

## **Revised Recommended amendments to the Gender and Racial implications Section and Official Plan Policies as approved by the Joint Committee**

**Reference: S. Menard for R. King Motion PLC-ARAC 2021-5-32 [m8.2]**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Section 2.2.5 be renamed “Gender and Racial Equity” and that Section 2.2.5 of the Official Plan be replaced with the following text:**

### **“2.2.5 Gender and Racial Equity**

Gender and Racial equity are important dimensions of planning a healthy and inclusive city. Inequalities exist and land use planning should work to eliminate them by addressing gender and racial inequities.

The intersectional way a city is experienced by women, gender diverse persons, members of Black, Indigenous, racialized and religious communities can be very different. The City will develop a toolbox to assess gender and racial equity in planning at all stages, including studies, guidelines, local plans and the processing of development applications within the context of the Planning Act.

Although the roles of women and men have changed considerably over the past decades, this is not necessarily reflected in our urban fabric. Planning processes that recognize intersectionality, or the way that people’s social identities can overlap and lead to compounding experiences of discrimination can help create inclusive communities. For example, women who are immigrants may face additional barriers, such as lack of affordable housing or inhospitable pedestrian environments.

Women typically earn less relative to men, frequently handle household and care tasks, and have more complicated commute patterns.

Systemic racism has a devastating impact when it serves to deny members of Black, Indigenous, racialized and religious communities the equal opportunity to succeed. Such racism is reflected in disparities regarding wealth, income, criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power, and education. It is therefore the responsibility of governments to combat the effects of systemic racism.

City-led planning initiatives should, to the greatest extent possible, include engagement with Urban Indigenous community members (First Nations, Métis and Inuit residents), Indigenous frontline and community workers, and Indigenous-led organizations, along with Leaders and Elders from the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation.

Incorporating gender and racial equity can improve the quality of life for all residents.

Policy Intent:

### **1) Application of a gender lens to meet the housing needs of women, Black and racialized communities and new immigrants**

In Ottawa, in 2021, 80 per cent of lone parent families are led by women, and 90 per cent of one parent families, that are on the centralized waiting list for affordable housing, are female-led families. Access to high-quality, affordable housing for Indigenous people, Black and racialized communities and new immigrants must be one of the City's highest priorities. It is therefore crucial that as the City creates plans for neighbourhoods to intensify, such plans should pursue all opportunities to create the conditions that encourage a broad range of market-affordable and core affordable housing options. Housing that supports gender equity includes housing that meets the needs of families with children, including the availability of family sized units, spaces to play, shared communal spaces within buildings, space for strollers and bike parking.

### **2) Understand and address the specific housing needs of Indigenous peoples**

The City needs to do more work to understand the specific needs of Indigenous peoples and work with Indigenous communities across the city to pursue all opportunities to address these needs.

### **3) Improve mobility options for women and in neighbourhoods where there are large numbers of residents who may face transportation-related barriers to social and economic participation**

Women rely more on public transit than men. Women's routines and family work frequently include child care and care for others and their daily trip patterns are often characterized by more stops as a result. Improving transit and active transportation in neighbourhoods with strong equity concerns as identified in Ottawa's Neighbourhood Equity Index is important as residents depend on these options. Recognizing these patterns, the City should strive for a variety of housing choices, access to work opportunities and child care in areas well-served by public transit.

### **3) Improve access to amenities**

15-minute neighbourhoods are neighbourhoods that support daily needs by providing a range of local amenities to advance more gender-equitable environments that are available on foot, by cycling, or using transit. These amenities include the provision of basic shopping, parks, libraries, recreation and other community infrastructure that are an essential support for those who frequently handle household and care tasks.

A particularly important service in supporting gender equity is child care. The built environment can support women's ability to fully participate in the workforce and in public life through the provision of adequate and accessible licensed child care centres close to where people live or work. The City should ensure that its zoning is broadly

permissive of locating licensed child care.

Good planning should make a city more liveable for all, notwithstanding that the way a city is experienced can be very different across community groups. To align with the City of Ottawa's Gender Equity Strategy, and subsequent equity frameworks, planning at all stages, including zoning and transportation studies, the development of local plans and the review of development applications against the policies of the Official Plan, needs to identify and respond to the priorities, preferences and concerns of women and gender diverse persons.

A city that is planned to consider the needs of women provides many benefits to the population as a whole. This can be achieved in the following ways:

- Recognizing Indigenous, racialized, older women, immigrant women and gender diverse persons are identified as priority populations in city-led planning initiatives;
- Embedding gender analysis in City policy plans to provide a coordinated approach to
- achieving gender equity for all, including people who are marginalized;
- Where possible, disaggregating planning data by race, gender, age, socio-economic status and other equity factors where the data is available striving to take into account all needs and experiences in planning processes;
- Actively seeking input from women and gender diverse persons, including traditionally
- underrepresented groups through all consultation processes for City planning initiatives;
- Encouraging the development of walkable, 15-minute neighbourhoods that meet the needs of all women and include community-oriented uses such as community centres, parks and libraries in accordance with overall City master plans;
- Encouraging the availability of appropriate housing in all neighbourhoods for families led by women, Gender diverse persons and communities that experience marginalization;
- Encouraging the development of a variety of building types within communities with units for a range of income levels as well as larger units to accommodate families for ownership and at all levels of market-affordable and core-affordable rents;
- Encouraging the design of buildings and site plans that are able to provide amenities that meet the needs of families with children, including convenience retail amenities, ground floor stroller and bicycle storage, children's play areas and areas for socialization;
- Using other City plans, working with senior levels of government and community partners to increase safe options for women and gender diverse persons fleeing violence including family-sized units in shelters, transitional and supportive housing;
- Providing parks where children can play in all neighbourhoods as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan and providing opportunities

for recreation, leisure activities and cultural expression to meet the needs of an increased population;

- Direction for the Zoning By-law to permit spaces in all communities, including the City's newest greenfield areas, for licensed child care centres and that local plans include direction on the provision of child care facilities
- Reviewing equity considerations in the Transportation Master Plan, including:
  - Transit planning to consider women's travel patterns and recognizes that different groups of women may have different travel patterns with a priority on improving walkability and safety of walking routes;
  - Improving walkability with shorter blocks, introducing sidewalks where there are none (or if sidewalks are not feasible, lowering vehicular speeds), wider sidewalks, rest areas, safe crossings and adequate space for trees. Longer blocks can create barrier effects, and to avoid them public passageways should be defined;
  - Adequate lighting and increasing separated cycling facilities are built so people feel safe cycling and walking"; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Official Plan be amended by adding the bolded words to the policies cited hereafter, as follows:**

- a) Amend Section 2.1, Big Policy Move 3, Paragraph 1 by adding the following sentence: **"The goal of this Plan is also to contribute toward stronger, more inclusive and vibrant neighbourhoods and Villages that reflect and integrate Ottawa's economic, racial and gender diversity in every neighbourhood."** after the sentence "The goal of this Plan is to contribute towards stronger, more inclusive and more vibrant neighbourhoods and Villages in a way that reflects the differences from highly urbanized and dense areas in the downtown, to lower-density suburban areas farther out."
- b) Amend Section 2.2.1, Policy Intent, Paragraph 1, replace the sentence "It will also contribute to the needs of an aging population by enhancing accessibility to more vibrant areas with social interaction, health services and community facilities" with the sentence **"It will also contribute to the needs of an increasingly diverse population with a range of abilities, incomes, ages and cultural needs by enhancing accessibility to more vibrant areas with social interaction, cultural organizations, health services and community facilities"**;
- c) Amend Section 2.2.4, Policy Intent, Components by replacing the bullet "A mix of housing for a range of incomes" with the bullet **"A mix of housing options including family-sized units, for a range of incomes, including working with senior governments and community partners to include core-affordable housing which strives to meet the City's targets under its 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan"**;

- d)** Amend Section 2.2.4, Policy Intent, Components by adding to the bulleted list:
- “Supporting housing and local amenities that meet the needs of diverse racial and cultural populations within the City;”