

Progress Monitoring Committee Gathering

June 2-3, 2026

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Following the close of the PMC's twelfth meeting, past and present PMC Members were invited to participate in a Recognition Dinner and half-day Gathering to mark the end of the PMC's three-year mandate.

Participants

Committee Members (past and present): Myra Freeman (Chair), David Burkholder, Tammy Oliver-McCurdie, Jennifer Zahl Bruland, Scott McLeod, Crystal Mendiuk, Christine Blair, Talal Dakalbab, Alison Whelan, Kim Stewart, Simon Coakeley, Kristina Fifield, Tuma Young, Vanessa Fells.

Secretariat: Kathleen Burns, Jennifer MacKenzie, Heather Ternoway, Kate Meagher, and Kim Preeper.

Recognition Dinner – June 2

The Chair, members of the Committee and the Secretariat were received at Government House by Their Honours, the Honourable Mike Savage, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, and Her Honour Darlene Savage. His Honour thanked the members of the Committee for their contribution to Nova Scotia and Canada. The Chair responded and presented the Lieutenant Governor with a framed piece of glasswork symbolizing the work of the Committee, to be hung in Government House.

PMC Gathering – June 3

PMC Members came together for a half-day Gathering to create a sense of meaningful conclusion and hope for the work moving forward.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Myra Freeman, Chair, Progress Monitoring Committee (PMC), welcomed everyone.

The Chair invited Elder Ann LaBillois and Cathy Martin to start the Gathering with an opening prayer.

We Remember

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

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

We remember them.

The Chair also acknowledged the lives that have been lost in the years since April 2020, those who were deeply affected by these events.

The Chair handed over hosting of the remainder of the Gathering to Paula Sibley-Fox and Ted Aubut, with the Government of Nova Scotia.

Facilitated Discussion

PMC Members engaged in a facilitated discussion to reflect on lessons learned during the PMC's three-year mandate. Key themes from this discussion may be included in the Year Three and Final Annual Report.

Presentations on Future Commitments

The PMC heard presentations from Talal Dakalbab, Commissioner of Corrections Canada, Government of Canada; Kim Stewart, Associate Deputy Minister, Office of Addictions and Mental Health, Government of Nova Scotia; and Alison Whelan, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, about how they plan to sustain momentum to continue to advance work that meets the spirit and intent of the MCC Recommendations.

Bundle Ceremony and Closing Prayer

Elder Ann Labillois, Cathy Martin, and Tuma Young, Knowledge Keeper and PMC Member, led the PMC Members through a sacred bundle ceremony. Each person was invited to add a significant item to each of four bundles.

Leaders and elected officials were invited to attend the bundle ceremony. Deputy Premier Barbara Adams and Attorney General and Minister of Justice Scott Armstrong accepted a bundle on behalf of the Government of Nova Scotia. Minister of Justice and Attorney General Sean Fraser accepted a bundle on behalf of the Government of Canada. RCMP Commissioner Mike Duheme accepted a bundle on behalf of the RCMP. A fourth bundle was prepared and accepted by Mayor Christine Blair, on behalf of the families and affected communities, to take back to Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants Counties.

The Chair thanked everyone and invited Elder Ann, Cathy, and Tuma to conclude the Gathering with a closing prayer.