



**WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
June 5, 2025**

PRESENT: Doreen Redmond, Chair
Michelle Benson, Vice Chair
Councillor Hinch
Councillor Hartling
Devi Ayyagari
Natalie Borden
Mairi Graham
Rhiannon Makohoniuk
Delainey McCarron
Sherryll Murphy

REGRETS: Cheryl Copage-Gehue

STAFF: Tracey Jones-Grant, Managing Director, Office of Diversity & Inclusion
(ANSAIO)
Carla John, Advisor, Diversity & Inclusion
Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist
Raine Sparling, Coordinator 2SLGBTQ+ /Gender Equity Community
Engagement and Research
Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant

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 4:34 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.

1.1 Introduction of New Members

Committee members provided introductory remarks.

1.2 Election of Chair

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Sherryll Murphy, seconded by Rhiannon Makohoniuk

THAT Doreen Redmond be nominated Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

Doreen Redmond was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Hinch, seconded by Councillor Hartling

THAT Doreen Redmond be appointed Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Doreen was declared the Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

Doreen Redmond assumed the Chair.

1.2 Election of Vice Chair

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Hartling, seconded by Councillor Hinch

THAT Michelle Benson be nominated Vice Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

Michelle Benson was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Doreen Redmond, seconded by Natalie Borden

THAT Michelle Benson be appointed Vice Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Michelle Benson was declared the Vice Chair of the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 1, 2025

MOVED by Sherryll Murphy, seconded by Rhiannon Makohoniuk

THAT the minutes of May 1, 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 Rhiannon Makohoniuk, seconded by Councillor Hartling

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

7.3.1 Overview of Independent Legal Advice Program – Lyndsay Hollett and Manisha Seebalak

The following was before the Committee:

- Request for presentation dated May 27, 2025
- Presentation dated June 5, 2025
- Handout dated June 5, 2025

Lyndsay Hollett, Coordinator, Independent Legal Advice Program and Manisha Seebalak, Coordinator, Independent Legal Advice Program gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist spoke to the development of a community response crisis service by the Halifax Regional Municipality.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Overview of Diversity & Inclusion

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated June 5, 2025

Carla John, Advisor, Diversity & Inclusion gave a presentation.

John, Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist and Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Hartling, seconded by Rhiannon Makohoniuk

THAT the Women and Gender Equity Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report to consider developing GBA+ training for Halifax Regional Councillors.

The Committee requested that future orientation presentations be delivered in an in-person format and the letter that resulted from *Item 10.1 Letter re: GBA+ Training for Mayor and Regional Council* from the September 19, 2024 Committee meeting be circulated to Committee members.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.1 Overview of Community Safety

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated June 5, 2025

Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – August 7, 2025

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant