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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Jane McKay-Nesbitt, Chair, Women's Advisory Committee of Halifax  
CC: Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant, Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, The Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSAIO  
FROM: Caroline Hemstock – The Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSAIO  
DATE: November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
SUBJECT: Update on International Women's Day 2021

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

The following memorandum is intended to inform you and the members of the Women's Advisory Committee of Halifax that the HRM African Nova Scotian and Racially Visible Women's Group and staff from The Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSAIO recently began planning for next year's International Women's Day event.

The annual event will be held on or around March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Depending on provincial health guidelines and restrictions, the event may be hosted in-person at the Halifax Central Library. In order to ensure accessibility and inclusion for residents, specifically women from diverse communities, HRM is exploring options for those who are unable to join in person.

Staff are currently developing plans to ensure that the event centers the experience of women from diverse communities living in HRM. Specifically, HRM staff are working to focus on seeking representation of women with disabilities, African Nova Scotian women, Mi'kmaq women, racialized women, women from the 2SLGBTQ+ community, immigrant women, and Acadian and Francophone women. Additionally, staff have identified the need to work in collaboration with community-based organizations with expertise in the lived-experience of women.

To date, a theme has not been identified for the event. With the intention of centering the voices and experience of women from all HRM communities in the theme and process, staff are seeking insight from WACH as per section 6 (c) of their [Terms of Reference](#). As such, staff request advice from WACH on:

1. The most important issues emerging from each member's community.
2. Mechanisms to engage their respective communities in the event.
3. How members would like to participate in the event (i.e. speeches, participation in panel discussions etc.).

Should the Committee have any questions, a staff person would be happy to answer them or to provide additional information during the regularly scheduled meetings of the Committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

Caroline Hemstock



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