



**WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
April 1, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Jane McKay-Nesbitt, Chair  
Christine Qin Yang, Vice Chair  
Lilian Barraclough  
Tanya Boudreau  
Holly Mathias  
Mallory LeBlanc  
Haneen Al-Noman  
Charla Dorrington  
Councillor Lisa Blackburn  
Councillor Iona Stoddard

**STAFF:** Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor  
Haruka Aoyama, 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).*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. and the Committee adjourned at 6:04 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 4, 2021**

MOVED by Councillor Stoddard, seconded by Christine Qin Yang

**THAT the minutes of March 4, 2021 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

MOVED by Holly Mathias, seconded by Charla Dorrington

**THAT the order of business be approved as circulated.**

**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**

There was no correspondence submitted to the Women's Advisory Committee.

**7.2 Petitions – None**

**7.3 Presentation**

**7.3.1 Overview of ISANS Programs & Our Work with Women – Jennifer Watts, CEO of Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS)**

The following was before the Committee:

- A presentation entitled *HRM Women's Advisory Committee* dated April 1, 2021

Presentation slides are on file and available at Halifax.ca agenda page.

Jennifer Watts, CEO of ISANS provided an overview of the Organization's vision, mission, strategic plan, past/ongoing activities and initiatives, and impact of COVID-19 on immigrant women. Watts explained that affordability of internet service, digital literacy, and access to internet service, which all lead women to miss social and economic opportunities in the community, are examples of impacts of COVID-19 on immigrant women.

Watts answered questions from the Committee members regarding following topics:

- Programs which support women at ISANS, especially during the COVID-19
- National & partnership project for LGBTQIA2S+

- Service distribution across region
- Gender based violence and trauma
- Women and employment

**7.3.2 Immigrant Migrant Women's Association of Halifax - who we are and what we do – María-José Yax-Fraser and Nenyó Kwasitsu, Immigrant and Migrant Women's Association of Halifax (IMWHA)**

The following was before the Committee:

- A presentation entitled *IMWAH Who We Are and What We Do* dated April 1, 2021

Presentation slides are on file and available at Halifax.ca agenda page.

María-José Yax-Fraser and Nenyó Kwasitsu, (IMWAH) provided an overview on organization's mission, vision, activities, and issues faced by immigrant and migrant women and girls. IMWAH's goal is to provide service to migrants and immigrants despite their immigration status.

Yax-Fraser answered questions from the Committee members regarding Immigrant and migrant women in Nova Scotia. Yax-Fraser explained that the Women's Advisory Committee could support IMWHA best by supporting their requests for funding.

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

**9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**9.1 STAFF**

**9.1.1 Update on GBA+ from Office of Diversity and Inclusion**

Caroline Hemstock, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor provided an update on staff's work on Gender Based Analysis Plus.

- 1) GBA+ knowledge sharing with Halifax Regional Municipality employees
  - Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSAIO provided an overview of GBA+ to leadership team of the Corporate and Customer Service business unit in March.
  - Office of Diversity and Inclusion will provide a presentation and overview of GBA+ to the Planning and Development business unit in April.
  - Office of Diversity and Inclusion is currently working on development of tool kit for GBA+ in collaboration with the Communications team. This tool kit will launch in the next few months.
- 2) Project – Women's Quality of Life Report Card
  - To help understand women's quality of life in the Halifax region and possibly inform municipal policies, services and programs the Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ANSIAO is working with a research partner to apply an intersectional lens to quantitative data on their experiences. Preliminary results will be available in spring or summer, 2021.
- 3) Workshop for Women's Advisory Committee
  - The Women's Advisory Committee is invited to participate in an online workshop facilitated by Women Transforming Cities in April.

**9.2 COMMITTEE**

**9.2.1 Inviting Home for Good Project to Present to Councillors**

The following was before the Committee:

- A Women's Advisory Committee consideration form from Haneen Al-Noman and Holly Mathias dated April 1, 2021

MOVED by Holly Mathias, seconded by Haneen Al-Noman

**THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council invite Home for Good Project members to present the findings of their housing research project in order to provide an understanding of gendered housing issues specific to HRM.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **9.2.2 GBA+ training for all members of the Halifax Regional Council**

The following was before the Committee:

- A Women's Advisory Committee consideration form from Tanya Boudreau dated April 1, 2021

MOVED by Tanya Boudreau, seconded by Councillor Stoddard

**THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommend the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report regarding the implementation of the Federal Government's Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) program as part of the Councillor training and orientation for all current and future members of the Halifax Regional Council.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **9.2.3 GBA+ training for all staff members of the Halifax Regional Municipality**

The following was before the Committee:

- A Women's Advisory Committee consideration form from Tanya Boudreau dated April 1, 2021

MOVED by Tanya Boudreau, seconded by Christine Qin Yang

**THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report regarding the implementation of the Federal Government's Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) free, self-paced training for all current and future staff members of the Halifax Regional Municipality as part of the employee training.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **9.2.4 Presentation on Anti-Asian Racism by Christine Qin Yang**

The following was before the Committee:

- A presentation entitled *Stop Anti-Asian Racism* dated April 1, 2021

Christine Qin Yang presented on Anti-Asian Racism by explaining the history of anti-Asian racism in Canada and its continued relevance in Halifax Regional Municipality. She suggested action items for Halifax Regional Municipality and the Women's Advisory Committee.

Presentation slides are on file and available at Halifax.ca agenda page.

#### **10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

#### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 6, 2021**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Haruka Aoyama  
Legislative Assistant