

Children, Seniors and Social Development

Strategic Plan

2020 - 2023





MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Minister responsible for the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD), I am pleased to present the department's Strategic Plan for the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2023.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has identified strategic directions for the province for the three-year period from 2020-23. Two of these strategic directions are particularly relevant to CSSD's mandate: **Healthier People** and **A Bright Future**. CSSD focuses on ensuring that policies, practices and services respect diversity, increase equity, and reduce barriers to self-determination while emphasizing prevention, early intervention and protection to ensure that all individuals in the province are supported to thrive. Together with our community partners, stakeholders and other government departments, CSSD is committed to ensuring an inclusive, accessible and socially advanced province that values its children, youth, families, seniors and all individuals across the life span.

This plan is submitted in accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**. As Minister, I am accountable for the preparation of this plan, and the achievement of the specific goals and objectives contained herein.

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

Hon. Brian Warr
Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development

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Overview

Mandate

The Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD) works to foster social development and diversity, build inclusive communities, and ensure the delivery of critical services to protect children and vulnerable adults. CSSD will develop policies, programs and partnerships to promote an inclusive, accessible and socially advanced province that values its children, youth, families, persons with disabilities, seniors and all individuals across the life span.

Lines of Business

The department fulfils this mandate through the following lines of business:

- Adoptions - finds permanent homes for children available for adoption.
- Adult Protection - protects adults who do not understand or appreciate the risk of abuse and neglect.
- Child Protection and In-Care - helps ensure the safety and well-being of children and youth in need of protective intervention.
- Community Youth Corrections - provides services to youth who come into conflict with the law between their 12th and 18th birthdays.
- Disability Policy – enhances the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society including access to economic, social and cultural opportunities on an equal basis with others.
- Poverty Reduction - prevents, reduces and alleviates poverty and fostering opportunities for all citizens to share fully in our society and economy.
- Seniors and Aging - promotes healthy aging across the lifespan and fosters a healthy society which honours, listens to and includes seniors in building stronger, more dynamic communities.
- Youth Services - assists youth in need of protective intervention during their transition to early adulthood.

The departmental website is: www.gov.nl.ca/cssd.

Staff and Budget

As of September 30, 2020, CSSD had 725 positions - 688 permanent, 33 temporary and four contractual. The Provincial Office has 107 positions which carry out work in the lines of business identified above. The Child and Youth Services branch is structured into Central-West Region, Labrador Region, and Metro Region, as follows:

- Central-West: 277 positions, with offices located in Baie Verte, Bay Roberts, Bonavista, Botwood, Channel-Port-aux-Basques, Clarenville, Conception Bay South, Conne River, Corner Brook, Deer Lake, Gander, Grand Falls-Windsor, Harbour Breton, Harbour Grace, Holyrood, Lewisporte, Marystown, Musgrave Harbour, Placentia, Roddickton, Springdale, St. Alban's, St. Anthony, Stephenville, Summerford, Whitbourne, and Woody Point.
- Labrador: 118 positions, with offices located in Cartwright, Forteau, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Hopedale, Labrador City, Makkovik, Nain, Natuashish, Rigolet, and Sheshatshiu.
- Metro: 223 positions, with offices located in Bell Island, Ferryland, and St. John's.

The department's 2020-21 Budget is \$136,841,600 and includes \$27,454,900 in anticipated revenue.

Financial Information

Revenue and expenditures in this document are based on the information provided in the public Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the Fiscal Year ended 31 March 2020.

	2020-21 Budget (\$)	2019-20 Actuals (\$)	2019-20 Restated Original Budget (\$)
Executive and Support Services	7,703,200	7,056,931	7,664,000
Child and Youth Services	126,823,600	128,585,825	125,432,200
Seniors and Social Development	2,314,800	2,113,613	2,122,200
Total (Department)	\$136,841,600	\$137,756,369	\$135,218,400

Vision

A socially advanced province, where all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians live fulfilling lives of purpose, balance and meaning for them.

CSSD collaborates with partners and stakeholders and provides leadership in government to ensure that policies, practices, and services respect diversity, increase equity, and reduce barriers, while emphasizing prevention, early intervention, protection, and self-determination.

Strategic Issues

Issue One: Prevention and Early Intervention for Families

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has identified strategic directions for the province for the three-year period from 2020-23. Two of these strategic directions of particular reference to work with children, youth and families include **Healthier People** and **A Bright Future**.

Over the next three years, CSSD will focus on prevention and early intervention for all families to improve outcomes for all children and youth. This child-centred, family-centred, and community-centered approach will identify and reduce systemic barriers, focus on community partnerships and coordinate government efforts to ensure governments' policies, programs, and services support healthy children, youth, and families.

GOAL:

By March 31, 2023, CSSD, in collaboration with community and government departments, will have developed and implemented a horizontal Action Plan on prevention and early intervention for families.

Indicators

- Establish an interdepartmental committee to oversee and support the development and implementation of an action plan on early intervention and prevention for all children and youth.
- Consult with community and research partners to formulate a better understanding of best practices and identify specific opportunities to improve prevention and early intervention services to support vulnerable families in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Lead the development and implementation of a horizontal Action Plan on prevention and early intervention for children and their families in conjunction with community and research partners.

Objective 1:

By March 31, 2021, the CSSD will have reviewed existing actions required to enhance prevention and early intervention for all children and youth.

Indicators:

- Established an interdepartmental committee to oversee the development of an early intervention and prevention Action Plan.
- Created an inventory of what government departments are already doing to promote early intervention and prevention for all children and youth.
- Performed an environmental scan including a literature review on best practices in early intervention and prevention as well as a jurisdictional scan of what other Canadian provinces and territories are doing to lead early intervention and prevention activities for children and youth, and leading edge work in other countries.
- Created a consultation plan to engage with community stakeholders.

Objective 2:

By March 31, 2022, CSSD, in collaboration with other government departments, will have developed a horizontal Action Plan to address the issue of enhanced prevention and early intervention for all children and youth.

Objective 3:

By March 31, 2023, CSSD, in collaboration with other government departments, will have begun to implement the horizontal Action Plan to strengthen programs, policies, and services focused on prevention and early intervention for all children and youth.

Issue Two: Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion

CSSD is committed to carrying out the strategic directions identified by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for 2020-23, including **Healthier People** and **A Bright Future**.

Over the next three years, CSSD will focus on strengthening social advancements through a renewed strategy to reduce poverty and increase social inclusion.

GOAL:

By March 31, 2023, CSSD will have strengthened the social advancement of the province by engaging with stakeholders and communities to formulate actions to reduce poverty, support healthy aging across the lifespan and encourage inclusive, accessible communities.

Indicators:

- Developed a renewed strategy to reduce poverty in consultation with stakeholders, experts and communities.
- Developed and implemented new provincial accessibility legislation.
- Worked toward the establishment of an Advocate for Persons with Disabilities.
- Developed an action plan, informed by the recommendations of the Seniors' Advocate, to create an environment that fosters healthy aging, social inclusion, and age-friendly communities.
- Completed a 5-year review of the **Adult Protection Act**.

Objective 1:

By March 31, 2021, the CSSD will have begun to strengthen social advancement of the province by engaging with relevant government departments, stakeholders and communities to formulate policies and actions to reduce poverty, support healthy aging and encourage inclusive, accessible communities

Indicators:

- Reviewed existing actions related to poverty reduction across all levels of government (federal, provincial and municipal) with the assistance of the Poverty Reduction Interdepartmental Working Group.
- Commenced discussions with community partners and stakeholders on priorities to inform the development of a renewed Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- Researched best practices and current knowledge on poverty to support the development of a renewed Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- Worked with research and community partners to identify barriers and limitations to social inclusion, healthy aging and improved accessibility.
- Established an Interdepartmental Working Group to address the issues of demographic change and explore policies and programs to address the recommendations of the Seniors' Advocate and Office of the Auditor General.
- Began a review of the **Adult Protection Act**.
- Consulted persons with disabilities, community and business stakeholders to inform the drafting of the accessibility legislation.
- Consulted with the Provincial Advisory Council on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities on the roles and responsibilities of a Disability Advocate.
- Reviewed advice from the Provincial Advisory Council on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in establishing the development of standards process for the accessibility legislation.

Objective 2:

By March 31, 2022, CSSD will have strengthened the social advancement of the province by developing and implementing policies and actions that reduce poverty, support healthy aging across the lifespan and encourage inclusive, accessible communities.

Objective 3:

By March 31, 2023, CSSD will have strengthened the social advancement of the province by further implementing policies and supporting actions to reduce poverty, support healthy aging across the lifespan and encourage inclusive, accessible communities.

Annex A: Active Entities

The Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development is also responsible for two entities, which carry out their own strategic planning and performance reporting, in accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**. These include:

Provincial Advisory Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

The Provincial Advisory Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities advises the Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities on issues of importance to persons with disabilities and the removal of systemic barriers. The Council consists of 13 members, including the Chairperson. All members have disability-related experiences, knowledge and expertise.

Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors

The Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors advises government in preparing for an aging population by ensuring that a seniors' perspective is reflected in policy development and in planning for future service delivery. The mandate of the Council is to advise and inform government on issues, concerns and needs of seniors. The Council consists of 12 members, in addition to a Chairperson. Members serve up to a three-year term.

Annex B: Strategic Directions

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has identified the following strategic directions for the 2020-2023 planning cycle. These themes should be considered, as appropriate and applicable, to each government entity in the development of the entity's plan.

- A Better Economy
- Healthier People
- Better Living
- A Bright Future
- A More Efficient Public Sector

