THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

WAC 2-2021
Wednesday, March 31, 2021
Meeting held by Video Conference

Committee:	Councillors Butters, Huson (Committee Chair); I. Camillo, S. Hill, R. Ivri, N. Kalb, E. Kovacs, L. Lane, C. McGrath, N. Qureshi, H. Shaikh, R. Unrau (Committee Vice Chair), E. Zimmermann
Absent/Regrets:	Councillor Villella
Staff:	D. Edgar, Director, Children's Services, L. Gigliotti, Associate Director, Employee Services, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, C. Ogunniyi, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Program Manager, J. Smith, Human Resources Consultant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Huson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT

Committee Chair Huson read out the following Land Acknowledgment Statement:

We begin this meeting by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe peoples many of whom continue to live and work here today.

This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties, is within the lands protected by the “Dish with One Spoon” Wampum Agreement.

Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living in Niagara is directly related to the resources and friendship of the Indigenous people.

2.1 Transgender Day of Visibility Acknowledgement

Sabrina Hill, Committee member, provided the following information to the Committee:

I would like to acknowledge that today, March 31st is the Transgender Day of Visibility.

Every March 31st, the trans community and allies observe Trans Day Of Visibility (TDOV).

The day was founded by US transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009. This day's creation was a reaction to the lack of recognition of transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centred day was the Transgender Day of Remembrance, which mourned the murders of transgender people but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community.

Today is about celebrating trans individuals, their achievements, and the hard-earned progress made towards true equity for the trans community. TDOV is also about renewing our commitment to educate ourselves on trans issues and to raise our voices against transphobia in all its forms.

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Niagara Region's Children's Services - Providing Systems Planning and Management

Darlene Edgar, Director, Children's Services, provided information respecting Niagara Region's Children's Services - Providing Systems Planning and Management. Topics of the presentation included:

- Responsibilities
- System of Child Care
- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Quality
- Responsiveness
- System Issues
- Considerations going forward

5. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

6.1 Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) Training

Committee members shared their thoughts on the Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) Training.

Moved by R. Unrau
Seconded by N. Qureshi

WHEREAS Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) is a free web-based training offered through the Government of Canada to examine the various ways that intersecting identity factors may impact the effectiveness of government initiatives based on the examination of disaggregated data and research;

WHEREAS utilizing the GBA+ approach can lead to more responsive government policies, programs and initiatives;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Women's Advisory Committee **RECOMMEND** the GBA+ training to the Niagara Region's Human Resources Department for the consideration of future training of staff and Councillors and also potential inclusion in future onboarding opportunities.

The following friendly amendment was accepted by the Committee Chair and the mover and seconder of the motion:

That the Women's Advisory Committee **RECOMMEND** the GBA+ training to the Niagara Region's Human Resources Department for the consideration of future training of staff, ***Committee members*** and Councillors and also potential inclusion in future onboarding opportunities.

The Committee Chair called the vote on the motion as amended, as follows:

That the Women's Advisory Committee **RECOMMEND** the GBA+ training to the Niagara Region's Human Resources Department for the consideration of future training of staff, Committee members and Councillors and also potential inclusion in future onboarding opportunities.

Carried

Committee Information Request(s):

Consider making Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) Training applicable to suppliers and vendors. E. Kovacs.

6.2 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Updates

Cassie Ogunniyi, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager, provided an update on the work being undertaken with respect to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She advised that applications for membership on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DEIAC) would close on April 9, 2021. She noted that the Committee membership includes a member of the Women's Advisory Committee.

At this point in the meeting, Committee Chair Huson requested Committee members to indicate if they were interested in serving on the DEIAC as the representative for the Women's Advisory Committee.

Sabrina Hill and Naheed Qureshi put forward their names for consideration. The nominees provided brief remarks as to why they wanted to serve on the DEIAC. Voting by a show of hands resulted in the following:

Sabrina Hill: 6
Naheed Qureshi: 2

Based on the results of the vote, Committee Chair Huson announced that Sabrina Hill would be the Women's Advisory Committee representative on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Committee Information Request(s):

Circulate the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Terms of Reference. S. Hill.

7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 WAC 1-2021

Women's Advisory Committee Minutes - January 27, 2021

Moved by R. Unrau
Seconded by R. Ivri

That Minutes WAC 1-2021, being the minutes of the Women's Advisory Committee meeting held on January 27, 2021, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Councillor Huson Committee Chair	Ann-Marie Norio Regional Clerk