

## News / Halifax

### Halifax Votes 2016: Talking affordable housing in District 8

Metro talks to Patty Cuttell-Busby, executive director North End Business Association, about the big issues in Halifax Peninsula North.

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ZANE WOODFORD / METRO

Patty Cuttell-Busby poses for a photo on Gottingen Street.

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**By: Zane Woodford** Metro, Published on Sun Sep 25 2016

The last few years have been a time of change in Halifax, and nowhere is that more true than in Peninsula North.

“On a local level, in District 8, we’ve seen a lot of changes over the past 10 years,” said Patty Cuttell-Busby, executive director North End Business Association, in a recent interview.

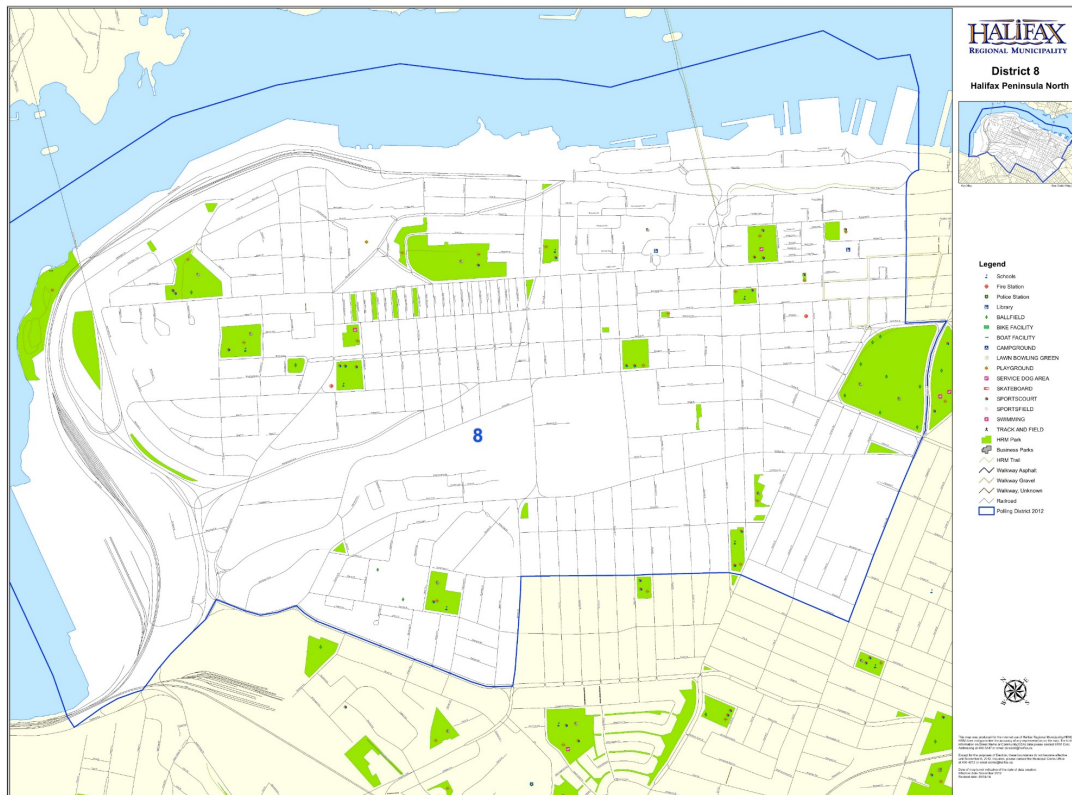
“As the community continues to grow, there’s some urgency around addressing a number of issues at the municipal level.”

Cuttell-Busby names tax reform, the upcoming Centre Plan, more parking on Gottingen Street, and public space enhancement as major issues in the district.

She also said there’s a “vacuum of leadership” when it comes to affordable housing, and she’d like to see the municipality step up.

“We have specific issues in the north end where we see a lot of redevelopment happening, and in that redevelopment there should be some affordable housing component to ensure that people living here now have an opportunity to live here in the future,” she said.

“The most resilient, sustainable communities around the world are those that have a mix of demographics, a mix of incomes: school children, elderly people, middle aged people, working... So you have that great community dynamic, and I’d like to see that maintained in the north end. It’s part of what makes this community great. It’s what people love about it.”



HRM

With a population of 25,770, District 8 includes the northern part of the Halifax peninsula. The boundaries run through the peninsula up Cornwallis Street, Cogswell Street, then Quinpool Road, and then along Oxford Street, down Bayers Road to Connaught, and towards the Bedford Basin.

The area's outgoing councillor, Jennifer Watts, said in a recent interview that, along with development and transportation, she sees affordable housing as a major issue as well.

"I think people are very interested in seeing the municipality take as strong a role as possible in supporting safe, affordable housing for a variety of members of our community," she said.

After two terms as councillor in the district, Watts announced she wouldn't be seeking re-election about a year ago, and [made a call](#) for more diversity on council.

Seven candidates have stepped up to try to take her place.

The apparent frontrunners are Halifax North Memorial Public Library assistant and community leader Lindell Smith and Halifax Bloggers founder and Downtown Halifax Business Commission communications director Brenden Sommerhalder.

Irvine Carvery, who ran as a Conservative in last year's federal election is on the ballot as well, along with Martin Farrell, Anthony Kawalski, Patrick Murphy and Chris Poole.

### ***Meet the candidates:***

#### **Irvine Carvery**



CONTRIBUTED

Irvine Carvery

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- Twitter: [@Simonseez](#)

**Martin Farrell**





CONTRIBUTED

Martin Farrell

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▪ [halifaxdistrict8election.ca](http://halifaxdistrict8election.ca)

**Anthony Kawalski**



CONTRIBUTED

Anthony Kawalski

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- Facebook: [KawalskiForDistrict8](#)
  - Twitter: [@AKawalski](#)
  - [kawalski.ca](#)

**Patrick Murphy**





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Patrick Murphy

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- Twitter: [@8Defender](#)
  - [patrickmurphy.ca](#)

### Chris Poole



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Chris Poole

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- Twitter: [@HalifaxChris](#)
  - [Chrispoole.ca](#)

## Lindell Smith



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Lindell Smith

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- Facebook: [LindellSmithHFX](#)
- Twitter: [@LindellSmithHFX](#)
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**Brenden Sommerhalder**



CONTRIBUTED

Brenden Sommerhalder

- Facebook: [BrendenSommerhalder](#)
- Twitter: [@bsommerhalder](#)
- [votebrenden.ca](#)

***How to vote:***

**Key Dates:**

- e-voting (online and by telephone) starts Oct. 4, runs every day till Oct. 13
- Advanced polling in person on Oct. 8, 11
- Election Day is Oct. 15

**Qualifications:** must be at least 18 years old, Canadian citizen, Nova Scotia resident for six months, and an HRM resident before the first advanced polling day

**Check if you're registered:** [votersearch.halifax.ca/hrm/onvoterslist.html](#)

**Which district you live in:** [apps.halifax.ca/districtlookup](#)

**Where to vote:** [votersearch.halifax.ca/hrm/wheretovote.html](#)

**Any other questions:** call 902-490-VOTE (8683) or 1-844-301-VOTE (8683) or email [election@halifax.ca](mailto:election@halifax.ca)