

Fifth Meeting of the Progress Monitoring Committee September 16-17, 2024

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Meeting Summary: Day 1

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Myra Freeman, Chair, Progress Monitoring Committee (PMC or the Committee), welcomed [PMC Members](#), and invited Elder Debbie Eisan, to start the meeting with a land acknowledgement and opening prayer.

We Remember

The Chair took a few moments to remember those whose lives were taken on April 18 and 19, 2020, during the worst mass casualty in Canadian history.

We lost Tom Bagley, Kristen Beaton and her unborn child, Jamie Blair, Greg Blair, Joy Bond and Peter Bond, Lillian Campbell, Corrie Ellison, Gina Goulet, Lisa McCully, Dawn Gulenchyn, Frank Gulenchyn, Sean McLeod, Alanna Jenkins, Heather O'Brien, Jolene Oliver, Emily Tuck, Aaron Tuck, Constable Heidi Stevenson, Joey Webber, Elizabeth Joanne Thomas, and John Joseph Zahl.

We remember them.

Participants

Committee Member Participants: Myra Freeman (Chair), Charlene Bagley, Scott McLeod, Christine Blair, Alison Whelan, Simon Coakeley, Talal Dakalbab, Mark Kane, Kim Stewart, Kristina Fifield, and Tuma Young.

Virtual Committee Member Participants: Jennifer Zahl Bruland and Vanessa Fells.

Secretariat: Heather Ternoway, Kate Meagher, Lindsey Chatfield-Moore, Pamela Rizzo, Megan Wyszynski.

Roundtable Introductions / Meeting Minutes

The Chair extended a warm welcome to the four new Members of the PMC; family members Charlene Bagley, Scott McLeod and Jennifer Zahl Bruland, and Kim Stewart, the new Nova Scotia government representative. She then called the meeting to order and asked that the meeting minutes from the June 10-11, 2024 PMC Meeting in Ottawa be approved. Some members requested adjustments to the minutes and it was agreed that following the revisions, the revised minutes would be approved via email in the following days.

Review of Agenda / Housekeeping Items

The Chair provided an overview of the agenda for Day 1 and Day 2 of the meeting, and spoke to several housekeeping and administrative items, including updates to the PMC's Orientation Guide.

Member Check-in / Roundtable

The Chair opened the floor for Members to share their reflections since the fourth PMC meeting in Ottawa on June 10-11, 2024. PMC Members clarified the process for media inquiries, reiterated the mandate of the PMC, discussed the importance of using trauma-informed and victim-centered approaches, and the need to continue to raise awareness of the work of the Committee.

PMC Deliverables

PMC Members discussed the first Annual Report, including the content, drafting process, and timeline. Members agreed on the outline, and it was agreed that a draft would be circulated for their review no later than mid-October.

The Chair reviewed the [PMC Monitoring Approach](#) noting that will be used to monitor the work that Canada, Nova Scotia and the RCMP are undertaking in response to the Mass Casualty Commission's (MCC) as per the PMC's mandate and responsibilities as set out in the [PMC Terms of Reference \(TOR\)](#). Members discussed the approach and shared their comments. and considerations.

General Update from the Government of Nova Scotia

Kim Stewart, Senior Executive Director, Executive Council Office, Government of Nova Scotia, provided an update on progress made by Nova Scotia on the [recommendations of the MCC Final Report](#) since June 2024. Ms. Stewart provided information on work underway within the following thematic areas: 1) Community Safety & Well-being 2) Public Health, 3) Gender-Based Violence, and 4) Policing Reform. Nova Scotia's update did not include details on the Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT), noting that the PMC would later be receiving a presentation on this theme for assessment and rating.

General Update from the Government of Canada

Michelle Van De Bogart, Director General, Law Enforcement Directorate, Public Safety Canada provided Members with a general update on the progress the Government of Canada has made since the PMC's last meeting in June 2024. Ms. Van De Bogart stressed that work continues to advance under the thematic areas of Community Safety and Well-being, Public Health, Gender-Based Violence, Access to Firearms and Policing Reform. She noted that the presentation would focus on the federal-provincial and territorial work that Public Safety Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia are leading collaboratively and speak to the work that has been undertaken over the summer. Ms. Van De Bogart spoke to 1) Fostering Interjurisdictional Collaboration and 2) Leveraging Federal-Provincial-Territorial Tables. Ms. Van De Bogart also spoke to the next steps of Federal, Provincial and Territorial engagement to advance the MCC recommendations taking place in Fall 2024.

General Update from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

David Janzen, Executive Director, Strategic Oversight and Integration, RCMP, provided a general update on progress made by the RCMP since June 2024. The progress updates focused on the following areas: 1) RCMP's approach to implementation, 2) Summary of RCMP's previous updates to PMC, 3) Overview of new briefing material, and 4) Update on Progress and Information Hub. Mr. Janzen described the RCMP's reporting structure on the implementation of recommendations from the MCC's Report, with regards to the operational practicality of the RCMP's context, versus the thematic reporting structure of Governments. Mr. Janzen also informed PMC Members of the upcoming launch of its [new webpage](https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2024/rcmp-launches-webpage-track-progress-mass-casualty-commission-recommendations) to track progress on MCC recommendations (https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2024/rcmp-launches-webpage-track-progress-mass-casualty-commission-recommendations).

Review of Day 1 / Meeting Concludes

PMC Members shared their initial thoughts on the presentations and discussions from Day 1. The Chair provided closing remarks, highlighted key points and insights, thanked Members for their participation and adjourned for the day.

Meeting Summary: Day 2

Progress Monitoring Session 1 - Theme: Access to Firearms

The Chair welcomed Amy Johnson, Director General, Firearms Policy Directorate, Public Safety Canada to share a presentation from the Governments of Canada on the theme: Access to Firearms.

Ms. Johnson shared detailed information regarding the actions underway by the Government of Canada to respond to the related MCC recommendations, noting areas of focus, and highlighted the extensive work underway. This work includes: Legislative changes, a National Public Awareness Campaign, data collection, strengthening the Firearms Regime, prohibition of assault-style firearms, investments in Border and Law Enforcement and the Canadian Firearms Program, as well as community programming, and funding investments provided to Nova Scotia. The presenter also spoke to the work underway to support Federal-Provincial-Territorial engagement and coordination, as well as international cooperation between Canada and the United States of America.

Discussion: Assessment and Rating of presentation relating to Access to Firearms

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed and rated the progress made by the Government of Canada relating to the theme of Access to Firearms.

Progress Monitoring Session 2 - Theme: Policing Reform Sub-theme: Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT)

The Chair welcomed Erin E. Nauss, Director, Serious Incident Response Team, Province of Nova Scotia, to share a presentation from the Governments of Nova Scotia on the theme: Policing Reform, sub-theme; Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT). Ms. Nauss shared a detailed overview of the work that the SiRT has undertaken to address the MCC Final Report Recommendations, including: Partnering with DOJ to amend the SiRT Regulations, creating, updating and formalizing the SiRT policies, identifying areas for partnership, collaboration with police agencies, and staffing actions.

Discussion: Assessment and Rating of presentation relating to Policing Reform, Sub-theme: Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT)

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed and rated the progress made by the SiRT relating to the sub-theme of SiRT.

Review of Day 2 and Next Steps

Committee Members reflected on the day's proceedings and highlighted key insights, including welcoming the new family member representatives. Members also discussed planning for their next meeting.

The Chair provided closing remarks, thanking all Members and presenters.

The next PMC meeting will take place on December 9-10, 2024 in Nova Scotia.

Closing Ceremony

Elder Debbie Eisan closed the meeting with a prayer.