

**Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health and Addictions
Activity Plan**

April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2029

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, I am pleased to present the 2026-2029 Activity Plan for the Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health and Addictions (the Recovery Council). The Recovery Council is a Category 3 Provincial Government entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act** and plans and reports in accordance with the requirements for such entities.

This Activity Plan identifies key objectives to be accomplished during the planning period to provide sound advice that will inform effective decision making and policy development, including the voice of lived and living experience. In the development of this plan, careful consideration was given to the strategic directions of the Provincial Government in the areas of health and community services.

As Chairperson, my signature acknowledges the Recovery Council's accountability for the preparation of this plan and for achievement of the objectives contained herein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Bourne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Date: June 29th, 2026

Mr. Jeff Bourne, Chairperson
Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health
and Addictions

Table of Contents

Overview	3
Mandate.....	3
Primary Clients.....	3
Lines of Business	3
Vision.....	3
Issue	4
Objectives and Indicators.....	4
Annex A: Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health and Addictions’ Membership.....	6

Overview

The Recovery Council reports to the Minister of Health and Community Services, provides the voice of lived and living experience, and advises on key mental health and addictions matters to support decision making and policy development. The Recovery Council also provides input and oversight for the completion of all actions outlined in the five-year provincial action plans: **Our Path of Resilience: An Action Plan to Promote Life and Prevent Suicide in Newfoundland and Labrador** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan: Reducing Alcohol Harms and Costs in Newfoundland and Labrador**. Currently, the Recovery Council has ten members, but additional appointments are expected in the near future to meet the requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference (see Annex A for additional information on membership).

The Recovery Council was initially appointed in 2017 by the Minister of Health and Community Services and was categorized as a Category 3 Government Entity in accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act** in 2023. The work of the Recovery Council is supported and funded by the Mental Health and Addictions Division, Department of Health and Community Services.

Mandate

The Recovery Council provides input and advice on matters related to:

- Successful completion of **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan**;
- Ongoing transformation of the provincial mental health and addictions system;
- Mental health, substance use and addiction issues affecting individuals and families;
- Person-centred care, promoting the use of recovery-focused, harm reduction and inclusive approaches;
- Family and caregiver issues and perspectives;
- Peer support;
- Reducing stigma and discrimination; and
- Other priorities as they emerge.

Primary Clients

The Recovery Council aims to ensure provincial policies and programs meet the needs of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who access the provincial mental health and addictions system either themselves or with a loved one.

Lines of Business

The Recovery Council provides support to the Minister of Health and Community Services in an advisory capacity. All final decisions related to provincial policies and programs rest with the Minister of Health and Community Services.

Vision

A responsive, coordinated and evidence-informed mental health and addictions system that provides timely access to services, is recovery focused and person-centred and reflects the needs of Individuals with lived and/or living experience of mental health and addictions.

Issue

To provide the voice of lived and living experience and advise the Minister of Health and Community Services on key mental health and addictions matters to support decision making and policy development.

Issue Statement: Provide input and oversight for completion of all actions contained within the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan** and **Our Path of Resilience**.

In June 2022, the Provincial Government released **Our Path of Resilience: An Action Plan to Promote Life and Prevent Suicide in Newfoundland and Labrador**¹, a five-year action plan that includes 12 targeted actions and a commitment to improved monitoring, surveillance and research aimed at reducing the incidents of suicide in Newfoundland and Labrador. The action items focus on community mental health literacy and capacity building, as well as prevention, intervention and follow-up services for people impacted by suicide.

In July 2022, the Provincial Government released the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan: Reducing Alcohol Harms and Costs in Newfoundland and Labrador**². The five-year action plan focuses on prevention, screening, brief intervention, referral and treatment and includes 13 actions to be completed by March 2027.

The Recovery Council is embedded into the governance structure and provides meaningful input and oversight of the implementation of the actions of both plans. There is regular reporting to the Recovery Council by HCS officials. While the timeframe for these action plans will come to an end in March 2027, the recommendations will have an ongoing impact on service planning and delivery.

In July 2025, the All-Party Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Addictions released its final report on programs and services, and the implementation of new initiatives to better serve the needs of the province.³ The report contains ten key recommendations to further strengthen the provincial mental health and addictions system. The Recovery Council will be embedded into the governance structure to provide input and oversight of the implementation of these actions.

Objectives and Indicators

The Recovery Council will continue to advise the Minister of Health and Community Services on key mental health and addictions matters and trends to formulate effective decision making and policy development until March 31, 2029. The indicators will change annually as work progresses on the implementation of actions and as other priorities emerge.

¹ <https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/Our-Path-of-Resilience-An-Action-Plan-to-Promote-Life-and-Prevent-Suicide-in-Newfoundland-and-Labrador-.pdf>

² <https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/ProvincialAlcoholActionPlan.pdf>

³ <https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/AllPartyCommitteeonMentalHealthReport2025.pdf>

By March 31 of each year of this plan, the Recovery Council will have provided input and oversight to advance work on all actions in **Our Path of Resilience, Provincial Alcohol Action Plan** and those stemming from the Final Report of the All-Party Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Addictions.

Annual Objectives

By March 31 of each year of this plan, the Recovery Council will have provided input and oversight to advance work on all actions contained in **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan**, along with advice on key mental health and addictions matters to support decision making and policy development. The Recovery Council will provide input on issues stemming from the Final Report of the All-Party Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Addictions.

Indicators

The following indicators will be used over the duration of this three-year activity plan to determine whether the Recovery Council is meeting its annual objective.

- 1. Input into Strategic Plans:** The Recovery Council will have provided documented input on all completed actions under **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan** related to increasing access to services and reducing wait times.
- 2. Use of Expert Advice:** The Recovery Council will have engaged subject-matter experts in consultations, including those related to reducing wait times for mental health and addictions services and expanding service access.
- 3. Stakeholder Engagement:** The Recovery Council will have facilitated participation of representatives of Provincial Government departments/agencies, NL Health Services, and community groups in consultations related to the development of new mental health and addictions services.
- 4. Knowledge Development:** The Recovery Council will have participated in knowledge - sharing sessions focused on mental health and addictions system improvement, including strategies to reduce wait times for services.
- 5. Advice to the Minister of Health and Community Services:** The Recovery Council will have provided timely evidence-based advice to the Minister of Health and Community Services, including advice on increasing access to services, reducing wait times and expanding the mobile crisis response service.

Annex A: Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health and Addictions' Membership

Membership, including the chairperson and vice-chairperson, are appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services through an Expression of Interest.

The Recovery Council's Terms of Reference state there will be no less than 12 and no more than 15 members. Members whose terms have expired can continue to serve until reappointed or replaced. Recovery Council members have diverse backgrounds, skills and experiences. Membership may bring experience from a variety of sectors; however, the primary experience most relevant to the Recovery Council includes:

- Personal lived or living experience with mental illness, substance use, and/or addictions;
- Family experience with mental illness, substance use, and/or addictions; and
- Experience with the provincial mental health and addictions system.

Name	Experience
Jeff Bourne	Chair, Community Service Provider with Lived Experience, Eastern Rural Zone
Dr. Jason Chaulk	Co-Chair, Physician with Lived Experience, Eastern Rural Zone
Amnesty Cornelius	Lived Experience, Eastern Urban Zone
Alexandra Young	Community Service Provider with Lived Experience, Central Zone
Margaret Noseworthy	Lived Experience, Western Zone
Sandra Hewitt-Parsons	Counsellor with Lived Experience, Western Zone
Serena Payne	Community Service Provider with Lived Experience, Eastern Urban Zone
Harriett Ruthie Lampe	Nunatsiavut Government Employee with Lived Experience, Labrador-Grenfell Zone
Jill Ford	Mental Health Counsellor with Labrador-Grenfell Zone, NL Health Services, Eastern Urban Zone
Olive Williams	Lived Experience

Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health and Addictions

Secretariat Support and General Inquiries

Mental Health and Addictions Division

Department of Health and Community Services

P.O. Box 8700, 1st Floor, West Block

Confederation Building, St. John's, NL A1B 4J6