

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20



## Premier's Youth Council





## Message from Council Co-Chairs

As Co-Chairs of the Premier's Youth Council, and in accordance with the requirements of the Transparency and Accountability Act, we hereby submit the 2019-20 Annual Report of the Premier's Youth Council. This report was prepared in accordance with the provisions set out in the Transparency and Accountability Act for a category three entity and covers April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. This report compares actual results to those anticipated in the Council's 2018-20 Activity Plan.

During the 2019-20 fiscal year, the Premier's Youth Council provided advice to the Provincial Government through a variety of channels, including in-person and online meetings.

As Co-Chairs, we see the strength and power possessed by the youth of Newfoundland and Labrador. Over the past year, the Premier and Provincial Government have been responsive to the Council and actively listened to the views and recommendations of our membership. We thank the Premier and the entire Provincial Government for prioritizing youth voices, opinions, and advice.

The members of the Council are responsible for the preparation of this annual report and are accountable for the actual results reported herein. Together, we look forward to continuing to work with the Public Engagement Division and Planning Division of the Communications and Public Engagement Branch, other departments and agencies, and provincial stakeholders to bring forth perspectives and viewpoints of young people for the Provincial Government's consideration.

Sincerely,



Katherine Dibbon, Co-Chair



Nicholas Hillier, Co-Chair

On behalf of the members of the Premier's Youth Council



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## **Introduction and Overview**

The Premier's Youth Council (PYC) was created in 2017 and provides advice to the Premier and Provincial Government by bringing a youth perspective to public policy topics.

### **Mandate**

The mandate of the PYC is to provide advice to the Premier, bringing a youth perspective to select topics important to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

### **Membership**

The PYC is mandated to have up to 25 members between the ages of 16 and 24 years at the time of appointment and who normally reside in the province for at least nine months of the year. Terms are for one-year with the possibility of reappointment for an additional year.

Members receive no remuneration for their service. To fulfill its mandate, the Council relies on administrative, strategic and financial support from the Public Engagement and Planning Division of the Communications and Public Engagement Branch of Executive Council, as part of that entity's mandate to support Government's engagement activities.

## Highlights and Partnerships

In addition to its partnership with the Public Engagement and Planning Division, the PYC collaborates with Government departments and agencies to support evidence-based decision-making by bringing meaningful and diverse youth perspectives to issues of importance.

The PYC met on several occasions during the 2019-20 fiscal year, including in-person meetings in July 2019 and February 2020.

During the July 2019 in-person meeting, the PYC met with the Premier for roundtable discussions on various topics, including public post-secondary education, Government's Towards Recovery Action Plan, single use plastics and waste management, democratic reform, jobs and the economy, and women in leadership. Additionally, the Co-Chairs gave a presentation on their attendance at the National Canada Youth Summit in Ontario.

In February 2020, the PYC met in person with the Premier, ministers, and departmental officials for a full day of roundtable discussions that covered six topics: K-12 education improvements; employment; tourism; accessibility of mental health and addictions services; climate change; and democratic reform. Opening remarks were live-streamed on Provincial Government's social media. Media attended opening and closing remarks and conducted a media scrum with the Premier and Co-Chairs.

In March 2020, Public Health measures were put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the PYC suspended all in-person activities in accordance with Public Health recommendations.

Members of the PYC take their advice-giving role very seriously and are passionate about youth perspectives being included in government decision-making processes. Youth are vital stakeholders in matters of provincial policy and their involvement in local, community, and provincial life is essential to the growth and prosperity of the province.



## Report on Performance

The PYC's Activity Plan states the PYC will meet in person and virtually, as required, to research, discuss, and formulate advice on issues identified by the Provincial Government. The plan includes indicators for monitoring purposes.

### Issue # 1

Provide advice to the Premier and the Provincial Government on select issues of interest.

### 2019-20 Objective

By March 31, 2020, the Premier's Youth Council will have provided advice, in writing or in-person, to the Premier and/or departments and agencies on issues of importance identified by the Provincial Government.

**Indicator 1:** Number and nature of meetings held to discuss and deliberate.

As mentioned above, the PYC met with the Premier and other Government officials for in-person discussions in July and February. Various topics of importance were discussed, as outlined below.

Two council members also attended a meeting between the Premier and other Government officials and the organizers of the Fridays for Futures St. John's Movement on the issue of climate change.

The PYC met virtually after the appointment of 21 new members to elect new Co-Chairs. Self-nominated candidates addressed the Council outlining why they believed they were the best suited for the Co-Chair role. The Council voted for Katherine Dibbon and Nicholas Hillier who each received a majority of votes after one round of voting.

**Indicator 2:** Research and other preparatory work carried out to facilitate meetings and the formulation of advice.

PYC members were provided with advanced notice of the issues discussed at in-person meetings. They were also provided a package of briefing material on each issue to ensure they were well informed and well prepared. Council members were able to meet



with officials from the Public Engagement and Planning Division to ask any questions they had after reviewing this material.

The new Co-Chairs completed media training with the Provincial Government's Centre for Learning and Development in preparation for their first in-person meeting in February in their roles as Co-Chairs.

Additionally, the former Co-Chairs attended the National Canada Youth Summit in Ontario and another Council member attended the Atlantic Workforce Partnership Best Practices Youth Workshop. These members incorporated learnings from these events into subsequent meetings with the PYC.

**Indicator 3:** Advice, in-person or in writing, provided to the Provincial Government.

During the 2019-20 fiscal year, the PYC provided advice to the Provincial Government during in-person meetings. These meetings, during which there were presentations from Government officials, took place in July and February at Confederation Building. The presentations included discussion questions, which guided roundtable discussions with the Premier and Government officials. PYC members provided youth perspectives and advice to Premier and Government officials during these discussions.

Topics included:

- Democratic Reform
- Women in Leadership
- Employment
- Economy
- Accessibility of Mental Health and Addictions Services
- Education
- Tourism
- Waste Management
- Single-Use Plastics
- Climate Change
- Community Service

In-Person Meeting Discussion Overviews are available online at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/pep/pyc/>.

## 2018-20 Goal Reporting

During 2018-2020 the PYC met in person four times and online seven times. Members also completed a number of online questionnaires using the Provincial Government's engageNL platform as part of ongoing departmental consultation and engagement activities. Through these meetings and questionnaires, the PYC provided advice to the Premier and the Provincial Government, bringing the voice of youth to decision makers on important public policy topics.

## Summary of Expenditures

<b>Travel</b>	\$7,431
<b>Accommodations</b>	\$1,212
<b>Purchased Services and Supplies</b>	\$2,966
<b>Meals</b>	\$2,768
<b>Totals</b>	\$14,377



