



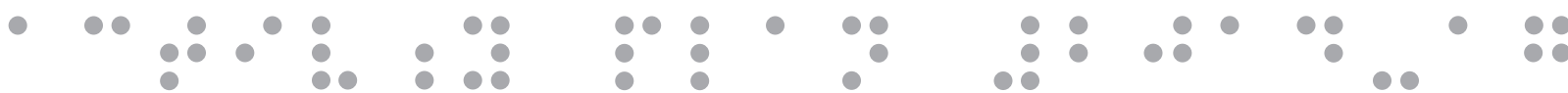
Provincial Advisory Council

for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

Activity Plan

Fiscal Years
2014-17

Date of Issue
June 30, 2014



This document is available in alternate format upon request. Please contact:

Disability Policy Office

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Chairperson's Message



As the Chair of the Provincial Advisory Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, I am pleased to submit the Activity Plan for the fiscal years 2014-2017. This plan is prepared in compliance with the Transparency and Accountability Act pursuant to which the Advisory Council has been identified as a Category III Provincial Government entity. Under this act the Advisory Council is required to prepare a performance-based activity plan. The Advisory Council is accountable for the preparation of this three-year plan and for the achievement of its objectives.

In development of this plan, careful consideration was given to the strategic directions of the Provincial Government, as communicated by the responsible minister. The achievement of these strategic directions is the direct responsibility of the Provincial Government. The Advisory Council contributes to these directions by advising on policy, program and legislative development. Furthermore, the Advisory Council provides direct input to the achievement of the Provincial Government's commitment to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society, across all Provincial Government departments and agencies. Given the Board's direction to act in an advisory capacity, it has opted not to adopt an existing mission or develop a new mission, as it would be repetitive of the mandate.

I am honoured to be the Chair of the Advisory Council, and I look forward to working with the other members to advise government on issues of importance to persons with disabilities, and recommend positive change for persons with disabilities throughout the province. As a Council we are working toward a province that is truly inclusive and accessible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Paul Walsh', written in a cursive style.

J. Paul Walsh, Chairperson

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1.0 Overview

The Provincial Advisory Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities was created in November 2009. The Advisory Council advises the Provincial Government as it takes action to ensure persons with disabilities have the same opportunities as persons without disabilities by removing barriers and ensuring that policies, programs and services are inclusive. The Advisory Council also maintains a relationship with communities of persons with disabilities to stay abreast of new priorities, emerging issues, and best practices to support their advice to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

The current Advisory Council is comprised of 18 members appointed in March 2014 by the Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities. The members of the Advisory Council have cross-disability representation, come from all regions of the province and have demonstrated leadership in the advancement of persons with disabilities. Advisory Council membership reflects a gender, age, and urban-rural balance. From amongst the members, the Minister has appointed the chair of the Advisory Council to serve a three-year term. Advisory Council members are appointed for two years. Expressions of Interest are sought on a revolving basis as terms expire to allow for continuity.

Advisory Council members serve in a volunteer capacity and are reimbursed for expenses to attend meetings, as per government policy. The Advisory Council meets up to four times a year. The costs of the Provincial Advisory Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities are borne by the Department of Advanced Education and Skills.

The Disability Policy Office, located within the Department of Advanced Education and Skills, provides secretariat and administrative support to the Advisory Council.

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2.0 Mandate

The Provincial Advisory Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities is mandated to advise and inform the Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities on matters concerning persons with disabilities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Advisory Council:

- Brings knowledge and understanding of disability-related issues to the Provincial Government
- Advises the Provincial Government as it develops policies, programs, strategies and recommendations to advance the inclusion of persons with disabilities
- Promotes awareness to the Provincial Government of barriers experienced by persons with disabilities

3.0 Values

The Advisory Council supports the following values:

- 1. Access** – providing equitable access to the same opportunities, on an equal basis with others
- 2. Respect** – understanding that everyone is different, valuing everyone’s contribution and treating everyone with dignity
- 3. Inclusion** - full and effective participation in all aspects of society
- 4. Choice** – having choice on an equal basis as others
- 5. Self Determination** – the right to have full control of one’s own life: making informed choices that are free of persuasion and based on one’s own personal beliefs, values, interests and goals
- 6. Privacy** – maintaining the confidentiality of personal information that is important and sensitive

4.0 Primary Clients

The Advisory Council brings knowledge and understanding of disability-related issues to the Provincial Government and advances the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society. In this capacity, the Advisory Council serves its primary client, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, by providing advice to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

5.0 Vision

Newfoundland and Labrador will be a province where persons with disabilities have the same opportunities and benefits as persons without disabilities – a society that is fully accessible and inclusive.

