

2022–2023
Annual Report

Premier's Youth Council



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL

As co-chair of the Premier's Youth Council, and in accordance with the requirements for a Category Three entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, I hereby submit the 2022-23 Annual Report of the Premier's Youth Council. This report covers the period starting April 1, 2022 and ending March 31, 2023 and is the final annual report for the Council's 2020-23 Activity Plan.

During the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Council provided advice to the Provincial Government on a variety of topics important to both Government and youth, as outlined in this report. This year was also the first year since the COVID-19 pandemic began that the Premier's Youth Council was able to meet in person for the annual general meeting.

Membership on the Council comes from throughout the province, reflecting Newfoundland and Labrador in its regional, cultural, and demographic diversity. This experience and perspective greatly enrich our discussions and deliberations.

The Council understands and appreciates the importance of providing platforms for the youth of Newfoundland and Labrador to have their say on issues that matter. Under the leadership of Premier Furey, ministers and departmental officials have shown themselves to be both interested in, and responsive to, the views and advice of our membership. We thank the Premier and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for their commitment to youth.

The members of the Council are responsible for the preparation of this annual report and are accountable for the actual results reported herein.

Sincerely,



Katherine Dibbon, Co-Chair

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

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Overview

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador created the Premier's Youth Council (PYC) to ensure a mechanism for receiving feedback and input from young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians between the ages of 16 and 24 on select 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.

Vision

The PYC has a vision of a dynamic, forward-looking, inclusive and innovative province where there is an abundance of opportunities for young people to contribute to their communities and the prosperity of the province. This vision includes a society where the opinions of youth are equal in value to the opinions of others and where the inclusion of youth voices in public policy processes is normal.

Membership

Noah Briffett, Pasadena

Mira Buckle, Corner Brook

Blake Colbran, Marystown

Michael Coombs, St. Alban's

Katherine Dibbon, St. John's (Co-Chair)

Elliott Dicks, Deer Lake

Andrew Dogurga, St. John's

Sarah Duraid, Gander

Julian Edwards, St. John's

Nicholas Ellis, Winterton

Amelia Jones, Forteau

Emily Laite, Gander

Ryan McFarlane, Deer Lake

Kirby Moulant, Musgrave Harbour

Benjamin Oates, St. John's (Co-Chair)

Joslyn Park, McIvers

Lesley Pilgrim, St. Anthony

Courtney Roberts, Happy Valley-Goose Bay

Emma Whelan, Paradise

Jack White, St. John's

Erica Evely, Victoria

Julia White, St. John's

Leann Goodyear, Lumsden

Nathan Young, Torbay

Shealah Hart, Northern Arm

During the 2022-23 fiscal year, applications opened to invite innovative and community-minded Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to apply for a seat on the PYC. The appointment process is underway, and new members have not yet been appointed.

Members receive no remuneration for their service. During fiscal year 2022-23, the PYC relied on the administrative, logistical, and strategic support of Cabinet Secretariat, Office of the Executive Council, in the fulfilment of its mandate.

Report on Performance

The following objective and indicators are as put forward in the PYC's 2020-23 Activity Plan (see: <https://assembly.nl.ca/business/electronicdocuments/PYCActivityPlan2020-23.pdf>).

Issue

Provide advice to the Premier and Government departments and agencies on issues that are of interest and importance to the Provincial Government.

2022-23 Objective

By March 31, 2023, the PYC will provide 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—these meetings may include PYC members and/or representatives from Government or external stakeholders identified by Government.

In fiscal year 2022-23, the PYC was able to meet in-person again, after holding virtual sessions through the COVID-19 pandemic. The PYC annual general meeting was held on June 6 and 7, 2022. The annual general meeting provides the PYC members with an opportunity to listen to the Premier, Cabinet Ministers and senior officials present on a variety of economic, social, and environmental issues facing Government and the province, and to deliberate and provide advice accordingly. Topics discussed included: youth retention and opportunities, mental health, Come Home 2022, diversity and immigration, and Indigenous reconciliation.

Members were able to actively participate in meetings and/or consultations with Government officials and partners throughout the 2022-23 year as follows:

- April 2022: Virtual meeting on the Health Accord with Dr. Patrick Parfrey and Sister Elizabeth Davis
- June 2022: Two-day annual general meeting with Premier, Cabinet Ministers and Senior Officials
- September 2022: PYC members participated in a focus group held by the Department of Health and Community Services as part of the legislative review of the **Mental Health Care and Treatment Act**

Indicator 2: Research and other preparatory work carried out to facilitate meetings and the formulation of advice—this may include such things as attending relevant workshops, forums or training, as well as consultations with stakeholders.

PYC members were given advance notice of the issues discussed during their meetings and, where appropriate, were provided background and contextual materials to help them prepare for their deliberations. Members were asked to do their own research and review the material distributed to the group. In addition to individual review, the co-chairs hosted internal meetings for members to discuss ideas and prepare documents with any additional information that was not able to be brought forward to meetings due to time constraints.

Throughout the year, officials with the Office of the Executive Council were available to answer any questions PYC members might have had after reviewing materials provided.

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

Throughout the 2022-23 fiscal year, the PYC provided feedback and advice through meetings and consultations. Advice was provided on:

- **Health Accord:** members were able to engage on the Health Accord with Co-Chairs Dr. Patrick Parfrey and Sister Elizabeth Davis to discuss the Health Accord and provide feedback on what is important for youth and the role of youth as implementation of the Health Accord commences;
- **Youth Retention and Opportunities:** At the annual general meeting PYC members met with Ministers to discuss youth retention in regard to the sectors of health care, education, environment, finance, justice, municipal affairs and transportation; and
- **Mental Health:** members provided input to Government on youth mental health and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the annual meeting and further consultation occurred with the Department of Health and Community Services on the **Mental Health Care and Treatment Act.**

Indicator 4: Progress as reported by the PYC in its Annual Reports.

The content of this report provides an overview of progress toward the PYC's fulfilment of its mandate while adhering to our values of inclusiveness, respect, collaboration, innovation, and commitment.

Summary of Expenditures

The PYC incurred \$7,077 in expenses in 2022-23 for the in-person annual general meeting. These expenditures included travel and accommodation for the PYC members.

