



**WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 15, 2026**

PRESENT: Doreen Redmond, Chair
Michelle Benson, Vice Chair
Councillor Nancy Hartling
Natalie Borden
Mairi Graham
Rhiannon Makohoniuk
Delainey McCarron
Sherryl Murphy

REGRETS: Councillor Virginia Hinch
Devi Ayyagari
Cheryl Copage-Gehue – Leave of Absence

STAFF: Carla John, Advisor Diversity & Inclusion
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 Chair called the meeting to order at 4:31 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 Annual 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 Sherryl Murphy, seconded by Michelle Benson

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

Doreen Redmond was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Hartling, seconded by Sherryl Murphy

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

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Doreen Redmond assumed the Chair.

1.2 Annual 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 Doreen Redmond, seconded by Natalie Borden

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

Michelle Benson was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Hartling, 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 – November 6, 2025

MOVED by Natalie Borden, seconded by Councillor Hartling

THAT the minutes of November 6, 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 Delainey McCarron, seconded by Sherryll Murphy

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 Overview of Emergency Management

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated January 15, 2026

Rachel Boehm, Executive Director Community Safety and Ashton Stephenson, Director Housing & Homelessness gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

The Committee requested further information regarding how community engagement was conducted when evaluating risk assessment and the influence of a Gender Based Analysis Plus lens on Emergency Management policies and procedures.

Boehm noted plans to send follow up information to the Committee through the Legislative Assistant. Boehm and Stephenson noted the possibility of returning to a future Committee meeting to provide an update and conduct engagement.

9.1.2 Discussion of Key Dates

The following was before the Committee:

- Handout dated January 15, 2026

The Committee discussed the list of key dates that acknowledge women and gender equity that is recognized by the Halifax Regional Municipality. The Committee noted an interest in exploring whether there was a day that recognized senior women.

9.2 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

9.2.1 Regional Council Update

Councillor Hartling spoke to the recent activities of Halifax Regional Council and noted upcoming Budget Committee meetings. Hartling noted the proposed municipal property tax increase and responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 5, 2026

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant