

Provincial Cancer Control
Advisory Committee
Annual Performance Report
2020 - 2021

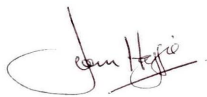
Minister's Message

I am pleased to provide the 2020-21 Annual Performance Report for the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee, in accordance with the requirements of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for a Category 3 Government Entity. In the development of this report, consideration was given to the mandate and activities of the Committee.

This Annual Performance Report is meant to provide an overview of the activities of the Committee and the extent to which planned results were met. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the unforeseen impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic on the Committee's activities. We have adapted to a "new normal" in our personal and professional lives. We have also witnessed the impact of COVID-19 throughout the health care system over the past year and a half. In some cases, COVID-19 has driven rapid and substantial system change that is sure to be beneficial for those experiencing cancer, for example, the enhancements in access to virtual care. Simultaneously, COVID-19 has also necessitated re-organization of priorities and energies, with unavoidable intrusion on the Committee's objectives.

The Committee's activities for this reporting year were thwarted by the pandemic. As the COVID-19 vaccination campaign continues across the province, we look ahead with optimism to the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee being better positioned to resume its activities and continue its mandate for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sincerely,



Dr. John Haggie

Minister of Health and Community Services

On behalf of the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee

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1.0 Overview

In June 2011, the Minister of Health and Community Services (HCS) established the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee (the Committee). The Minister appointed the membership from a broad representation of the cancer control community throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. The establishment of the Committee was an early action of *Gaining Ground: A Provincial Cancer Control Policy Framework for Newfoundland and Labrador* (the Framework) released in November 2010. Policy Direction 9 of the Framework, *Accountability and Measuring Success*, identified the creation of the Committee. This policy direction committed the provincial government to establish a committee to advise the Minister on actions to advance and improve cancer prevention and control in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Since its establishment, the Committee has fulfilled its mandate by providing advice to the Minister on cancer prevention and control issues. As part of a broader initiative to redesign the health sector, the Department of Health and Community Services released the *Chronic Disease Action Plan*. This renewed focus on chronic illness, including cancer, is critical to the realignment of health care services. Newfoundland and Labrador continues to have some of the highest rates of chronic disease in Canada. As the age of the province's population continues to climb, so will the prevalence of chronic diseases. Cancer registries, enhanced supports for smoking cessation, and cancer screening programs utilizing eHealth technology are all specific initiatives supporting health care providers in delivering high quality person-focused care, and empowering individuals in their personal efforts towards the prevention and treatment of cancer.

Membership

The Committee is led by an independent chairperson and has a membership of 12 to 15 people, at least one-third of which is to be stakeholder individuals and community-based organizations. All members, including the Chairperson, are appointed by the Minister of HCS. The membership includes representatives from the four Regional Health Authorities (RHAs), community organizations, Memorial University (MUN), volunteers, cancer survivors, and other stakeholder groups.

There are currently six vacancies on the Committee. While the Independent Appointments Commission has been recruiting individuals to fill these vacancies, with the aim to include a diverse cross-section of individuals with a broad range of expertise and qualifications to provide input on all aspects of cancer prevention and control, consideration has been given to the future of this Committee in relation to others with similar mandates. This will be further examined and a recommendation put forward for future direction.

For a list of committee members, see Annex A.

Meetings and Expenditures

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee did not meet during 2020-21 reporting period and no expenses have been incurred. In general, all costs incurred by the Committee are administrative and covered by HCS.

Mandate

The role of the Committee is to:

- i. Advise the Minister of HCS on:
 - priorities for action;
 - monitoring progress; and,
 - the development of an evaluation plan for the Framework;
- ii. Liaise with the cancer control community nationally and provincially, including patients, survivors, advocates and community organizations; and,
- iii. Identify, for the Minister's consideration, additional evidence-based objectives or priority directions that have the potential to improve the control of cancer in Newfoundland and Labrador.

2.0 Highlights and Partnerships

Though the Committee did not meet in the 2020-21 reporting period, the membership values its relationships with HCS and key stakeholders in striving to fulfil its mandate. Partnerships include but are not limited to:

- The Canadian Cancer Society
- Young Adult Cancer Canada (YACC)
- The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC)
- MUN and its Translational and Personalized Medicine and Quality of Care Programs
- The Provincial Cancer Care Program
- Community Volunteers
- Cancer Survivors
- The Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD)
- The Regional Health Authorities (RHAs)
- Staff of the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS)

The Committee is also engaged with similar entities and initiatives with a focus on cancer control and prevention, including, but are not limited to:

- Provincial Cancer Screening Advisory Committee
- Cancer Services Quality Committee
- Provincial Oncology Drug Committee
- Patient and Family Advisory Committee
- Pathology/Oncology Committee
- Rural Education Committee
- BETTER implementation
- The Journey Across the Island
- Ottawa Model Smoking Cessation Steering Committee
- Electronic Medical Record Clinical Advisory Committee
- Provincial Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Working Group
- Provincial Vulnerable Populations Working Group and Primary Health Care Sub-Committee

3.0 Report on Performance

2020-21 was a challenging year for the Committee. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings and activity for the Committee were on hold, and therefore no performance report is available.

4.0 Challenges and Opportunities

In recent years it has become apparent that there is overlap in the mandate of this Committee and other initiatives with partner organizations. The Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) will engage Committee members and determine the future role and most effective approach going forward. There may be opportunity to streamline and enhance cancer control in Newfoundland and Labrador with a more coordinated approach.

Challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic were the key contributing factors in the Committee being unable to undertake activity aligned with its mandate. HCS looks forward to working with the Committee, in consideration of other initiatives in the realm of cancer control, to ensure the most efficient and effective approach for advising the Minister on matters related to cancer control in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Appendix A: Committee Membership as of March 31, 2021

Representation	Full Name	Position
Chairperson	Ms. Sharon Smith	Volunteer
Member: Central Health	Vacant	
Member: Eastern Health	Vacant	
Member: Labrador-Grenfell Health	Ms. Donnie Sampson	Vice President of Labrador-Grenfell Health
Member: Western Health	Vacant	
Delegate: Faculty of Medicine, Memorial	Dr. Kara Laing	Associate Professor and Chair, Oncology
Member: Faculty of Medicine, Memorial	Vacant	
Member: School of Nursing, Memorial	Dr. Anne Kearney	Associate Professor
Member: Stakeholder Representative	Vacant	
Member: Stakeholder Representative	Mr. Geoff Eaton	Executive Director
Member: Stakeholder Representative	Mrs. Rosemary Hedderson	Volunteer
Member: Stakeholder Representative	Mrs. Margot Reid	Volunteer
Member: Health and Community Services	Ms. Cassie Chisholm	Director, Information Management and e-Health
Member: Health Care Provider Representative	Vacant	

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