

February 24, 2017

Members of City of London
Advisory Committees

Re: Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Diverse Voices for Change Initiative

In 2015, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities launched the Diverse Voices for Change Initiative (DV4C) and selected London Ontario as a Municipal Partner. DV4C's aim is to "increase the number of women across diverse communities who are actively informed by and engaged in municipal decision making processes. Specifically women from racialized, newcomer and Indigenous groups.

The local Working Group, s focused on these 2 specific issues in London, which were recently endorsed by Council:

- 1) Better understand current barriers experienced by women from diverse backgrounds for participating in advisory committees and other governance bodies at the City of London
- 2) Identify recommended actions which could increase the participation of women from diverse backgrounds on these group

In order to understand the specific barriers faced by women in these groups, we will be hosting focus group with Racialized, Indigneous and Newcomer women who currently sit on Advisory Committees, Boards and Commissions. If you identify as part of this demographic, we would like to encourage you to attend a Focus Group on, **March 27th from 6:00-8:30pm at City Hall (room TBD)**

To confirm attendance, or if you have any questions, please contact shawna@lewkowitz.com

Regards,
Shawna Lewkowitz
Diverse Voices for Change, Working Group Member