



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

WAC 2-2026

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

4:00 p.m.

Meeting will be held by electronic participation only

If you are interested in viewing this meeting or would like to speak to an item listed on the agenda please contact the Office of the Regional Clerk at clerk@niagararegion.ca.

	Pages
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
2. <u>LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT</u>	
3. <u>DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST</u>	
4. <u>PRESENTATIONS</u>	
4.1 <u>Niagara's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2026-2036</u>	3 - 12
Anahita Jabbari, Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Project Manager	
4.2 <u>Women's Advisory Committee Term Summary (2023-2026)</u>	13 - 25
Cassie Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Indigenous Relations	
5. <u>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</u>	
5.1 <u>WAC 1-2026</u>	26 - 28
Women's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - January 27, 2026	
6. <u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
6.1 <u>Equal Voice Niagara Workshop Updates</u>	

7. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date is to be determined.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or events, please contact the Accessibility Advisor at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 (office), 289-929-8376 (cellphone) or accessibility@niagararegion.ca (email).

Niagara's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2026-2036

April 21, 2026

Anahita Jabbari, Project Manager, Community Services

Women's Advisory Committee

What is the Housing and Homeless Action Plan?

A plan that guides:

- How the Region and community partners work together to prevent homelessness
- Improve access to housing
- Provide supports for people who need help finding or keeping a home

What is the Housing and Homeless Action Plan? cont.

- Funding, legislation and housing programs are influenced by municipal, provincial, and federal governments
- The HHAP helps organize the local response
- Municipalities are legislated to have a ten-year plan, provide a 5-year review and annual updates to the province

What does the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan do?

- Looks at local housing and homelessness data
- Identifies service gaps and pressure points
- Sets priorities
- Outlines actions for prevention, emergency response, housing, and supports
- Tracks progress over time

Development Process

- System review and adaptation of the previous goals
- Engagement with people working within and affected by housing and homelessness systems
- Validation and revisions
- Submission to the province, amendments as needed
- Report to council for approval

Plan Overview

Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2026-2036

Increase
Housing
Opportunities

Actions

Help People
Retain
Housing

Actions

House People
Who Don't
Have a Home

Actions

Increase
System
Effectiveness

Actions

Gender Considerations

Homelessness

- Women's homelessness is increasingly tied to affordability
- Gender-based violence is a major driver of homelessness and unsafe housing
- Hidden homelessness remains an issue for women
- Particular sub-populations of women and those who are gender diverse are at higher risk

Gender Considerations, cont.

Housing Needs

- Women raising children on their own are more likely to have challenges accessing adequate, suitable and affordable housing
- Women living alone are more likely to face housing challenges than couples
- Racialized women are more likely to struggle with finding housing that is affordable, suitable, and in good condition

Sharing Your Perspectives

- What housing challenges are women and gender diverse individuals in Niagara facing?
- What is working well in the current shelter and housing response for women and those who are gender diverse?
- What does a women-centred housing and homelessness system look like in practice?

Thank You!

Anahita Jabbari

Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Project Manager

Anahita.jabbari@niagararegion.ca

Women's Advisory Committee Term Summary (2023-2026)

Mandate

- Make recommendations with a gender lens to policy development and implementation using evidence-based decision making in relation to Council policies, priorities and decisions.

Goals

- Advocate for gender-based issue resolutions and opportunities
- Promote leadership development that empowers women in Niagara to fully participate in civic life
- Research and provide information and resources about women's gender-based issues to Niagara

