

# 2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT



Premier's Youth Council



# Message from Council

As co-chairs of the Premier's Youth Council, and in accordance with the requirements for a Category Three entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, we hereby submit the 2021-22 Annual Report of the Premier's Youth Council. This report covers the period starting April 1, 2021 and ending March 31, 2022 and compares actual results to those anticipated in the Council's 2020-23 Activity Plan.

During the 2021-22 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. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Premier's Youth Council did not meet in-person this past year. Through their virtual meetings and activities, members are satisfied they were able to fulfill their mandate.

In 2021, nine new passionate youth members were appointed to the Council, joining the 16 other members who will serve out their second terms on the Council. Our membership comes from throughout the province, reflecting Newfoundland and Labrador in its regional, cultural and demographic diversity. This experience and perspective greatly enriches our discussions and deliberations.

As co-chairs, we understand 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. Together, we look forward to continuing to work with the Premier, the Office of the Executive Council, departments and agencies, and provincial stakeholders to bring forth perspectives and viewpoints of young people for Government's consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Dibbon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a horizontal oval shape.

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

Members receive no remuneration for their service. During fiscal year 2021-22, 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>). As its focus will remain the same for the duration of the 2020-23 planning period, the PYC will report on the same objective and indicators each year.

### Issue

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

### 2021-22 Objective

By March 31, 2022, 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.**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 global health pandemic, the PYC was unable to meet in-person during fiscal year 2021-22. Normally, the key engagement activity of the PYC is the in-



person policy roundtable, where PYC members get a chance 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. However, this meeting was delayed and instead took place on June 7 and 8 2022. Members were able to actively participate in virtual meetings with the Premier and/or Government officials and partners throughout the 2021-22 year as follows:

- July 2021: Virtual meeting with the Premier to introduce new council members and discuss priorities for the Premier and Government
- November 2021: Co-Chair selection meeting
- November 2021: Members from the Corner Brook area attended the Premier's Forum on Local Government
- November 2021: Virtual meeting with the Premier and officials from the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology on Green and Renewable Energy
- December 2021: Co-Chairs attended and emceed the announcement for the Renewable Energy Plan at Memorial University, Signal Hill Campus
- January 2022: Meeting with the Premier, Minister Tom Osborne, Minister Gerry Byrne, and senior departmental officials on Youth Leadership, Retention and Population Growth

**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 virtual 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 2021-22 fiscal year, the PYC provided feedback and advice through virtual meetings and written responses. Advice was provided on:

- **Green and Renewable Energy:** members were able to engage with the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology about energy systems and underdeveloped resources as well as background information on Newfoundland’s renewable energy. This was followed by a roundtable discussion where members discussed and advised on the future of green energy in our province;
- **Youth Leadership, Retention and Population Growth:** members met with Premier Furey, Minister Tom Osborne, Minister Gerry Byrne, and senior departmental officials to discuss ideas for Government to prioritize and support youth, youth leadership, and youth mentorship as well as ways to increase the attractiveness of Newfoundland and Labrador for employment; and
- **Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Education and Employment:** members provided input to Government on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth in terms of their education and employment. In particular, the PYC highlighted the impact of online learning on students and the difficulties faced when classes returned to in-person, as well as some opportunities that online learning presented, such as remote learning and non-synchronous course delivery. Also, members shared their challenges associated with securing jobs while completing post-secondary training during a pandemic.

**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 no costs during fiscal year 2021-22 as a result of COVID-19 restrictions on travel and in-person meetings, and the use of virtual meetings as an alternative engagement tool.

