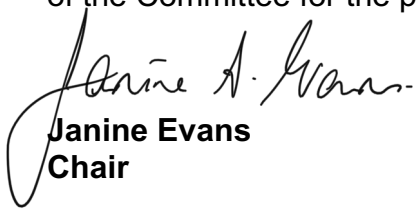
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
CHILD DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

Message from the Chairperson

I am pleased to submit the 2019-20 annual report for the Child Death Review Committee. This Committee is a Category 3 entity and this report was prepared under my direction and in accordance with the provisions of the **Transparency and Accountability Act**.

As per ongoing practice, consultation with officials and staff of the Department of Justice and Public Safety and other government departments occurred as necessary in relation to cases and procedures.

As chairperson of the Child Death Review Committee, I accept accountability on behalf of the Committee for the preparation of this report and the achievement of its objective.



Janine Evans
Chair

Table of Contents

Overview

The Child Death Review Committee is a multi-disciplinary committee established pursuant to subsection 13.1(1) of the **Fatalities Investigations Act**. This Committee was formed in March 2014 and comprises seven members, who serve for a term established by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and the Chief Medical Examiner. During fiscal year 2019-20, the Committee members were:

Ms. Janine Evans (Chairperson)
Ms. Anna Katic Duffy (Vice-Chairperson)
Ms. Michelle Chislett Lahey
Dr. Stephen Lee
Ms. Judy Voisey
Insp. Sharon Warren
Ms. Carol Ann Caines
Dr. Nash Denic (Ex-Officio)

The Child Death Review Committee does not have a separate budget. Expenses are captured under Administrative and Policy Support Activity Line within the Department of Justice and Public Safety Budget.

Mandate

The committee is required to review child deaths, maternal deaths, and stillbirths or neonatal deaths as outlined in the Fatalities Investigation Act.

After each review, the Committee shall report to the Minister of Justice and Public Safety on its findings and submit to the Chief Medical Examiner all records relevant to the review. The Committee also monitors trends in these deaths, may make recommendations on identified trends and determines whether further review is necessary or desirable in the public interest.

Highlights

During the fiscal year, the Committee met regularly to review child deaths in accordance with its mandate. From February 2020 onward, the Committee was not able to meet as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair communicated as required with the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate.

Additionally, the Chair finalized five-year trend report of all child deaths from March 2014 to March 2019, taking into account fifteen variables, as well as all identifiers. This report is important for the purpose of tracking trends in child fatalities. The analysis was provided to the Minister of Justice and Public Safety in October 2019.

Report on Performance

Issue: Compliance with the Fatalities Investigations Act
The Child Death Review Committee reviewed child deaths, monitored trends and made recommendations to the Minister on matters related to the prevention of child deaths, including the need for inquiries. The review process involved an analysis of the facts contained in written reports and investigative material compiled by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and other reports identified as relevant by the Committee. The Committee prepared reports on its findings and submitted it to the Minister.

Objective: By March 31, 2020, the Child Death Review Committee will have reviewed child deaths in accordance with the **Fatalities Investigations Act**.

Indicators	Results
Meetings held as required to review child deaths referred from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.	The committee held five meetings during the fiscal year. Meetings were limited during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
A report on each child death review is submitted to the Minister.	For 2019-20, 22 reports were completed and submitted to the Minister.
Child death review records are submitted to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.	22 child death reviews were submitted to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner during the fiscal year.
Child deaths reviewed collectively to identify trends, risk factors and recommendations for the prevention of child deaths.	Child deaths are reviewed collectively to identify trends and risk factors on an ongoing basis. These trends inform recommendations for the prevention of child deaths. Since March 2014, 67 deaths have been analyzed and reported.
Recommendations from collective reviews are submitted to the Minister.	The Child Death Review Committee completed a five-year analysis of all 58 child deaths reviewed between March 2014 and March 2019. This analysis was released to the Minister in October 2019.

Opportunities and Challenges

The Child Death Review Committee faces specific challenges but these also present unique opportunities. One challenge that is upcoming for the Committee is the end of the current appointment terms for the existing members. Recruitment can present certain challenges as members of the Committee must be highly skilled professionals. This includes a physician with experience in pediatrics, a social worker, a police officer, a lawyer, a nurse, an advocate of women, children and youth, and an educator with

experience in the kindergarten to grade 12-school system. It is important to ensure that the members of the Committee have the professional skills and experiences to conduct the work of the Committee. While some members may not seek another term on the Committee, new membership provides an opportunity for a fresh perspective on the work of the Child Death Review Committee. This also represents an opportunity for longer-term members to provide guidance and mentorship for new members.

From February 2020 onward, the Committee was not able to meet as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair communicated as required with the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate. It is anticipated that as operations return to normal, the Committee will resume regular meetings.

Financial Statements

The Child Death Review Committee does not have a separate budget. Expenses are captured under Administrative and Policy Support Activity Line within the Department of Justice and Public Safety Budget.