



**WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 6, 2025**

**PRESENT:**                   Jacquie Gahagan, Chair  
                                  Councillor Virginia Hinch  
                                  Councillor Nancy Hartling  
                                  Hannah Jackson  
                                  Rhiannon Makohoniuk  
                                  Liz Fraser  
                                  Cheryl Copage-Gehue  
                                  Sherryl Murphy

**REGRETS:**                 Doreen Redmond, Vice Chair  
                                  Sonia Ikheloa  
                                  Zoey Zhou

**STAFF:**                    Carla John, Advisor Diversity & Inclusion  
                                  Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist  
                                  Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant

*The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.*

*The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca).*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

### **1.1 Annual Election of Chair**

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Sherryll Murphy, seconded by Cheryl Copage-Gehue

**THAT Jacquie Gahagan be nominated Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.**

Jacquie Gahagan was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Hartling, seconded by Councillor Hinch

**THAT Jacquie Gahagan be appointed Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Jacquie Gahagan was declared the Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

Jacquie Gahagan assumed the Chair.

### **1.2 Annual Election of Vice Chair**

Jacquie Gahagan called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Hannah Jackson, seconded by Cheryl Copage-Gehue

**THAT Doreen Redmond be nominated Vice Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.**

Doreen Redmond was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Sherryll Murphy, seconded by Councillor Hinch

**THAT Doreen Redmond be appointed Vice Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Doreen Redmond was declared the Vice Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 9, 2025**

MOVED by Hannah Jackson, seconded by Councillor Hartling

**THAT the minutes of January 9, 2025 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Hannah Jackson, seconded by Cheryl Copage-Gehue

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence – None**

**7.2 Petitions – None**

**7.3 Presentation – None**

**8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE**

**9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Discussion of 2024 Work Plan**

The following was before the Committee:

- Approved Revised Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee 2024 Work Plan

The Committee discussed their work in 2024 and acknowledged the priorities identified in the work plan required further action and consideration in 2025.

Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Committee noted an interest in the following:

- Receiving an update on the Halifax Regional Municipality's approach to mitigating human trafficking and sexual exploitation;
- Receiving a staff presentation concerning crosswalk safety measures; and
- The implementation of GBA+ policies at the Municipal level.

The Committee requested materials from the March 3, 2022 meeting, Item 8.3.2 YWCA Halifax re: Human Trafficking be redistributed to allow members to review the materials and consider requesting additional content or an updated presentation.

**9.1.2 Discussion of Past Reports, Discussions and Presentations**

The Committee expressed an interest in receiving presentations on the following topics:

- Initiatives at the Municipal level to address food insecurity;

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- Halifax Regional Police's (HRP) regarding efforts to address human trafficking and gender based violence;
- An update regarding the Municipality's role in housing;
- HRP's wellness checks with a particular focus on interactions with indigenous communities;
- Women and gender diverse individuals access to sport and recreation programs;
- Training sessions and services offered to senior women to address the "digital divide";
- The Municipality's development of a Senior Safety Strategy;
- Housing needs assessments for LGBTQ+ youth;
- The work of the Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance; and
- An overview of the work of Geo Nova Scotia.

Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Committee discussed revising their current work plan and noted plans to establish performance indicators and measurable outcomes at a future meeting.

#### **10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

#### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 6, 2025**

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald  
Legislative Assistant