



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

**Item No. 13.1.1**  
**Executive Standing Committee**  
**January 20, 2025**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Executive Standing Committee

**FROM:** Jacquie Gahagan, Chair, Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee

**DATE:** December 5, 2024

**SUBJECT:** **Request for Letter re: Municipal Conflict of Interest of Act**

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#### **ORIGIN**

December 5, 2024 meeting of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee, Item 9.2.1.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee recommends that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report with respect to requesting that the Mayor write a letter to the Province of Nova Scotia's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to request the definition of "spouse" in the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act be amended to adopt gender neutral language.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee received a Request for Consideration form from member, Rhiannon Makohoniuk to consider recommending the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report requesting that the Mayor write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to request changes to the Municipal Conflict of Interest.

For further information refer to the attached Request for Consideration form.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee considered the Request for Consideration form and approved the recommendation to the Executive Standing Committee.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No financial implications identified.

**RISK CONSIDERATION**

No risk considerations identified.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee is comprised of 9 citizen members and 2 Councillors. The agenda, reports, videos and minutes of the Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

No environmental implications identified.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee did not provide alternatives.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Request for Consideration Form

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## Item No. 9.2.1

Request for Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Agenda Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Wednesday the week prior to the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one working day prior to meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: December 5, 2024</b>		
<b>Subject: Mayor Letter Request re: Municipal Conflict of Interest Act</b>		
<b>Motion for Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee to Consider:</b>  That the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee recommend that Executive Standing Committee request a staff report with respect to requesting that the Mayor write a letter to the Province of Nova Scotia's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to request the definition of "spouse" in the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act be amended to adopt gender neutral language.  <b>Reason:</b> This piece of provincial legislation which applies to the Municipality uses outdated language to describe the definition of spouse. This legislation applies to the Committee and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act is distributed as part of Committee orientation.  <b>Outcome Sought:</b> That Mayor Fillmore write a letter to the Province of Nova Scotia's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to request the definition of "spouse" in the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act be amended. The letter may also note that another piece of provincial legislation, the Matrimonial Property Act, uses the same definition.		
<i>Rhiannon Makohoniuk</i>		