



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 12.2.1**  
**Executive Standing Committee**  
**January 25, 2021**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of the Executive Standing Committee

**Original Signed**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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Jane McKay-Nesbitt, Chair, Women's Advisory Committee

**DATE:** January 8, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Amendments to the Women's Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

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**ORIGIN**

December 3, 2020 special meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee, Item 6.2.2.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Administrative Order Number 2019-004-GOV, *Respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality* Section 6 (b):

**Duties of the Committee**

6. The Committee shall advise Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on matters related to women as follows:

(b) advise on mechanisms to engage and empower women to fully participate in the political process at the municipal level;

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended by the Executive Standing Committee, that Halifax Regional Council request a 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.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Women's Advisory Committee received a request for a Committee consideration form from Christine Qin Yang, Vice Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee to consider 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.

For further information, refer to the Attachment 1 of this report.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Women's Advisory Committee considered a Committee consideration form and approved the motion as outlined in 'Recommendation' section of this report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report that are not already included within the Operating Budget.

## **RISK CONSIDERATION**

No risks have been identified.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The agenda and reports of the Women's Advisory Committee are posted on Halifax.ca, and draft minutes of the meeting will be made available on Halifax.ca within three business days.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Environmental implications are not identified.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The Women's Advisory Committee did not provide alternatives.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – A request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration entitled: Section 14 Membership, Women's Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.490.6517

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## Item No. 6.2.2

<b>Request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Agenda Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b>
<p><b>Date of Meeting:</b> December 3, 2020</p> <p><b>Subject:</b> Section 14 Membership, Women's Advisory Committee Terms of Reference</p>		
<p><b>Motion for Women's Advisory Committee to Consider:</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Reason:</b> 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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".</p> <p><b>Outcome Sought:</b> Representation of women from racialized communities on the Women's Advisory Committee.</p>		
<p><i>Christine Yang, Vice Chair of Women's Advisory Committee</i></p>		