

# 2022 Annual Report

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DR. JANE MCKAY-NESBITT

CHAIR, WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF HALIFAX (WACH)

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

## Agenda

Information about  
meetings and members

WACH priorities,  
actions, and outcomes

Women's  
Advisory  
Committee of  
Halifax

Committee met monthly

Summer recess in August

June and October meetings were  
cancelled

Meetings are virtual except  
November 2022

# Current Committee members

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- Haneen Al-Noman, Vice Chair
- Councillor Pam Lovelace
- Elizabeth Fraser
- Dr. Jacquie Gahagan
- Maggie Hua
- Sonia Ikeloa
- Hannah Jackson
- Liz Vickers-Drennan

# Former Committee members

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- Councillor Iona Stoddard
- Councillor Lisa Blackburn
- Lily Barraclough
- Joanne Bealy
- Tanya Boudreau
- Charla Dorrington
- Holly Gillis
- Christine Qui Yang

# WACH Members:

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1. recommend and approve priorities for learning for the year
2. solicit and receive presentations from community members, committee members, and HRM staff members
3. make recommendations to the ESC based on the information gleaned from the presentations

# 2022 Priorities

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1. Housing security for women.
2. Health, safety, wellness and quality of life facing women with an emphasis on marginalized women.
3. Review of existing municipal policies using gender-based analysis.

Priority 1:  
Housing  
Security for  
Women

*Presentation*

Impact of Housing Crisis on Women

**Sheri Lecker**, Executive Director, Adsum for  
Women and Children

Priority 1:  
Housing  
Security for  
Women

*Outcome*

WACH recommended that the ESC

i) direct the CAO to prepare a staff report about the use of an intersectional lens on housing and homelessness initiatives within the mandate of the HRM

ii) review the recommendations emerging from the Home For Good research project attached in the December 2, 2021 WACH Consideration Form

ESC considered and approved the motion on December 13, 2021

Priority 2:  
Health, Safety,  
Wellness, and  
Quality of Life  
Facing Women

1. Climate Emergency
2. Human Trafficking
3. Basic Income
4. Aids
5. Safety of Muslim women, Asian Women and Non-binary people

Priority 2:  
Health, Safety,  
Wellness, and  
Quality of Life  
Facing Women

*COMMUNITY  
AND COMMITTEE  
MEMBER  
PRESENTERS*

Impact of Climate Emergency on Women

- **Emma Norton**, Climate Emergency Unit, David Suzuki Institute

Persons at Risk and Street Level Women at Risk Programs in London, ON

- Sgt. **Amy Birch**, London Police
- **Jaclyn Seeler**, Program Manager of Street Level Women at Risk
- **Alannah Delahunty-Pike**, Dalhousie University

Human Trafficking

- **Heidi Marshall**, Consultant, Native Women's Association, Jane Paul Resource Centre
- **Charlene Gagnon**, Manager of Advocacy, Research, and New Initiatives, Halifax YWCA

World Aids Day

- Dr. **Jacquie Gahagan**

Basic Income and its impact on Women

- **Elizabeth (Mandy) Kay-Raining Bird**, Basic Income Nova Scotia and Coalition Canada Basic Income

Priority 2:  
Health, Safety,  
Wellness, and  
Quality of Life  
Facing Women

*HRM Staff  
Members*

HalifACT

- **Shannon Miedema**, Environment and Climate Change Program Manager

Basic Income in the HRM

- Councillor **Waye Mason**

Human Trafficking

- **Cheryl Copage-Gehue**, Advisor, Indigenous Community Engagement, HRM
- **Charlene Gagnon**, Manager of Advocacy, Research and New Initiatives, Halifax YWCA
- Sargeant **Kathryn Willett**, HRP
- Inspector **David Boon** HRP

Race and Gender Data and Safety of Asian Women and Non-binary people

- **Amy Brierley**, Program Coordinator, HRM Safe City and Safe Public Spaces Program

Priority 2:  
Health, Safety,  
Wellness, and  
Quality of Life  
Facing Women

*Outcomes*

*Climate Emergency*

WACH recommended that ESC recommend that HRM Council ii) fully fund and implement HalifACT and ii) consider and mitigate the impacts of climate change on women and children

ESC considered motions separately and approved them on March 28, 2022

Priority 2:  
Health, Safety,  
Wellness, and  
Quality of Life  
Facing Women

*Outcomes*

*Abortion*

WACH recommended that ESC recommend that HRM Council ask Mayor to write a letter to the Federal Minister of Health opposing any bill that is intended to restrict abortion or access to abortions in Canada

ESC approved the motion on July 25, 2022

Priority 2:  
Health, Safety,  
Wellness, and  
Quality of Life  
Facing Women

*Outcomes*

*Basic Income*

WACH Chair wrote a letter of support to the HRM Council regarding their decision to request that the Government of Canada implement a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income which would ensure that everyone has sufficient income to meet their needs

Priority 2:  
Health, Safety,  
Wellness, and  
Quality of Life  
Facing Women

*Outcomes*

*Safety of Muslim Women*

WACH recommended that ESC recommend that HRM Council direct the CAO to prepare a report that investigates other municipalities' work around anti-Muslim hate and makes recommendations on potential action to combat anti-Muslim hate and racism, particularly with respect to women in the HRM.

ESC approved the motion on December 13, 2021

Priority 3  
Reviewing Existing  
Municipal Policies  
and Gender Based  
Analysis

*Committee  
Member and Staff  
Member  
Presentations*

Women's Representation on HRM's Advisory  
Boards and Committees (ABCs) and the 50-30  
Challenge

- **Christine Qin Yang**, WACH Vice Chair

HRM Board and Committee Member Recruitment  
process

- **Iain MacLean**, Municipal Clerk
- **Tracy Jones-Grant**, Managing Director, HRM Office of  
Diversity and Inclusion

HRM's Women and Gender Equity Strategy

- **Carolyn Hemstock**, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor
- **Amy Brierley**, Program Coordinator, HRM Safe City  
and Safe Public Spaces Program
- **Baylee Brown**, Policy
- **Raven Glasgow**, Community Outreach Coordinator
- **Cathy Collett**, Research and Development Specialist

# Thanks!

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To the Committee Members

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

# Thanks!

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To HRM staff, especially:

- **Tracy Jones-Grant**, Managing Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the ODI staff
- **Amy Brierley**, Program Coordinator, Safe City and Safe Public Spaces Program
- **Catie Campbell**, Legislative Assistant

# Comments/Questions?

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