



**WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT 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

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee at a future meeting.

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