

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

**WAC 3-2021  
Wednesday, May 26, 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, R. Unrau (Committee Vice Chair), E. Zimmermann

Absent/Regrets: Councillor Villella; H. Shaikh

Staff: L. Gigliotti, Associate Director, Employee Services, V. Kuhns, Associate Director, Economic Development, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, C. Ogunniyi, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Program Manager, J. Smith, Human Resources Consultant

Others Present: Gail Neff, Maureen Shantz, and Jean Tonogai, Canadian Federation of University Women St. Catharines

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Huson called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT**

Committee Chair Huson read out the 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.

**3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**4.1 Economic Recovery Planning**

Valerie Kuhns, Associate Director, Economic Development, provided information respecting Economic Recovery Planning. Topics of the presentation included:

- Economic Recovery Planning
- Recovery to Resilience
- 10 Year Economic Development Strategy

**5. DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

**6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**6.1 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence**

Jean Tonogai, Member, Maureen Shantz, President, and Gail Neff, Past President, Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) St. Catharines, appeared before Committee regarding the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and to provide information respecting their organization. The CFUW is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, promotion of education and the improvement of the status of women and their human rights. The CFUW is supportive of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign which is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. It was started by activists at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and continues to be coordinated each year by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. The CFUW expressed an interest in working with Niagara Region and the Women's Advisory Committee to increase awareness of the campaign.

**6.2 Child Care Update**

Ruth Unrau, Committee Vice Chair, provided an update respecting child care. Ruth advised that a meeting was held with groups interested in child care issues. Nine recommendations were brought forward and from those three priorities were identified in coordination with Niagara Region Community Services staff. The three priorities identified were:

- development of a recruitment and retention strategy for Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs)
- provincial allocations and capital expansion funds, at a minimum, should be maintained, and more capital and operating funds are needed to expand licensed child care, including both centre-based and licensed home child care and
- maintaining and enhancing child care fee subsidies is crucial to addressing affordability in child care

A report on this matter will be brought to the June 15, 2021 Public Health and Social Services Committee.

**Committee Information Request(s):**

Circulate the report on child care that will be presented at the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting being held on June 15, 2021. R. Unrau

**6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**6.3 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Update**

Cassie Oggunniyi, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager, provided an update on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work being undertaken. Topics of the update include:

- Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities
- DEI Goals 2021-2022
  - Goal 1: to develop a 5 year DEI Action Plan by April 2022
- Advisory Committees
- Staff and Community Engagement
- Organization selection
- Focus Group with Women's Advisory Committee Members

Committee members were advised that additional information would be provided respecting the focus group as well as the list of organizations would be provided for feedback by Committee members.

7. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 **WAC 2-2021**

Women's Advisory Committee Minutes - March 31, 2021

Moved by E. Zimmermann  
Seconded by N. Qureshi

That Minutes WAC 2-2021, being the minutes of the Women's Advisory Committee meeting held on March 31, 2021, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 **Platform for Information Sharing**

Coletta McGrath, Committee Member, enquired if there was an opportunity to set up a platform where members could post items that may be of interest to the Committee. Cassie Ogunniyi, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager, advised that staff are looking into the development of a platform that would allow the posting of items by Committee members. Committee Chair Huson advised she would coordinate further with staff and provide an update at the meeting being held on July 28, 2021.

8.2 **Committee Working Groups**

Ruth Unrau, Committee Vice Chair, enquired about the opportunity to develop working groups to undertake additional work on initiatives such as the Economic Development Strategy and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

Moved by N. Qureshi  
Seconded by N. Kalb

That a working group **BE FORMED** to assist the work of the Canadian Federation of University Women respecting the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign and;

That Councillor Huson, Naheed Qureshi, and Isabell Camillo, **PARTICIPATE** in this working group.

**Carried**

8.3 The She-Covery Project

Ruth Unrau, Committee Vice Chair, shared information respecting the She-Covery Project - Confronting the Gendered Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Ontario from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and advised a meeting would be taking place on June 15, 2021 from 1-3:00 p.m. Ruth advised she would circulate additional information to Committee members as it becomes available.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

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Councillor Huson  
Committee Chair

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk