

2022-2023 Annual Report

DR. JANE MCKAY-NESBITT

CHAIR, WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF HALIFAX

MARCH 11, 2024

Agenda

Information about
members and meetings

WACH priorities,
actions, and outcomes

Women's
Advisory
Committee of
Halifax

Committee met
monthly, except June
and August

Meetings were virtual
except April & October
2023

Current Committee members

- Elizabeth Fraser
- Dr. Jacquie Gahagan (Chair)
- Sonia Ikeloa
- Hannah Jackson (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Kent
- Councillor Lovelace
- Jane McKay-Nesbitt (Past Chair)

Former Committee members

- Haneen Al Noman
- Maggie Hua
- Liz Vickers-Drennan
- Christine Qui Yang

2022-2023 Priorities

1. Health, Safety, Wellness, and Quality of Life Facing Women with an emphasis on marginalized women
2. Women's involvement in nontraditional roles (including employment and involvement in municipal boards and committees) and in the economic growth of the HRM, with a focus on Indigenous women.
3. Housing security for women (homelessness, shelters and affordability).

Giving Voice!

- WACH 'gave voice' to many women during 2023
- WACH invited women from the community, as well as HRM staff members, to attend our meetings to provide insights on issues impacting the wellbeing of women in the HRM

Priority 1:
Health, safety,
wellness and
quality of life of
Women in the
HRM

Community
members

- **Jennifer Holleman**, Speaker and author on Human Trafficking Advocacy
- **Wyndoln Brown**, Founder of Empowerment for Hope on A survivor's perspective on human trafficking in Nova Scotia

Priority 1:
Health, safety,
wellness and
quality of life of
Women in the
HRM

*HRM staff
members*

- **Steven Cushing**, Landscape Architect on HRM's Park lighting strategy
- **Amy Siciliano**, Public Safety Advisor on the HRM's renewed Public Safety Strategy
- **Amy Brierley**, Program Coordinator, Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces on the HRM's Women's Safety Assessment Tool
- **Cassady Yochoff**, Inclusion and Accessibility Specialist on the HRM's recreation funding access program

Priority 2:
Women's
involvement in
non traditional
roles

*Community and
committee
members*

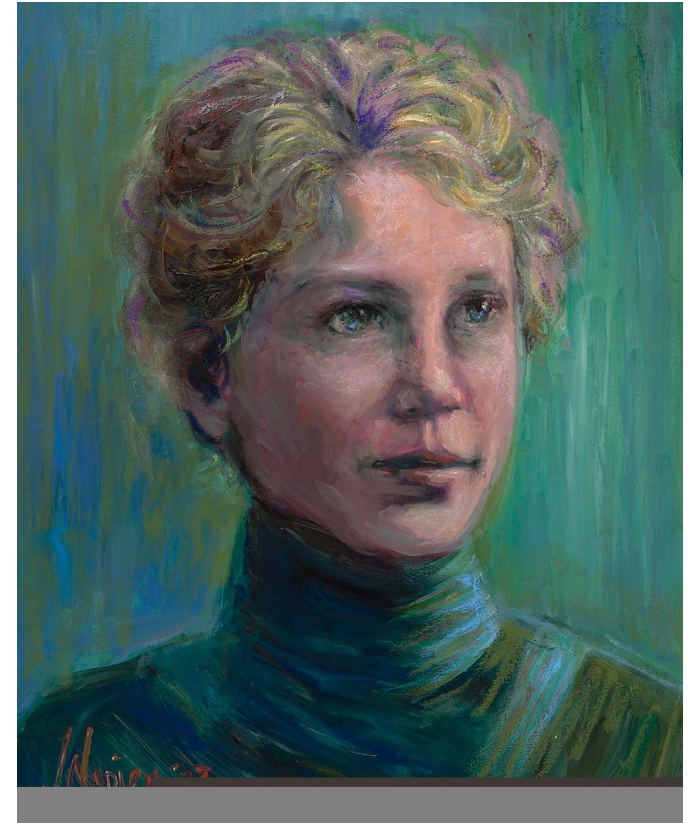
- Councillors
 - **Blackburn**
 - **Cuttell**
 - **Deagle Gammon**
 - **Kent**
 - **Lovelace**
 - **Morse**
 - **Purdy**
- MLA
 - **Lorelei Nichol**

spoke about their experiences getting elected to, and holding public office.

Priority 2:
Women's
involvement in
non traditional
roles

*Community and
committee
members*

- **Jo Napier**, Artist and Founder of Great Women's Portrait Project, on using portrait art to bring attention to women's accomplishments in STEM



Priority 2:
Women's
involvement in
non traditional
roles

*HRM staff
members*

- **Connor O'Dea**, senior policy advisor, Government Relations and External Affairs presented on Engage Nova Scotia and Research Nova Scotia
- **Britt Wilson**, Executive Director of Human Resources spoke to us about HRM's human resource practices.

Priority 3:
Housing
Security for
Women
(homelessness,
shelters, and
affordability)

*Community
members*

- **Veronica Marsman**, Property Manager, AKOMA Holdings Inc.
- **Cheyenne Jones**, Assistant Property Manager, AKOMA Holdings Inc.
on AKOMA's Affordable Housing Plan for Women.
- **Ren Thomas**, Associate Professor at Dalhousie University on affordable housing in the HRM
- **Gayle Collicutt**, Director of the Elizabeth Fry Society, on people's lived experience with homelessness

Priority 3:
Housing
Security for
Women
(homelessness,
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affordability)

*HRM staff
members*

- **Max Chauvin**, Director of Housing and Homelessness
on HRM's approach to addressing homelessness.
- **Jillian MacLellan**, Principle Planner
- **Jamy-Ellen Klenavic**, Planner,
on Halifax affordable housing initiatives.

Other Actions Taken

- Requested ESC to direct a report on the creation of a rebate program for municipal campaign contributions
- Sent letter of support to Mayor and Council for action taken on May 9 refusing a developer's request to do cash in lieu of providing affordable housing units
- As a result of meeting Wyndolyn Brown at a WACH meeting, Councillor Lovelace has worked with Wyndolyn to provide education around human trafficking

Thanks!

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

Thanks!

To HRM staff, especially:

- Tracy Jones Grant, Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- Baylee Brown, Advisor, Gender Equity
- Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist
- Elizabeth MacDonald, Legislative Assistant

Thank you & Questions