6.0 Activities

1. Provincial Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

In 2012 the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador launched a new Provincial Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. The Advisory Council's terms of reference include advising the Provincial Government on matters of importance to persons with disabilities. This includes advising on the Inclusion Strategy. Over the next three fiscal years (2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17) the Advisory Council will continue to advise the Provincial Government on the Provincial Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. This objective will be reported on at the end of each fiscal year. Through these activities, the Advisory Council will directly support the Provincial Government's strategic direction to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society. This includes providing advice for the focus areas of: removing and preventing barriers and providing the necessary social and financial supports.

Objective:

By March 31, 2015, the Advisory Council will have advised the Provincial Government on the Provincial Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

Measure:

Advised the Provincial Government on the Provincial Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

Indicators:

1. Reviewed Inclusion Strategy goals, objectives and actions to identify and prioritize actions that may still require implementation.
2. Identified tools that the Advisory Council requires to address priority issues.
3. Advised the Provincial Government in the development of the Inclusion Strategy Action Plan.
4. Provided advice on the implementation and effectiveness of the Provincial Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

2. Issues of importance to persons with disabilities

In the 2011 Blue Book, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador committed to continue the Provincial Advisory Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. The Council's role includes advising the Provincial Government on issues of importance to persons with disabilities. The following objective will apply over the three fiscal years, (2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17) and will be reported on at the end of each fiscal year. The Council's advisory work is critical to and supportive of the Provincial Government's strategic direction to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities. This entails through providing advice on focus areas of: removing and preventing barriers and providing the necessary social and financial supports.

Objective:

By March 31, 2015, the Advisory Council will have advised on issues of importance to persons with disabilities.

Measure:

Advised on issues of importance to persons with disabilities.

Indicators:

1. The Advisory Council identified, prioritized and advised on issues of importance to persons with disabilities.
2. Provided correspondence from the Chair of the Advisory Council to the Minister Responsible and other Provincial Government officials on time sensitive, emergency, individual and/or systemic issues of importance to persons with disabilities.

7.0 Appendix A: Strategic Direction



Strategic directions are the articulation of the desired physical, social or economic outcomes and normally require action by more than one Provincial Government entity. The Transparency and Accountability Act requires departments and public bodies to take into account these strategic directions in the preparation of their performance-based plans.

The strategic directions relevant to the entities reporting to the Minister Responsible for the Advisory Council were considered and the one relevant to the Advisory Council is identified below. Strategic directions are composed of a number of focus areas, indicated in the table provided. The Advisory Council's mandate crosses all Provincial Government departments and agencies which are broader than focus areas of the department.

Community and Social Development

Outcome Statement: Strengthened community and social supports and the enhanced inclusion of persons with disabilities through equitable access to services and opportunities

This outcome supports a policy direction of the Provincial Government and requires systemic intervention in the areas below:

Strategic Direction Component (Focus Area)	Addressed in Activity Plan
Social and financial supports	
Barrier removal and prevention	

8.0 Appendix B: Meet the Committee



J. Paul Walsh (Chair) is a Senior Business Analyst with Newfoundland Power Inc., a course instructor at Memorial University and the Academic Dean of Canadian Institute of Management. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Master of Business Administration from Memorial University. He has personal experiences with disabilities. Paul is an executive Board Member of the Coalition of Persons with Disabilities - Newfoundland and Labrador, a member of the Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities (Memorial University), and member of the selection committee for the Glenn Roy Blundon Award.



Norman Austin works with athletes with disabilities at national and provincial levels. He is a board member of Calypso Foundation, a coach for Special Olympics and a past member of the Municipal Affairs Appeals Board. He is the father of a 34-year old son with an intellectual disability.



Elizabeth Chaulk is Associate Vice-President of Learner Services, College of the North Atlantic. She is an ex-officio member of the Provincial College of the North Atlantic Advisory Committee for Learners with Disabilities. She is a current director of the Provincial Conservation Corps Board and a member of the Harris Centre Advisory Board, Memorial University.



