

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the climate emergency is here (recent wildfires and Fiona) and climate change has been identified as a priority area of municipal interest; and

WHEREAS all Nova Scotians have a right to public safety and this area is identified one of six priority areas of municipal interest; and

WHEREAS the United Nations (https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/events/wcdrr/background_DiDRR.docx) Identified people with disabilities are two to four times more likely to die in a disaster; and

WHEREAS equity and community well-being is another priority area to serve the 30% of Nova Scotians, and 41% of seniors identify as having a disability (<https://novascotia.ca/accessibility/prevalence/>), and aging in place is being encouraged; and

WHEREAS First Voices are advocating for better emergency management and planning for people with disabilities <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-2-as-it-happens/clip/15992821-disability-rights-advocate-calls-vulnerable-persons-registry-great>; and

WHEREAS disasters do not respect administrative boundaries (<https://masscasualtycommission.ca/final-report/>); and

WHEREAS all forty-nine municipalities may not have the same technical capacity or paid staff (and rely on volunteers) to respond to these needs and it's important for all Nova Scotians to have access to the same level of public safety; and

WHEREAS a Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry (VVPR) is recognized best practice in the emergency field <https://www.soovpr.com/Home>. This is a voluntary registry so those with privacy concerns need not register and only location and accommodation needs are required data. A paid coordinator who manages the Registry ensures it is constantly updated; and

WHEREAS HRM's Chief of Emergency Management, in her report <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/230620rc1511.pdf> to HRM asking for a VVPR (recently passed by HRM) identified that the risk of not doing a VVPR (death and injuries) outweighs the risk (managing expectations) of doing one; and

WHEREAS a leading expert in disaster planning and managements Paul Kovacs, (Executive Director of the Institute for Catastrophic Loss, Univ. Of Western Ontario) says "all mechanics of a Registry have been sorted out and every question that can be asked, there is an answer for."; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT we at *[name municipality]* ask the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, newly formed Public Safety Advisory Committee to prioritize collaboration and partnership between municipal governments with possible support from the provincial government to ensure implementation of Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registries province-wide that are integrated into the 911 system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a copy of the resolution be sent to the NSFM and the Minister responsible for Emergency Management Office.

Dated at [community name], Nova Scotia, August , 2023.

(Sgd.) _____