



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

Item No. 12.2.2
Executive Standing Committee
April 26, 2021

TO: Mayor Savage Members of the Executive Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: (original signed)

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

DATE: April 7, 2021

SUBJECT: GBA+ training for all members of the Halifax Regional Council

ORIGIN

April 1, 2021 special meeting of Women's Advisory Committee, Item 9.2.2.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order Number 2019-004-GOV, respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality section 6 (d) and (e):

Duties of the Committee

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

(d) provide information and resources about women's gender-based issues to Council, including the use of Gender-Based Analysis Plus; and

(e) advise and make recommendations about strategies designed to achieve the objectives of the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Women's Advisory Committee recommend the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report regarding the implementation of the Federal Government's Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) program as part of the Councillor training and orientation for all current and future members of the Halifax Regional Council.

BACKGROUND

On November 26, 2019, Regional Council approved Administrative Order 2019-004-GOV to establish the Women's Advisory Committee in order to support the creation of a gender inclusive municipality. The Committee reports to the Executive Standing Committee of Council. The purpose of the Women's Advisory Committee is to advise the Municipality on the impact of municipal policies, programs, and services on women.

DISCUSSION

At the April 1, 2021 meeting, the Women's Advisory Committee received a Committee Consideration Form from Tanya Boudreau, a member of the Women's Advisory Committee to consider implementation of the Federal Government's Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) program as part of the Councillor training and orientation for all current and future members of the Halifax Regional Council to achieve 100% GBA+ certified Regional Council in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this Report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

The Women's Advisory Committee did not provide alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – A request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration entitled *GBA+ training for all members of the Halifax Regional Council, both current and future* by Tanya Boudreau

A copy of this report can be obtained online at 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

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: April 1, 2021

Subject: GBA+ training for all members of the Halifax Regional Council, both current and future

Motion for Women's Advisory Committee to Consider:

That the Women's Advisory Committee recommend the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report regarding the implementation of the Federal Government's Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) program as part of the Councillor training and orientation for all current and future members of the Halifax Regional Council.

Reason: The Women's Advisory Committee has identified that as the definition of gender rightfully broadens, it is important to ensure those who are making decisions and creating/giving feedback on policies are educated on these changes. This way they can provide an educated insight into the decisions and policies they make so they are equitable for all people. The GBA+ program provides an introductory level of information and serves to increase the effectiveness of policies and initiatives within an organization. Often, certain groups of people and experiences may not be taken into consideration when creating new policies or addressing issues, either because of lack of knowledge, misunderstanding, or unconscious bias. By having a deeper understanding of the topics covered in the GBA+ program, our hope is that our city will create more inclusive policies that are applicable to all people and take multiple experiences into consideration.

To support the Municipality in creating strong social equity through meaningful engagements to build safer, more inclusive communities for all, as outlined as a priority in the 2021-2025 Strategic Priorities Plan (January 12, 2021).

Outcome Sought: Achieve 100% GBA+ certified Regional Council in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Tanya Boudreau, Member of Women's Advisory Committee