on **September 7th at 7pm at the new fire hall**

## The final decision



After the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) receives Council's recommendation, they will schedule an independent hearing. At that hearing they will ask that the Town present the information that they considered when making their recommendation and then open the discussion to members of the public.

Watch for information about where and when the NSUARB hearing will be held and how members of the public can participate in that hearing. Once we learn about the hearing we will share the information through our regular communication channels.

The final decision of the NSUARB will determine how the 2024 election is conducted.