

Response from Gary Burrill, NDP Candidate



1. As the Quinpool Road Mainstreet Business District is an important part of Halifax Chebucto, what is your vision for Quinpool Road?

Business district associations are a great local asset. They play an important role in local land use planning, along with wide public participation, a value the NDP supports. We have followed the development by HRM of its Centre Plan. We share the draft Plan's identification of Quinpool Road as an important local business hub. At the same time, we have concerns over the proposed developments at the Willow Tree intersection, including the site of the former St Pat's High School lands. In our view, land use must always consider context and compatibility, and overall public acceptance.

While municipalities take prime responsibility for day to day planning decisions, they do so within a context set by the Provincial Government through the HRM Charter and the Municipal Government Act. The Department of Municipal Affairs has been conducting a review of these statutes, and this would be an ideal time to focus on possible modernization of planning powers, including the set of Statements of Provincial Interest, development agreement rules especially as regards public benefits such as affordable housing, and the process associated with planning exercises themselves. That said, Quinpool Road has always been a dynamic place for business, drawing on the residential neighbourhoods to the north and south. We fully expect it to continue to thrive. It is our view that the local MLA and municipal officials should keep in close contact as well as with such organizations as yours.