

## Women's Advisory Committee 2022 Work Plan

The duties of the Women's Advisory Committee of Halifax (WACH) are specified in sections 6-9 of Administrative Order-2019-004-GOV (AO 2019-004-GOV), as indicated below:

### ***Duties of the Committee***

6. *The Committee shall advise Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on matters related to women as follows:
  - (a) receive and review municipal policies, priorities and decisions using a gender lens, for items directed to the Committee by Council or a Standing Committee of Council, or on its own initiative with direction from the Executive Standing Committee, and to make recommendations;
  - (b) advise on mechanisms to engage and empower women to fully participate in the political process at the municipal level;
  - (c) advise on mechanisms to promote community leadership development for women in the municipality;
  - (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.*
7. *The Committee shall advise business units, through the Chief Administrative Officer, in responding to gender-based issues and concerns of women when requested to do so by the Chief Administrative Officer.*
8. *The Committee may advise the municipality on matters relating to its participation in the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Programme.*
9. *The Committee may develop an annual work plan for approval by Executive Standing Committee.*

To effectively carry out the duties specified above, it is important for WACH members to be informed about issues facing women in the HRM. Thus in 2022, WACH will continue to devote time to becoming better informed about these issues.

The three items listed in the Subcategories/Action column listed below were identified at the December 2021 WACH meeting as priorities for learning. WACH believes that devoting time to learning about these issues will enable them to more effectively perform the duties specified in AO-2019-004-GOV. The actions listed in the Performance Outcomes column indicate WACH's desire to convert their learning to action.

Subcategories/Action	Alignment with Terms of Reference	Person/ Group Responsible	Resources required other service providers, Government, Funds, etc.	Time Frame	Desired Outcome	Performance Indicators: How will you measure your accomplishments
<p><b>Priority 1: Housing security for women (homelessness, shelters and affordability), Particular emphasis will be given to queer and student women, and gender-diverse individuals.</b></p>	<p>Sections 5 (a) &amp; (c)</p>	<p>All Committee Members</p>	<p>Expertise of Committee Members, staff members of HRM, and Halifax Community organizations with specialized knowledge about housing issues facing women in the HRM</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Committee members will become more knowledgeable about housing issues in the HRM so that they may effectively perform their role as an Advisory Committee to the HRM.</p> <p>WACH will provide information and resources about housing issues facing women. issues to Council.</p> <p>Particular attention will be paid to data concerning these issues that has been collected or should be</p>	<p>Committee Members will receive presentations from at least 3 organizations concerned with housing issues affecting women (e.g., HRM Office of Public Safety re: UN Safe Cities program; HRM Regional Planning Office; Halifax YWCA, Affordable Housing Association of Halifax).</p> <p>Committee members will forward at least 3 motions for action to the Executive Standing Committee regarding the following presentations.</p> <p>Where data pertaining to these issues is lacking, WACH will forward motions to the Executive Standing Committee regarding collection of data for</p>

Subcategories/Action	Alignment with Terms of Reference	Person/ Group Responsible	Resources required other service providers, Government, Funds, etc.	Time Frame	Desired Outcome	Performance Indicators: How will you measure your accomplishments
					<i>collected in the future.</i>	<i>evidence-based decision making.</i>
<p><b>Priority 2: Health, safety, wellness &amp; quality of life facing women with an emphasis on women who are marginalized.</b></p> <p><i>The following topics have been identified as being especially important</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Self-care and work-life balance</i></li> <li>• <i>Mental health issues facing women</i></li> <li>• <i>Breast cancer</i></li> <li>• <i>Gender based violence prevention</i></li> <li>• <i>Online violence prevention</i></li> <li>• <i>Public safety</i></li> <li>• <i>Sex trafficking in HRM</i></li> <li>• <i>Women's income (i.e., poverty, basic income, pay equity)</i></li> </ul>	<i>Sections 5(c), 6(b) and 6(c), 8</i>	<i>All Committee members</i>	<i>Expertise of Committee Members, staff members of HRM, and Halifax Community organizations with specialized knowledge about health, safety, wellness, and quality of life issues facing women in the HRM.</i>	<i>2022</i>	<p><i>Committee members will become more knowledgeable about health, safety, wellness and quality of life issues facing women in the HRM so that they may effectively perform their role as an Advisory Committee to the HRM.</i></p> <p><i>WACH will provide information and resources about health, safety, wellness and quality of life issues facing women.</i></p>	<p><i>Committee Members will receive presentations from at least 6 organizations concerned with health, safety, wellness and quality of life issues facing women.</i></p> <p><i>Committee members will forward at least 3 motions for action to the Executive Standing Committee that emerge from issues raised by the above presentations.</i></p>

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					<p><i>issues to Council.</i></p> <p><i>Particular attention will be paid to data concerning these issues that has been collected or should be collected in the future.</i></p>	<p><i>Where data pertaining to these issues is lacking, WACH will forward motions to the Executive Standing Committee regarding collection of data for evidence-based decision making.</i></p>
<p><b>Priority 3: Reviewing existing Municipal policies using gender-based analysis</b> with emphasis on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Services provided by Parks &amp; Recreation, Halifax Public Libraries, Halifax Transit</i></li> <li><i>Voting rights for women resident in HRM without Canadian citizenship</i></li> <li><i>Representation on Municipal boards committees</i></li> </ul>	<p>Sections 6(a), 6(b), 6(c), 8</p>	<p><i>All Committee members</i></p>	<p><i>Expertise of HRM staff members, members of the Halifax Community, or committee members with specialized knowledge about the impact of municipal policies on women in the HRM.</i></p>	<p>2022</p>	<p><i>Committee members will become more knowledgeable about HRM's municipal policies so that they may effectively perform their role as an Advisory Committee to the HRM.</i></p> <p><i>WACH will provide information and resources to Council regarding</i></p>	<p><i>Committee Members will receive presentations from at least 3 HRM staff members, organizations, or committee members concerned with the impact of municipal policies on women.</i></p> <p><i>Committee members will forward at least 3 motions for action to the Executive Standing Committee that emerge</i></p>

Subcategories/Action	Alignment with Terms of Reference	Person/ Group Responsible	Resources required other service providers, Government, Funds, etc.	Time Frame	Desired Outcome	Performance Indicators: How will you measure your accomplishments
					<p><i>the impact of municipal policies on women.</i></p> <p><i>Particular attention will be paid to data concerning these issues that has been collected or should be collected in the future.</i></p>	<p><i>from issues raised by the above presentations.</i></p> <p><i>Where data pertaining to these issues is lacking, WACH will forward motions to the Executive Standing Committee regarding collection of data for evidence-based decision making.</i></p>

[Terms of Reference \(Administrative Order 2019-004-GOV Respecting the Women’s Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality\)](#)