Overview

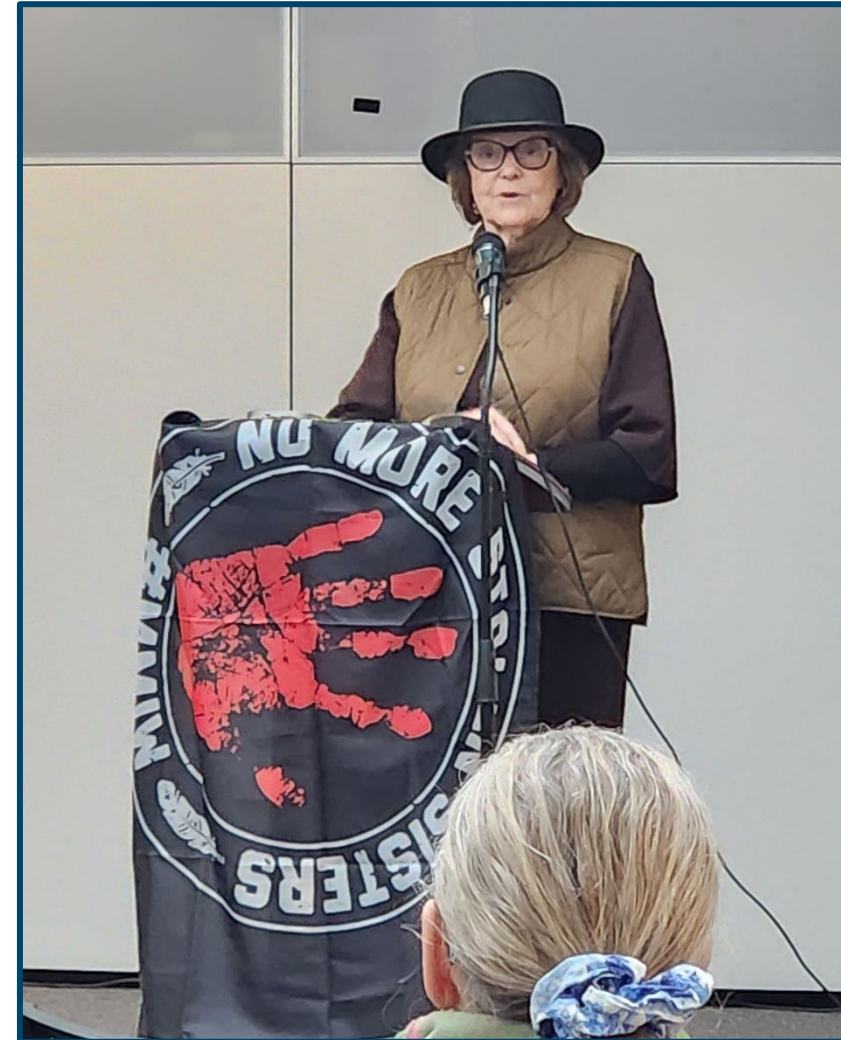
- Started in Sept. 2023 until April 2026
- 15 meetings
- 10 members of community
- Councillors Bateman, Ganann, Huson, Morocco

Presentations

- 24 presentations
- 17 Internal
- 6 External
- 1 Women's Advisory Committee

Discussions

- 7 Discussions
 - Workplan or event planning



Presentation Topics - External

- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence - Gillian's Place
- Living in Niagara 2023 Report, Community Potential
- Labour Report, not-for-profit sector - Workforce Collective



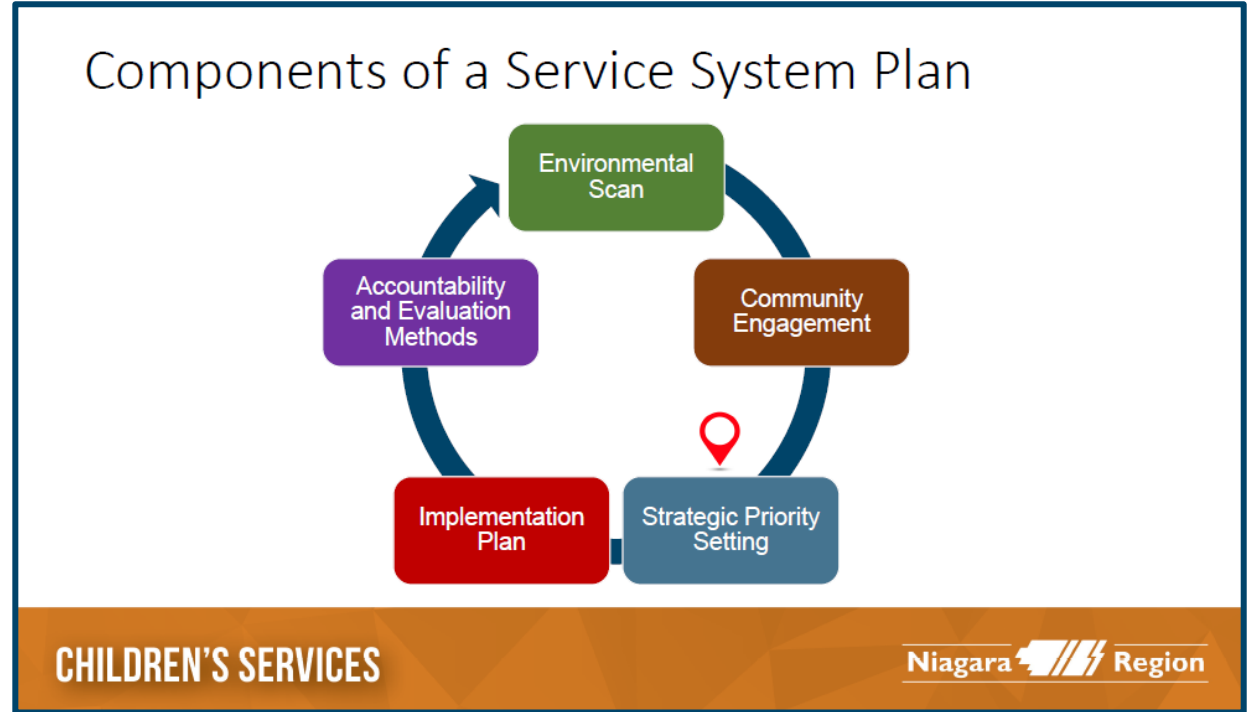
Presentation Topics – External Continued

