



**WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
May 1, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Doreen Redmond, Vice Chair  
Councillor Virginia Hinch  
Cheryl Copage-Gehue  
Liz Fraser  
Rhiannon Makohoniuk  
Sherryl Murphy

**REGRETS:** Jacquie Gahagan, Chair  
Councillor Nancy Hartling  
Hannah Jackson

**STAFF:** Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Diversity & Inclusion  
Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist, Community Safety  
Krista Vining, Team Lead, Legislative Assistants

*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](https://www.halifax.ca).*

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

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:33 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 – April 3, 2025**

MOVED by Sherryll Murphy, seconded by Councillor Hinch

**THAT the minutes of April 3, 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 Liz Fraser, seconded by Councillor Hinch

**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 Development of Senior Safety Strategy at HRM**

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated May 1, 2025

Frances Tufford, Research & Development Specialist, Public Safety gave a presentation, seeking feedback on the Strategy and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Committee noted the following:

- Consultation with isolated seniors;
- Engagement with service providers (e.g. Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and Welta'sualule'k Kiknu);
- Reframe sociodemographic factors based on life experience;
- Need for robust infrastructure (e.g. mobility, safe place to live, access to healthy food);
- Digital literacy for newcomers as language can be an increased barrier for detecting fraud;

- Concern with seniors being targeted for fraud;
- Need for intragenerational support and utilizing and engaging newer and older seniors' perspectives and life experiences;
- Include a link or information on the Seniors' Home Safety Program on Halifax.ca for seniors interested in volunteering with the program; and
- Include information on seniors experiencing homelessness.

## **9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **9.2.1 Discussion of Work Plan**

The following was before the Committee:

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

The Committee discussed Priority 3: *Housing and food security for women in HRM*, identified as a top priority for 2025, and noted the following topics they would like included in their 2025 work plan:

- Apply a broad Indigenous lens, treaty rights lens, and perspectives of Indigenous youth and elders;
- Optimizing HRM-maintained community gardens; spaces often lacked signage or identification of plants, making them an underutilized public infrastructure;
- Receive presentations on existing programs for review and optimization; and
- Invite staff to discuss needs assessed for Affordable Housing Programs for follow up or further planning, with desired outcomes to include housing needs for 2SLGBTQ+.

Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Diversity & Inclusion, Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist, Community Safety and Krista Vining, Team Lead, Legislative Assistants responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

## **10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 5, 2025**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Krista Vining  
Team Lead, Legislative Assistants