Delia Connell is the Vice-President of Community Services/Aboriginal Affairs and Chief Operating Officer for Central/Northern Labrador with Labrador Grenfell Health. She is an active member and volunteer with local, regional, and provincial groups including Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living, Happy Valley-Goose Bay Special Olympics, Happy Valley-Goose Bay Homelessness/Supportive Living and Happy Valley-Goose Bay Interdisciplinary Committee for Persons with Disabilities. Delia has a daughter who was born with Down Syndrome.



Don Connolly is actively promoting awareness and inclusion for individuals with disabilities locally and nationally. He is President of the Canadian Council of the Blind-Newfoundland and Labrador Region. He is also a member of the St. John's Lions Club; and District Chair for Lions Clubs in District 4 which covers 52 Lions Clubs from Gander to St. John's. He is also President of VISRA-NL (Visually Impaired Sport and Recreation Association), and Coordinator of VISUAL (Visually Impaired Students and Seniors Committee Undertaking Active Living).



Paula Corcoran is the Provincial Executive Director of Consumers' Health Awareness Network Newfoundland and Labrador (CHANNAL). She has personal and professional experiences in mental health. Paula is involved with the Mental Health Commission of Canada, the Department of Health and Community Services' Recovery Project and Bell's National Mental Health Advisory Committee.



Lorna Gilbert has worked as a nurse and educator (Special Education). Her academic credentials include degrees in Nursing, Education, Special Education, Masters in Education, Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders and a background in Counselling Psychology. She is a volunteer on several boards including the Independent Living Resource Centre. She is also a member of the St. John's Mayor's Advisory Committee, the Coalition of Persons with Disabilities-NL and FEAT (Families for Effective Autism Treatment). Lorna has personal experience with a disability.



Dennis Gill is a retired high school administrator, and a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. He is President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living, a member of the Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board, and member of Income Employment Disability Supports Working Group - Canadian Association of Community Living. Dennis is a parent of a 33-year-old son who has intellectual and physical disabilities.

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Available

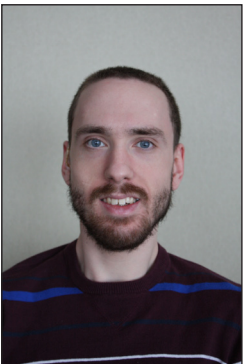
Karen Hillier is active in the Deaf Community and has been a long-time advocate for Deaf consumers. Karen lives in St. Anthony.



Philip Lundrigan is a community activist in disability issues, human rights and HIV/AIDS education and awareness. He is currently chair of the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador, and a councillor with the Town of Upper Island Cove. He has over 20 years involvement with various committees provincially and nationally promoting inclusion of persons with disabilities.



Shane Martland is a Community Outreach Specialist at the Learning Disabilities Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. He is a community advocate for inclusion for individuals with learning disabilities. Shane is a member of the Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador Assistive Technology Committee.



Justin Mercer is active in the community, promoting inclusion for individuals with disabilities. He is a member of several disability organizations and a keynote speaker on accessibility at various events.



Patricia Moores is active in the community as a professional and as a volunteer, promoting inclusion for individuals with disabilities. She is an occupational therapist and is a board member of Labrador West Association for Community Living and Labrador West Employment Corporation.



Bruce Oldford is a retired superintendent from Newfoundland Power Inc. and a Workplace Health and Safety Compensation Commission certified safety trainer. Bruce lives in Grand Falls-Windsor.



Donna Piercey is a Coordinator of Disability Services at the College of the North Atlantic in Burin. She is active in the community promoting inclusion for individuals with disabilities. Donna is also an active volunteer for Burin Peninsula Voice Against Violence.



Nancy Reid has professional and personal experiences in working with individuals with disabilities. She is a member of the Independent Living Resource Centre and Cerebral Palsy Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. She has a daughter with multiple disabilities.



Katarina Roxon is a Paralympian who is active in War Amps Canada, Canadian Paralympic Team, Canadian Para Swim Team and Swimming Newfoundland and Labrador–Swimmer with a Disability. Katarina promotes athletes with disabilities through speaking engagements in schools and other organizations.



Freeman Wiseman is a craftsman who has personal experience with disabilities, and is an advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Freeman lives in Clarenville.



The Advisory Council with Minister O'Brien and staff with the Disability Policy Office.

