

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

**WAC 1-2025  
Tuesday, January 14, 2025  
Meeting held by electronic participation**

Committee: Councillor Huson, M. Holm, D. Katsmar, Z. Lachance, L. Littleton, S. Stemplowski, R. Unrau, E. Zimmermann

Absent/Regrets: Councillors: Ganann, Morocco; R. Barrs, V. Brown, S. Corcoran

Staff: K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, S. Madder, Manager, Corporate Strategy, C. Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Indigenous Relations

Others Present: Councillor Craitor

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Councillor Huson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**4. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

**4.1 Call for Nominations for Committee Chair**

Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, explained that in accordance with the Women's Advisory Committee terms of reference, the Committee Chair must be a Regional Councillor from the membership of the Committee.

The Deputy Clerk called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee for the remainder of this term of Council (2025 - 2026).

Moved by L. Littleton  
Seconded by R. Unrau

That Councillor Huson **BE NOMINATED** as Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee for the remainder of this term of Council (2025-2026).

4.2 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Chair

The Deputy Clerk called a final time for nominations for the position of Women's Advisory Committee Chair. There being no further nominations, it was:

Moved by E. Zimmermann  
Seconded by Z. Lachance

That nominations for the position of Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee **BE CLOSED**.

**Carried**

4.3 Voting for the Position of Committee Chair

There being only one nominee for the position of Committee Chair (Regional Councillor), the Deputy Clerk announced that Councillor Huson would be the Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee for the remainder of this term of Council (2025-2026).

4.4 Call for Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair

Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, explained that in accordance with the Women's Advisory Committee terms of reference, the Committee Vice-Chair must be a public member from the membership of the Committee.

The Deputy Clerk called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee for the remainder of this term of Council (2025-2026).

Moved by Councillor Huson  
Seconded by E. Zimmermann

That Ruth Unrau **BE NOMINATED** as Vice-Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee for the remainder of this term of Council (2025-2026).

4.5 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair

The Deputy Clerk called a final time for nominations for the position of Women's Advisory Committee Vice-Chair. There being no further nominations, it was:

Moved by Z. Lachance  
Seconded by L. Littleton

That nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee **BE CLOSED**.

**Carried**

4.6 Voting for the Position of Committee Vice-Chair

There being only one nominee for the position of Committee Vice-Chair (public member), the Deputy Clerk announced that Ruth Unrau would be the Women's Advisory Committee Vice-Chair for the remainder of this term of Council (2025-2026).

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Huson assumed the chair.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

6. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

7.1 Women's Advisory Committee 2025 Work Plan

Cassie Oggunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Indigenous Relations, provided information respecting the Women's Advisory Committee Work Plan. Topics of the presentation included:

- Goals and Purpose
- Upcoming Opportunities at Niagara Region
- Spotlight Dates
- Community Priorities
- Next Steps

Following the presentation Committee members discussed items that they would like to work towards accomplishing and what topics are pressing for the broader community.

7.2 Forum on Human Trafficking

Councillor Huson provided Committee members with information respecting a potential opportunity for involvement in the planning of a forum on human trafficking. She advised that the proposed purpose of this event would be for local organizations and other communities to collaborate, to share information about what is happening in their communities and to share best practices. Committee members agreed to discuss this opportunity further at the next meeting.

8. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

There were no items for information.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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Councillor Huson  
Committee Chair

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Kelly Lotimer  
Deputy Clerk

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk