

# WHAT DOES A COUNCILLOR DO?

## **Make Decisions as Part of a Team**

- Being a Municipal Councillor means being a community leader. It is a place where you and your fellow Councillors can make a real difference in the lives of the people in your community.
- You will have the opportunity to bring your knowledge and experience to the decision-making process. It is important that the Municipal Council be made up of ordinary people with diverse backgrounds and views.
- You will decide which services will be provided by our Municipality and at what level. These services include things like water, sewer, streets, sidewalks, policing, fire service, and snow removal. These are services that people often take for granted, but if they are not provided, or not provided to an acceptable standard, people will be upset.
- You will also make decisions about more general services like land use planning, economic development, and emergency preparedness. Your decisions here will have a very long-lasting effect on the future and indeed, the viability of your Municipality.
- You will approve the Municipal budget. You will make decisions about how much property tax a home owner or business will pay, and you will decide how much to charge for services like recreation and building permits, and other.

## **Form Relationships with People in Your Community**

- You will have the opportunity to formally engage your citizens in the process of making these decisions so that they feel part of the process, so that you can learn from them, and they can learn from you.
- You will have the opportunity to informally meet, listen, and respond to various concerns that will be brought to your attention by your residents. You will find it very satisfying to be able to help someone.

## **Interact with Organizations outside Your Municipality**

- Many of the areas that you will deal with require coordination and cooperation with the Province of Nova Scotia and other Municipalities. Individual Municipalities, for a variety of reasons, cannot do everything themselves. You will need to understand these relationships and ensure that they are productive and serve the interest of the people you represent.
- Your continuous learning will include involvement with Provincial significance. Participation at conferences or special meetings will increase your experience and understanding of issues on a Provincial scale.