



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

Item No. 15.4.1
Halifax Regional Council
August 23, 2022

TO: Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed
Mayor Mike Savage, Chair, Executive Standing Committee

DATE: July 26, 2022

SUBJECT: **HRM Support for Access to Abortion Services in Canada**

ORIGIN

July 7, 2022 meeting of Women's Advisory Committee, Item 9.2.2.

July 25, 2022 meeting of Executive Standing Committee, Item 12.3.1.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Legislative Authority is outlined in the attached Women's Advisory Committee report dated July 15, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council ask for the Mayor to write a letter to the Federal Minister of Health opposing any bill or motion that is intended to restrict abortion or reduce access to abortion in Canada.

BACKGROUND

Executive Standing Committee received a recommendation report from the Women's Advisory Committee dated July 15, 2022 to consider HRM Support for Access to Abortion Services in Canada.

For further information refer to the attached Women's Advisory Committee report dated July 15, 2022.

DISCUSSION

Executive Standing Committee considered the Women's Advisory Committee report dated July 15, 2022 and approved the recommendation to Halifax Regional Council as outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications are outlined in the attached Women's Advisory Committee report dated July 15, 2022.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk consideration is outlined in the attached Women's Advisory Committee report dated July 15, 2022.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meetings of the Executive Standing Committee are open to public attendance and members of the public are invited to address the Standing Committee for up to five (5) minutes during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Standing Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

For further information on Community Engagement refer to attached Women's Advisory Committee report dated July 15, 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental implications are outlined in the attached Women's Advisory Committee report dated July 15, 2022.

ALTERNATIVES

Executive Standing Committee did not provide alternatives.

Alternatives are outlined in the attached Women's Advisory Committee report dated July 15, 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Women's Advisory Committee recommendation report dated July 15, 2022.

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: Catie Campbell, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 782-641-0796

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Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Item No. 12.3.1
Executive Standing Committee
July 25, 2022

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Executive Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY:



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

DATE: July 15, 2022

SUBJECT: HRM Support for Access to Abortion Services in Canada

ORIGIN

July 7, 2022 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
(e) advise and make recommendations about strategies designed to achieve the objectives of the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

The Women's Advisory Committee recommends that the Executive Standing Committee recommends to Halifax Regional Council that the Mayor be asked to write a letter to the Federal Minister of Health opposing any bill or motion that is intended to restrict abortion or reduce access to abortions in Canada.

BACKGROUND

While developing their 2022 Work Plan, the Women's Advisory Committee agreed to address issue impacting women in HRM.

The Women's Advisory Committee has received numerous presentations related to public safety and the impact on women. The Committee noted how a letter to the Federal Minister allows for HRM to be seen as an inclusive and safe place for women to live. As well, reinforces HRM's commitment to safe cities and the UN Women Safe Cities, Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Flagship Programme started in 2019.

DISCUSSION

Women's Advisory Committee members expressed interest in forming a statement opposing the overturn of the Roe v. Wade law in the United States at their July 7, 2022 meeting. The Committee considered former presentations and discussions around public safety and the impact on women and approved the motion outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications at this time.

RISK CONSIDERATION

No risk considerations were identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Women's Advisory Committee is comprised of six citizen members and two Councillors. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No risk considerations were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

Women's Advisory Committee did not provide alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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: Catie Campbell, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 782-641-0796