HALIFAX

WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 2, 2026

PRESENT:	Michelle Benson, Vice Chair Councillor Nancy Hartling Devi Ayyagari Natalie Borden Rhiannon Makohoniuk Delainey McCarron
REGRETS:	Doreen Redmond, Chair Councillor Virginia Hinch Cheryl Copage-Gehue Mairi Graham Sherryll Murphy
STAFF:	Amy Brierley, Social Policy Strategist Raine Sparling, Coordinator 2SLGBTQ+ /Gender Equity Community Engagement and Research Elizabeth Macdonald, 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 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 – February 5, 2026

MOVED by Natalie Borden, seconded by Councillor Hartling

THAT the minutes of February 5, 2026 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 Devi Ayyagari

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 Feed Nova Scotia – *Sue Kelleher*

The following was before the Committee:

- Presentation dated April 2, 2026

Sue Kelleher, Director, Community Partnerships, Innovation & Advocacy, Feed Nova Scotia gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE
9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION
9.1 STAFF
9.1.1 Overview of JustFOOD – Action Plan for the Halifax Region

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated April 2, 2026

Leticia Smillie, Food Policy Strategist and Heather Monahan, Public Health Nutritionist, Nova Scotia Health Authority gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

9.2 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
9.2.1 Regional Council Update

Councillor Hartling provided an update on the recent activities of Halifax Regional Council and Budget Committee. Councillor Hartling spoke to the ratification of the 2026/27 Municipal Budget on March 31, 2026, and noted the funding and grants that were preserved in the budget. Councillor Hartling responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Committee requested further information regarding the Halifax Regional Municipality's grant programs specific to women and gender equity be provided at a future meeting.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 7, 2026

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant