

Provincial Cancer Control
Advisory Committee
Annual Performance Report
2021 - 2022

Minister's Message

I am pleased to provide the 2021-22 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 entity. In the development of this report, consideration was given to the mandate and activities of the Committee.

The pandemic has driven rapid and substantial change in the health care system that is likely to be beneficial to those experiencing cancer, such as enhancements in access to virtual care and the implementation of digital patient-facing electronic tools. COVID-19 has also necessitated re-organization of priorities and energies, with unavoidable impacts on the Committee's objectives.

The Committee's activities for this reporting year were hampered by the pandemic. As we move forward with our health system transformation efforts, we will engage the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee to determine their future role and the most effective approach to streamline and enhance cancer control in the Province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Osbourne', written in a cursive style.

Tom Osbourne

Minister of Health and Community Services

On behalf of the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee

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Overview

In June 2011, the Minister of Health and Community Services 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 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 smoking cessation, and cancer screening programs 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 currently has 12 positions. These include representation from the four regional health authorities (RHAs), community organizations, Memorial University of Newfoundland, cancer survivors, volunteers, the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS), and other stakeholder groups. All members of the committee, including the Chairperson, are appointed by the Minister (Appendix A).

A member holds office for a term of three years and is eligible to be re-appointed. Where the term of office of a member expires, he or she continues to be a member of the council until re-appointed or replaced. The terms of all members of the committee have expired. The Independent Appointments Commission will recruit individuals to fill the 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. While there have been some applications, additional candidates are required given the size of the committee. When an adequate number of applications are

received, a representative of HCS will meet with a representative from the Public Service Commission to screen applications utilizing the merit-based process.

Meetings and Expenditures

Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the committee did not meet during 2021-22 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:

- i. To advise the Minister on:
 - priorities for action;
 - monitoring progress; and,
 - the development of an evaluation plan for the Framework;
- ii. To liaise with the cancer control community nationally and provincially, including patients, survivors, advocates, and community organizations; and,
- iii. To 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.

Highlights and Partnerships

Though the committee did not meet in the 2021-22 reporting period, the membership valued its relationship with HCS and key stakeholders in striving to fulfill its mandate.

Partnerships include but are not limited to:

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

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

- Provincial Cancer Screening Advisory Committee
- Cancer Services Quality Committee
- Ottawa Model Smoking Cessation Steering Committee
- Electronic Medical Record Clinical Advisory Committee

- Provincial Oncology Drug Committee
- Patient and Family Advisory Committee
- Pathology/Oncology Committee
- Rural Education Committee
- Provincial Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Working Group
- Provincial Vulnerable Populations Working Group and Primary Health Care Sub-Committee
- BETTER Implementation
- The Journey Across the Island

Report on Performance

Objective: by March 31 2022, the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee will have provided advice to advance and improve cancer control efforts in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Indicator	Results
Provided advice on select priority actions of the Cancer Control Policy Framework	Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, meetings and activities for the committee did not proceed. As a result this indicator was not achieved.
Provided advice on identified, emerging cancer control issues and interests	Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, meetings and activities for the committee did not proceed. As a result this indicator was not achieved.
Provided advice on the monitoring or progress of select cancer control initiatives	Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, meetings and activities for the committee did not proceed. As a result this indicator was not achieved.

2021-22 was a challenging year for the committee. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, meetings and activity for the committee were on hold and therefore, there are no activities to report.

Challenges and Opportunities

In recent years it has become apparent that there is overlap in the mandate of this committee and other initiatives within partner organizations. HCS will engage committee members and determine the future role and the most effective approach going forward.

There may be opportunity to streamline and enhance cancer control in Newfoundland and Labrador with a more coordinated approach as part of overall health system governance and implementation of Health Accord NL.

Challenges presented by the COVID-19 public health emergency 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 the province.

Appendix A: Committee Membership

Representation	Full Name	Position
Chair Person	Ms. Sharon Smith	Volunteer
Member: Central Health	Vacant	
Member: Eastern Health	Vacant	
Member: Labrador-Grenfell Health	Ms. Donnie Sampson	Vice President, Labrador Grenfell Health
Member: Western Health	Vacant	
Delegate: Faculty of Medicine, Memorial	Dr. Kara Liang	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	Vacant	
Member: Health Care Provider Representative	Vacant	