

Request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Meeting: December 3, 2020

Subject: Section 14 Membership, Women's Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Motion for Women's Advisory Committee to Consider:

That the Women's Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council request staff report with respect to amendments to Administrative Order Number 2019-004-GOV Respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality, to include women from racialized communities as part of the Committee complement.

Reason:

According to the current version of the Women's Advisory Committee Terms of Reference document (ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER 2019-004-GOV), under item 14:

The Committee shall include women from the following communities:

- (a) African Nova Scotian and Black communities;
- (b) Indigenous/aboriginal communities;
- (c) LGBTQ2S+ communities;
- (d) Immigrant communities;
- (e) Women with disabilities; and
- (f) Francophone/Acadian community.

It was brought to my attention that the communities do not include women from racialized communities. Racialized women have different cultures, histories, religions, family norms, life experiences and are subject to different stereotypes. What they have in common is they are racialized – they are subject to racism and made to feel different because of their racial/ethnic background.

A racialized woman could be a Canadian-born individual who is not from any of the communities listed above. Adding the category "Racialized Communities" will allow Women's Advisory Committee to be a more inclusive group. By doing so, it will also foster a sense of belonging for the racialized women.

Recognizing that race is a social and culture construct, I proposed HRM describes people as "racialized person" or "racialized group" instead of the more outdated and inaccurate terms "racial minority", "visible minority", "person of colour" or "non-White".

Outcome Sought:

Representation of women from racialized communities on the Women's Advisory Committee.

Christine Yang, Vice Chair of Women's Advisory Committee