

2020-2021 Annual Report

DR. JANE MCKAY-NESBITT

CHAIR, WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF HALIFAX

NOVEMBER 22, 2021

Agenda

Formation of Women's Advisory Committee of Halifax (WACH)

WACH priorities: actions and outcomes

Recommendations to Regional Plan Review Team

Women's Advisory Committee of Halifax

Late 2019: Committee established (thank you Councillor Blackburn and former Councillor Nicoll)

April 2020: Committee members appointed

September 2020: first meeting

Committee has met monthly (except August & October 2021)

Meetings are virtual

Committee members

- Christine Qin Yang, Vice Chair
- Haneen Al-Noman
- Lily Barraclough
- Tanya Boudreau
- Charla Dorrington
- Mallory Leblanc (resigned November 4, 2021)
- Joanne Bealy
- Holly Matthias (resigned July 8, 2021)
- Councillor Lisa Blackburn
- Councillor Iona Stoddard
- Former Councillor Lorelei Nicoll (resigned November 10, 2020)

2020-2021 Priorities

1. Housing security for women
2. Engagement of women in municipal policies, and in municipal governance and issues
3. Review of existing municipal policies using gender-based analysis.

Priority 1. Housing Security for Women

PRESENTATIONS

Home for Good Project

Representatives from **YWCA** (Miia Suokonautio), **Alice House** (Heather Byrne), and **Marguerite Center** (Lisa Mullin)

Municipal Affordable Housing Initiatives

Jillian MacLellan

OUTCOMES

- WACH in process of developing actions that Committee could take, that could address the housing concerns of women in the HRM

Priority 2
Engagement of
Women in
Municipal
politics,
governance,
and issues

Outcome

Administrative Order Number 2019-0040-GOV was amended on April 26, 2021, to include women from racialized communities.

Priority 2:
Engagement of
Women in
Municipal
politics,
governance,
and issues

Presentations

1. *Anti-Asian Racism*
2. *Canadian Muslim Women: Discrimination, Sexism and Misperceptions*
3. ISANS Programs and Work with Women
4. Immigrant Women's Association of Halifax
5. YWCA Centre for Immigrant Programs
6. Impact of Climate Change on Women in the HRM
7. Women's Quality of Life in the HRM
8. *Local Immigration Project*
9. *Indigenous Women's Perspectives*

Priority 2: Engagement of women in municipal politics, governance and issues

PRESENTATIONS

Anti-Asian Racism

- Christine Qin Yang

OUTCOMES

- WACH recommended information resources. Accepted by Executive Standing Committee (ESC)

- WACH recommended consideration of impact of anti-Asian racism of women's experience of safety in public spaces. Accepted by ESC.

Priority 2: Engagement of women in municipal politics, governance and issues

PRESENTATIONS

- Canadian Muslim Women
 - Haneen Al-Noman

OUTCOMES

- WACH expects to forward a motion to the ESC for request of staff report re: ways to address anti-Muslim racism against women in the HRM

Priority 3:
Review existing
Municipal
Policies using
Gender-Based
Analysis (GBA+)

- Presentation on GBA+ process employed in HRM and other municipalities
- Committee members have completed or enrolled in Federal Government's online training program

Priority 3:
Review existing
Municipal
Policies using
Gender-Based
Analysis (GBA+)

Outcomes

- WACH recommended the ESC request a staff report re: incorporating Federal Government's GBA+ program as part of Councillor and HRM staff training and orientation

- ESC recommended to Council that the Federal Government's GBA+ course be:
 1. incorporated in future Councillor orientation programs
 2. circulated to current Council members
 3. added to elective courses in employee Corporate Training Catalogue
 4. promoted to employees in leadership roles and/or involved in policy and program development.

Priority 3:
Review existing
Municipal
Policies using
Gender-Based
Analysis (GBA+)

Using GBA+ to formulate a response to
the Regional Plan Review Team

Response to Regional Plan Review Team based on GBA+

- Implement GBA+ in the process of **strategy development**.
- Consider **intersectionality** in developing policies and procedures.
- Implement policies for safer, more inclusive, and accessible **transportation** options for women.
- Take women's needs into consideration when addressing **housing affordability**.
- Develop affordable housing alternatives in **communities, where Black and Indigenous women have formed cultural attachments**.
- Ensure that women have access to essential services in both **urban and non-urban areas** of the HRM.
- Adopt a gender lens when developing and implementing policies regarding **public spaces**, and when considering **food security and accessibility**.

Thanks!

To the Executive Standing Committee for their support of our initiatives during the past year.

Thanks!

To HRM staff, especially:

- **Caroline Hemstock**, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- **Haruka Aoyama**, Legislative Assistant.

Thank you.
