

Motion:

For staff to investigate and report back on the creation of a Women’s Advisory Committee; and evaluate the additional strategy recommendations of the FCM Run, Win and Lead framework and report back.

Rationale:

Women continue to be underrepresented at all levels of government. In Canada, women represent 28% of locally elected officials. Only 18% of mayors are women, which falls to 12% of mayors in the largest 50 cities. Further, women are underrepresented at higher levels of leadership; of TSX listed companies only 3.5% have women CEOs and only 19% of Board and Executive positions are held by women.

“Leadership opportunities are scarce for most women. These opportunities are even scarcer for women of diverse and intersectional backgrounds – including women who are Indigenous, Black, racialized, LGBTQ2S+, newcomers, living with disabilities or earning low incomes.” (FCM, 2020).

Implementing a Women’s Advisory Committee will benefit our entire community both for increasing civic political engagement and also increasing leadership opportunities for an underrepresented group.

Resources:

<https://data.fcm.ca/documents/tools/wilg/run-win-and-lead-toward-parity-in-municipal-politics-wilg.pdf>

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2019028-eng.htm>

https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_organization/womens-advocacy-voice-of-edmonton-committee.aspx

<https://vancouver.ca/your-government/womens-advisory-committee.aspx>