



**WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 3, 2025**

PRESENT: Jacquie Gahagan, Chair
Doreen Redmond, Vice Chair
Councillor Virginia Hinch
Cheryl Copage-Gehue
Liz Fraser
Rhiannon Makohoniuk
Sherryll Murphy

REGRETS: Councillor Hartling
Hannah Jackson
Sonia Ikheloa – Leave of Absence
Zoey Zhou

STAFF: Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Diversity & Inclusion
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.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 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.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 6, 2025

MOVED by Liz Fraser, seconded by Sherryll Murphy,

THAT the minutes of March 6, 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

As provided for in section 37 (1) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, Sherryll Murphy requested that Item 6.1 - Member Discussion of 2024 Work Plan be considered after Item 9.1.1.

MOVED by Sherryll Murphy, seconded by Liz Fraser

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

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

6.1 Member Discussion of 2024 Work Plan

The following was before the Committee:

- Approved Revised Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee 2024 Work Plan
- Administrative Order Number 2019-004-GOV, *Respecting the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality*

The Committee discussed their 2024 Work Plan and identified *Priority 3: Housing and food security for women in HRM* as their top priority for 2025. They discussed the possibility of addressing housing and food security separately and the formation of working groups to address Priority 3.

Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist spoke to the ongoing development of the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee. The Committee requested staff explore options for the Committee to be engaged during the development of the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

Carla John, Advisor Diversity & Inclusion spoke to the development of the Women and Gender Equity Strategy. John and Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Committee requested that Diversity & Inclusion staff explore options for the Committee to be engaged in the early stages of projects and initiatives at the Halifax Regional Municipality.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 Overview of GEO Nova Scotia – *Matt Spurway*

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated April 3, 2025

Matt Spurway, Executive Director, GEO Nova Scotia gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Halifax Regional Police's Victim Services Unit

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated April 3, 2025

Dolly Mosher, Coordinator Victim Services, Halifax Regional Police gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 1, 2025

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant