

**Premier's Youth Advisory
Committee
Activity Plan
2015-17**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE 2

1. INTRODUCTION..... 3

2. MANDATE 4

3. VISION..... 4

4. VALUES 5

5. ACTIVITIES..... 5

Appendix A 7



*Members of the Premier's Youth Advisory Committee with Premier Paul Davis
Premier's Youth Advisory Committee Face to Face Retreat, May 28-31, 2015*

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE

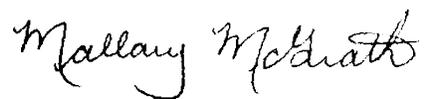
On behalf of the Premier's Youth Advisory Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador, I hereby submit our Activity Plan for April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2017. Under this plan, we will provide timely, relevant, and well-researched recommendations to the Provincial Government on issues important to youth. We have prepared this plan and recognize our accountability in achieving the objectives outlined herein. The values outlined in this plan guide that work towards our shared ambitions for our province.

The 22 representatives of the Premier's Youth Advisory Committee come from diverse backgrounds, striking a balance of regional, gender, age, and ethnic diversity. This balance provides us with a range of insights into the issues of relevance to youth across our great province.

We have defined and agreed upon the vision and values outlined in this plan that will guide our collective efforts. Over the next several years, we will collaborate with departments and agencies on efforts to improve policies, programs and services for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, including youth.

The Premier's Youth Advisory Committee looks forward to working with the Provincial Government to create a bright future full of opportunities for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mallery McGrath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'G'.

Mallery McGrath

On behalf of the membership of the Premier's Youth Advisory Committee

1. INTRODUCTION

In June 2001, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador established the first Youth Advisory Committee. The committee served as a forum for the youth of the province to voice their views and concerns and increase youth involvement in the Provincial Government’s decision-making processes. In December 2011, members of this committee met to discuss what they saw as a duplication of roles with the existence of the Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy, and the various other youth committees working in partnership with Provincial Government departments and agencies. As a result, the last meeting of this Youth Advisory Committee was held in March 2012.

With the view that a new and more effective form of youth engagement was required, Premier Paul Davis promised to reactivate the committee during the Progressive Conservative leadership campaign in September 2014. In November 2014, the Honourable Steve Kent, Deputy Premier and Minister Responsible for the Office of Public Engagement, announced a call for applications to help form the new Premier’s Youth Advisory Committee. Seventy-one applications were received from across Newfoundland and Labrador, and 23 individuals were selected, representing regional, gender, age, and ethnic diversity.

In keeping with the strategic direction of the Provincial Government applicable to the Office of Public Engagement, the Premier’s Youth Advisory Committee enhances citizen and stakeholder participation through dialogue and collaboration on issues important to youth.

This activity plan outlines the objective the Premier’s Youth Advisory Committee will strive to achieve over the next two years.

As of April 1, 2015, the Premier’s Youth Advisory Committee is comprised of 22 members:

8 Representing School-Age Youth – Pre-University/College	
Kelsi Fry	Labrador City
Brittney Coleman	Port aux Basques
Shane Pope	Peterview
Andrew Cram	St. John's
Jane Cooze	Badger's Quay
Aaron Chafe	Petty Harbour
Noubahar Hasnain	Mount Pearl
Jennifer Bent	Conception Bay South
8 Representing Youth in Post-Secondary – Attending University/College	
Donald Slaney	St. Lawrence
Raylene Mackey	Goulds
Donovan Taplin	Bell Island
Travis Perry	St. John's

Victoria Pittman	Happy Valley-Goose Bay
Mallary McGrath	Branch
Sabrina Andrews	St. John's
Emily Alexander	Corner Brook
6 Representing Youth in the Workforce – Completed University/College	
Desiree Luedee	Stephenville Crossing
Esteban Rivera	St. John's
Colin Corcoran	St. John's
Stephanie Granville	St. John's
Jenna Andersen	Nain
Eleri Moore	St. John's

The Committee is supported by mentors from the Office of Public Engagement: a Youth Engagement Development Officer, who, among other duties, supports the committee, acts as an information resource and facilitates its meetings; and a Manager of Youth Engagement who oversees and supports the Officer’s role with the Committee. Additionally, the Office of Public Engagement employs 10 Regional Engagement Managers with offices throughout the province who are available to provide resources and expertise as the committee develops advice for the Provincial Government.

2. MANDATE

The mandate of the Premier’s Youth Advisory Committee is to:

- Ensure that youth are engaged and participating in providing advice to government on issues that are important to youth;
- Provide a forum for open discussion of key issues affecting youth of Newfoundland and Labrador; and
- Advise Government on youth perspectives and provide input into developing government policies, programs, and services.

3. VISION

The Premier’s Youth Advisory Committee works for:

A thriving Newfoundland and Labrador, where youth voice, opportunities, resilience, and wellbeing are respected and prioritized in advancing the social and economic health of current and future generations.

4. VALUES

The core values of the Premier’s Youth Advisory Committee are:

Collaborative Engagement

We believe that citizen, stakeholder, and community collaborative engagement is essential to the development of good public policy and programs, and are committed to building a culture of support, co-operation, and respect within Newfoundland and Labrador and within our committee.

Learning Culture

We are committed to making informed decisions based on a strong knowledge base of youth issues. We also accept the boundaries of our knowledge, and let our curiosity drive us in seeking to fill these gaps, relishing the opportunity to learn more.

Honesty and Ethics

We are open, honest, and professional in all our work. Our capacities to perform, learn, and excel stem from accepting that we are in a permanent position to improve and serve our communities.

Inclusion

We acknowledge difference and cherish the views and perspectives of all. We take steps to ensure all have an opportunity to express their views.

Creativity/Innovation

We strive to transcend traditional ideas, rules, and patterns, and to work together to create new ideas, relationships, and approaches.

Gratitude

We believe that no individual or group is under the obligation to look out for our interests, and that when an individual or group agrees to collaborate, it is our responsibility to reciprocate.

5. ACTIVITIES

Activity: Provide Advice to the Provincial Government

The Premier’s Youth Advisory Committee will provide ongoing advice to the Provincial Government. Issues will be selected by the Premier’s Youth Advisory Committee on the basis of member interest and/or requests of a department or agency.

Over the next two years, the Premier’s Youth Advisory Committee will meet the mandate that has been set out in this plan. In order to do this, the committee will endeavor to become

familiar with issues affecting youth across the province as they arise. Where appropriate, the Committee will undertake research and broader public engagement efforts to ensure that discussions and deliberations related to advice are well-informed. Dialogue and collaboration are essential to the workings of the committee and are in support of the strategic direction applicable to the Office of Public Engagement (Appendix A).

The members of the Premier's Youth Advisory Committee will report on the following objective, measure, and indicators for both years of this plan.

Objective:

By March 31, 2016, the Premier's Youth Advisory Committee will have provided advice, via written submissions and/or in-person presentations, to the Provincial Government on issues of importance to youth in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Measure:

Provided advice to the Provincial Government on issues of importance to youth in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Indicators:

- Issue identified by the Committee and/or requested for consideration by the Provincial Government.
- Researched and/or discussed issue within topic-based sub-committees and/or as a whole Committee.
- Provided advice to government via written submission and/or in-person presentation.



Members of the Premier's Youth Advisory Committee with the Honourable Steve Kent

Mission

The Premier's Youth Advisory Committee has opted not to identify a mission at this time, given that the identification of a mission would be duplicative of its mandate and objectives.

Appendix A

Strategic Directions

Title: Public Engagement in Newfoundland and Labrador

Outcome Statement:

Citizen and stakeholder participation is enhanced through innovative open government initiatives and best practices in public engagement.

Focus	Areas/Components of the Strategic Direction	This Direction is: addressed in the committee's activity plan
1.	Open data	
2.	Open information	
3.	Dialogue	✓
4.	Collaboration	✓



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