- Domestic Violence Unit – Niagara Regional Police Service
- Equal Voice Niagara
- The Code of Conduct for Human Trafficking Prevention in the Niagara Region – TOES Niagara



Internal Presentations

- Housing and Homelessness Action Plan
- Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Multi-Year Accessibility Plan
- Attainable Housing Strategy
- Children's Services Service System Plan



Internal Presentations Continued

- Niagara Well-Being Tool Demonstration
- Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
- Niagara Supportive Housing Plan
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan

Search... Menu

Niagara Well-Being Tool

For screen reader access, use an [alternate version of the Niagara Well-Being Tool](#).

Welcome



This new interactive tool helps you explore well-being data for Niagara's 12 municipalities and 44 neighbourhoods. The Niagara Well-Being Tool is a Power BI report that allows you to explore information about our community. It is designed to help understand how our community is doing using easy-to-understand, interactive charts and maps. You can see data from 2016 to 2021, collected by Statistics Canada.

By engaging with this tool, the community can participate in informed discussions and advocacy, pushing for initiatives that directly impact the well-being in our community. By looking at data on demographics, education and employment, housing, and income, you can see the needs of different populations at the regional, municipal and neighbourhood level. The Niagara Well-Being Tool is a resource for residents, community leaders and organizations to engage in data-driven decisions that will support the diverse populations throughout Niagara.

For information about this report, its functionality and features please explore the information page.

Funded by Public Safety Canada.



16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence 2025



Flag Ceremony – Nov 24.



Candlelight Vigil – Dec 4.

Upcoming Flag Raising Ceremonies

- National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit (Red Dress Day)
 - May 4 – 11:00 a.m.
- Pride Month
 - June 1 – 3:30 p.m.
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)
 - Sept. 29 – 11:00 a.m.
- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence
 - Nov. 24 – 11:00 a.m.

Thank You!

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**WAC 1-2026
Tuesday, January 27, 2026
Meeting held by electronic participation**

Committee: Councillors Ganann, Morocco (Committee Chair); S. Corcoran, M. Holm, D. Katsmar, L. Littleton, S. Stemplowski, R. Unrau (Committee Vice-Chair), E. Zimmermann

Absent/Regrets: V. Brown

Staff: Y. Al-Harazi, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist, K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, S. Madder, Associate Director, Strategic Initiatives, C. Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Indigenous Relations

Others Present: Councillor Craitor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Morocco, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Cassie Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Indigenous Relations, read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Niagara Region Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2023-2027) Mid-Term Review Results

Cassie Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Indigenous Relations, provided information respecting Niagara Region Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2023 - 2027) Mid-Term Review Results.

Topics of the presentation included:

- Research Input
- Focus Area A: Inclusive Workplace Culture, Leadership & Accountability
- Focus Area B: Learning & Humility

- Focus Area C: Diverse Workforce Reflective of Niagara's Community
- Focus Area D: Programs & Services Meet Everyone's Needs
- Focus Area E: Addressing Discrimination
- Focus Area F: Inclusive Communication

4.2 Niagara Region Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2023-2027) 2026 Priorities

Yusuf Al-Harazi, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist, provided information respecting Niagara Region Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2023-2027). Topics of the presentation included:

- Overall Plan Progress
- Focus Area A: Inclusive Workplace Culture, Leadership & Accountability
- Focus Area B: Learning & Humility
- Focus Area C: Diverse Workforce Reflective of Niagara's Community
- Focus Area D: Programs & Services Meet Everyone's Needs
- Focus Area E: Addressing Discrimination
- Focus Area F: Inclusive Communication
- Summary of Priorities

5. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

5.1 WAC 6-2025

Women's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - November 11, 2025

Moved by Councillor Ganann
Seconded by E. Zimmermann

That Minutes WAC 6-2025, being the minutes of the Women's Advisory Committee meeting held on November 11, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Equal Voice Niagara Workshop Updates

Lori Littleton, Committee member, provided an overview of the webinar hosted by Equal Voice Niagara in collaboration with the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce on January 13, 2026, titled Government 101: Understanding Roles, Jurisdictions, and Civic Participation, and information on topics being considered for future webinars.

7. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Councillor Morocco
Committee Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Deputy Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk