

**Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council  
Activity Plan**

**April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2026**

## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, I am pleased to present the 2023 – 2026 Activity Plan for the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council (the Advisory Council). The Advisory 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 in an effort to provide sound advice that will inform policies and programs and enhance the delivery of mental health and addictions issues within Newfoundland and Labrador. In the development of this plan, careful consideration was given to the strategic directions of the Provincial Government in the area of health and community services.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheldon Pollett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

Mr. Sheldon Pollett, Interim Chairperson  
Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council

## Table of Contents

Overview .....	3
Mandate.....	3
Lines of Business .....	3
Vision.....	3
Issue .....	3
Objective and Indicators .....	4
Annex A: Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council Membership.....	5

## Overview

The Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council (the Advisory Council) reports to the Minister of Health and Community Services, and advises on key mental health and addictions matters to support decision-making and policy development. The Advisory 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**.

The Advisory Council was appointed in June 2010 as a Category 3 Government Entity. The Terms of Reference for the Council were amended in April 2023 to include oversight for the implementation of the two action plans noted above. Membership of the Council is provided in Annex A below.

The work of the Advisory Council is supported and funded by the Mental Health and Addictions Division, Department of Health and Community Services.

## Mandate

In addition to broadly informing and providing guidance on the mental health and addictions system in Newfoundland and Labrador, including connections to broader government strategies related to the social determinants of health, the Advisory Council provides input and advice on matters related to:

- The successful completion of **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan**;
- Enhancing mental health and addressing mental illness, substance use and addiction;
- Fostering public awareness, education and anti-stigma efforts; and
- Addressing other priorities as they emerge.

## Lines of Business

The Advisory 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

Input provided the Council will affect positive change in the mental health and addictions system.

## Issue

**Issue statement:** Provide oversight of the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan and Our Path of Resilience**.

On June 1, 2022, the Provincial Government released **Our Path of Resilience: An Action Plan to Promote Life and Prevent Suicide in Newfoundland and Labrador**, 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 Plan can be viewed [here](#). 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. The Advisory

Council is embedded into the governance structure to provide meaningful input and oversight of the implementation of the actions. There will be regular reporting to the Advisory Council by HCS officials.

On July 5, 2022, the Provincial Government released the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan: Reducing Alcohol Harms and Costs in Newfoundland and Labrador**. The five-year action plan focuses on prevention, screening, brief intervention, referral and treatment and includes 13 actions to be completed by March 2026. The plan can be viewed [here](#). The Advisory Council is embedded into the governance structure, to provide meaningful input and oversight of the implementation of the actions. There will be regular reporting to the Advisory Council by HCS officials.

## Objective and Indicators

The annual objective of the Advisory Council will remain the same until all of the actions contained in **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan** have been implemented. Simultaneously, the Advisory 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. The indicators will change annually as work progresses on the implementation of actions and as other priorities emerge.

## Annual Objective

- By March 31, 2024, the Advisory Council will have provided the Minister of Health and Community Services with advice on key mental health and addictions matters to support decision-making and policy development, as well as provided input and oversight to advance work on all actions in **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan**.

## Indicators

- Provided input on all actions completed in **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan**;
- Obtained expert and group member expertise;
- Invited community groups and other organizations to present information;
- Attended presentations on mental health and addictions policies and programs;
- Provided advice to the Minister of Health and Community Services; and
- Made recommendations on government-led mental health and addictions initiatives.

## Annex A: Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council Membership

Membership, including the chairperson and vice-chairperson, are appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services. The Advisory Council is listed in Schedule C of the Public Service Commission Act, which means it is a Tier 2 Board for the purposes of making appointments. Therefore, appointment recommendations are made by the Public Service Commission utilizing a merit-based approach.

The current Advisory Council is an eight-member group representing diversity in backgrounds, skills and experiences. The Advisory Council’s membership may bring experience from the following sectors:

- Personal lived experience / family experience
- Indigenous people
- Provincial health authority
- Psychiatry and Family Medicine
- Education
- Health promotion and prevention
- Community organizations
- Post-secondary institutions
- Business community
- Justice system
- National organizations

Member Name	Current Experience
<b>Sheldon Pollett</b>	Interim Chair, Community Service Provider - Youth
<b>Angela Crockwell</b>	Community Service Provider - Youth
<b>Angie Wilmott</b>	School Guidance Counsellor/Psychologist
<b>Des Coombs</b>	Psychologist
<b>Dr. Greg Radu</b>	Psychiatrist, Eastern Urban Zone, Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services
<b>George Skinner</b>	Social Worker, Community Advocate
<b>Michelle Kinney</b>	Nunatsiavut Government
<b>Paula Corcoran</b>	Lived Experience, Community Service Provider

**Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council**

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