

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

**WAC 3-2025
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
Meeting held by electronic participation**

Committee: Councillor Morocco; V. Brown, S. Corcoran, M. Holm, D. Katsmar, Z. Lachance, S. Stemplowski, R. Unrau, E. Zimmermann

Absent/Regrets: Councillor Ganann, L. Littleton

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, called the meeting to order at 4:00 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. SELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, advised Committee members that with former Councillor Huson's resignation from Regional Council, the position of Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee was now vacant. As the terms of reference for the Women's Advisory Committee states that the Chair shall be a Regional Councillor, Ms. Lotimer advised that staff reached out to the remaining Councillors who are members of the Women's Advisory Committee to survey interest in chairing the committee for the remainder of this term of Council. As Councillor Morocco expressed interest in chairing this committee for the remainder of the term, the Deputy Clerk asked for a mover and seconder to appoint Councillor Morocco as the committee chair.

Moved by S. Concoran
Seconded by R. Unrah

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

Carried

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

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Handbook

Yusuf Al-Harazi, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisor, provided information respecting Niagara Region's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Internal Handbook. Topics of the presentation included:

- Background on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Handbook
- Chapter Structure
- Table of Contents
- Gender Based Analysis Plus
- Next Steps

6. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

7.1 WAC-C 1-2025

Women's Advisory Committee 2025 Work Plan

Committee members discussed the Draft 2025 Work Plan and recommended the following additions:

Assisting Equal Voice with their Seat at the Table project and creating a working group if necessary to provide this assistance.

Providing a presentation to Regional Council to stress the importance of ensuring that the committee is able to fulfill its mandate through consultation in the early planning stage of projects to ensure there is a focus on gender-based analysis.

Moved by D. Katsmar
Seconded by S. Concoran

That Memorandum WAC-C 1-2025, dated March 18, 2025, respecting Women's Advisory Committee 2025 Work Plan **BE RECEIVED**; and

That the Niagara Region Women's Advisory 2025 Work Plan, as outlined in Appendix 1 of Memorandum WAC-C 1-2025, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

8. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 8.1 WAC 1-2025
Women's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - January 14, 2025

Moved by R. Unrah
Seconded by D. Katsmar

That Minutes WAC 1-2025, being the minutes of the Women's Advisory Committee meeting held on January 14, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Councillor Morocco
Committee Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Deputy Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk