

**Provincial  
Mental Health and Addictions  
Advisory Council**

**Activity Plan**

**April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2023**

## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, I am pleased to present the 2020 – 2023 Activity Plan for the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council (the Council). The Council is a Category three (3) Provincial Government entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act** and plans and reports under these requirements.

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 understanding of mental health and addictions issues within Newfoundland and Labrador. In the development of this plan, careful consideration has been given to the strategic directions of the Provincial Government in the area of health and community services and the All-Party Committee on mental health and addictions.

As Interim Chairperson, my signature below acknowledges that the Council is accountable for the preparation of this plan and for the achievement of the objectives contained herein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sheldon Pollett".

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

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## Overview

The Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council (the Council) reports to the Minister of Health and Community Services. The Council advises on key mental health and addictions matters to formulate effective decision-making and policy development; and provides oversight to the implementation of **Towards Recovery: The Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador (Towards Recovery)**.

The Council was appointed in June 2010 as a level three Government entity. The Terms of Reference for the Council were amended in May 2017 to include oversight for the implementation of **Towards Recovery**. Membership of the Council is provided in the Annex.

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

## Mandate

1. The Council will provide oversight for the implementation of the recommendations in **Towards Recovery** through a set of indicators that will measure process and outcome of the report's recommendations.
2. The Council will specifically advise the Minister of Health and Community Services on matters related to:
  - the process and outcome of **Towards Recovery** recommendations;
  - enhancing mental health and addressing/ preventing mental illness and problematic substance use;
  - public awareness, education and anti-stigma efforts; and
  - emerging priorities requiring immediate attention.

## Lines of Business

The Council provides support to the Minister of Health and Community Services in an advisory capacity.

## Annual Objective

**Issue: Provide oversight for the implementation of recommendations in Towards Recovery**

In March 2017, the All-Party Committee on Mental Health and Addictions released **Towards Recovery: A Vision for a Renewed Mental Health and Addictions System**. The report outlined 54 recommendations that address service gaps and support what is currently working well in the mental health and addictions system in the province. System transformation is a high priority for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians and a priority that requires immediate action in order to better meet the needs of residents.

On June 30, 2017, government released **Towards Recovery: The Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador** and committed to immediately responding to all of the recommendations. The Council is embedded into the **Towards Recovery** governance structure ensuring an opportunity to provide meaningful oversight into the implementation of the recommendations. Several Council members also serve as members on **Towards Recovery** project teams and/or working groups.

The goal of the five-year **Towards Recovery Action Plan** is to guide the implementation of the recommendations and to provide direction for mental health and addictions policy and programs from 2017-22. With leadership from the Department of Health and Community Services, guided by the vision for a renewed mental health and addictions system, and with input from multiple partners and oversight by the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council and the Recovery Council, a provincial mental health and addictions program is being developed. This comprehensive, integrated, person-centered system that provides the right care, at the right time and in the right place, is being implemented in collaboration with community groups, government departments and the regional health authorities.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has identified the following strategic directions for the 2020-23 planning cycle:

- A Better Economy;
- Healthier People;
- Better Living;
- A Bright Future; and
- A More Efficient Public Sector.

The strategic directions related to the work of the Council are: healthier people; better living; and a more efficient public sector.

### **Objective and Indicators**

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is moving forward on medium- and long-term recommendations under the **Towards Recovery Action Plan**. Over the next year, the immediate priorities of the Council will be to provide advice and oversight on the implementation of:

- the provincial action plans for life promotion and suicide prevention and alcohol use;
- community-based services through the Provincial Service Redesign Plan with a focus on care and treatment for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness;
- Flexible Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) teams throughout the province;
- community crisis beds throughout the province;
- the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum in K-12 provincially; and

- universal programs for new and young families to foster resiliency and build protective factors.

The annual objective of the Council will stay the same until all of the recommendations in **Towards Recovery** have been implemented. Once the recommendations have been implemented, the Council will continue to advise the Minister of Health and Community Services on key mental health and addictions matters to formulate effective decision-making and policy development. The indicators will change annually as work progresses on the implementation of recommendations and priorities emerge.

#### **Annual Objective**

- By March 31, 2021, the Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council will have provided advice and oversight to the Minister of Health and Community Services regarding implementation of **Towards Recovery** recommendations.

#### **Indicators**

- Obtained expert and group member expertise
- Invited community groups and other organizations to present information
- Provide advice to the Minister of Health and Community Services
- Made recommendations to government-led mental health and addictions initiatives

## **Annex Provincial Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Membership**

Membership, including the chairperson and vice-chairperson are appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services. Council appointment recommendations are made by the Public Service Commission (PSC) in accordance with section 25(a) of the **Independent Appointments Commission Act** (the Act). The Act requires a merit-based process for appointments and establishes an independent commission to provide recommendations for appointments in accordance with that process.

The current Council is a 14 member group representing diversity in backgrounds, skills and experiences (see Appendix A for membership list). The Council's membership, including the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson may bring experience from the following sectors:

- Personal lived experience / family experience
- Regional Health Authorities
- Psychiatry and Family Medicine
- Education
- Health promotion and prevention
- Community organizations
- Post-secondary institutions
- Business community
- Justice system (Police/Legal Aid/Corrections/Private Bar)
- National organizations
- Indigenous people

Membership should also carefully consider the inclusion of individuals with diverse experiences including, but not limited to, regional representation, age, ethnicity, disability, gender balance and lived/family experience with mental illness and/or substance use disorders and addictions.

The terms of reference state that a member shall be appointed for a term of three years and may be re-appointed to one further term of three years for a maximum of six years. Where the term of office expires and a successor has not been appointed, the member may continue to hold their position until a successor is appointed.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Current Experience</b>
<b>Sheldon Pollett</b>	Interim Chair, Community Service Provider - Youth
<b>Angela Crockwell</b>	Community Service Provider - Youth
<b>Angie Wilmott</b>	Schools Guidance Counsellor/Psychologist
<b>Des Coombs</b>	Psychologist
<b>Dr. Greg Radu</b>	Psychiatrist, Eastern Health
<b>Dr. Ted Callanan</b>	Professor, Psychiatrist, Eastern Health
<b>George Skinner</b>	Social worker, Community Advocate
<b>Lisa Browne</b>	Community Service Provider
<b>Mark Gruchy</b>	Lived Experience, Community Coalition
<b>Michelle Kinney</b>	Nunatsiavut Government; Northern Region
<b>Paula Corcoran</b>	Lived experience, Community Service Provider
<b>Peter Cornish</b>	University Professor/Researcher
<b>Rita Notarandrea</b>	National Organization, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse
<b>Thelma Whelan</b>	Education Consultant; Western Region



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