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MEMORANDUM

TO:Jane McKay-Nesbitt, Chair, Women's Advisory Committee of HalifaxCC:Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant, Tracey Jones-Grant, ManagingDirector, The Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSAIOFROM:Caroline Hemstock – The Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSAIODATE:December 2nd, 2021SUBJECT:Update on International Women's Day 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

The following memorandum is intended to inform you that municipal staff and community partners recently began planning for next year's International Women's Day event.

The annual event will be held on or around March 8th, 2022. Depending on provincial health guidelines and restrictions, the event may be hosted a hybrid in-person and virtual event at an accessible location in the Halifax region.

The planning group is currently developing plans to ensure that the event centers the experience of women from diverse communities living in HRM. Specifically, HRM staff are working to focus on seeking representation of women with disabilities, African Nova Scotian women, Mi'kmaq women, racialized women, women from the 2SLGBTQ+ community, immigrant women, and Acadian and Francophone women.

To date, a theme has not been identified for the event. With the intention of centering the voices and experience of women from all HRM communities in the theme and process, staff are seeking insight from WACH as per section 6 (c) of their <u>Terms of Reference</u>. As such, staff request advice from WACH on:

- 1. The most important issues emerging from each member's community.
- 2. Mechanisms to engage their respective communities in the event.
- 3. How members would like to participate in the event (i.e. speeches, participation in panel discussions etc.).

Should the Committee have any questions, a staff person would be happy to answer them or to provide additional information during the regularly scheduled meetings of the Committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

Caroline Hemstock

