

Inaugural Meeting of the Progress Monitoring Committee September 26-27, 2023

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Meeting Summary: Day 1

Welcome

- [Linda Lee Oland, Founding Chair, Progress Monitoring Committee](#) (PMC or the Committee), welcomed [PMC members](#), and introduced [Elder Debbie Eisan](#) who opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement, followed by a prayer.

We Remember

The Founding Chair paused to remember those whose lives were taken on April 18 and 19, 2020, during the worst mass shooting 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.

She spoke to the [Mass Casualty Commission's \(MCC\) Final Report](#) where it was acknowledged that "the mass casualty affected a broad range of people, most significantly the families of those whose lives were taken, as well as others including: witnesses who were there, saw what was happening, and were in harm's way; first responders and service people, including police, emergency health service professionals, firefighters, and others providing front-line services; people living in the affected communities whose friends and neighbors were taken and whose sense of community safety was severely affected; and many people in Nova Scotia, Canada, the United States, and beyond" (Executive Summary, p.38).

Ms. Oland also shared that following her [appointment as Founding Chair of the PMC](#), on May 31, 2023, she met with several family members, many of whom see the work of the PMC as a legacy of their loved ones whose lives were taken.

Roundtable Introductions

- PMC members introduced themselves, noting their unique experiences and expertise. Members emphasized their commitment to this work, and the importance of monitoring and publicly reporting the initiatives that Canada and Nova Scotia are undertaking in response to the MCC Final Report.

Participants

Committee Members: Linda Lee Oland (Founding Chair), Dan Jenkins, Crystal Mendiuk, Christine Blair, Alison Whelan, Simon Coakeley, Talal Dakalbab, Mark Kane, Jennifer Glennie, Kristina Fifield, Tuma Young, Vanessa Fells.

Secretariat: Lindsey Chatfield-Moore, Pamela Rizzo, Emily Taweel.

Logistics/Check-in

- Ms. Oland spoke to the role of the PMC as a new body that will monitor progress and report on the initiatives that the Governments of Nova Scotia and Canada are undertaking in response to the 130 recommendations in the MCC Final Report.
- Ms. Oland committed to ensuring that the work of the PMC will take a trauma-informed and victim-centered approach, grounded in a collective commitment to listen and learn from different perspectives.
- As Founding Chair, Ms. Oland shared that she will fulfill her role by fostering discussion, encouraging and engaging the views of members, building consensus, and seeking opportunities to support Nova Scotia and Canada's work towards safer communities.
- The Founding Chair referred members to the PMC's Terms of Reference and to the Orientation Guide that was designed to orient Committee members to the procedures of the PMC. Members then discussed expectations for the collective work of the PMC.
- The Founding Chair provided an overview of the MCC Final Report noting that it contains over 130 recommendations from the Commission that are intended to make communities safer as they are focused on preventing violence, community safety and well-being, and policing. She discussed with the Committee that the recommendations call to action all levels of government, and all of society, to join together to effect positive change.

- The members discussed that they will have a critical and important role to play as partners approach implementation of the MCC Final Report. Ms. Oland reiterated that the PMC is responsible for monitoring and public reporting on the initiatives that Canada and Nova Scotia are undertaking in response to the MCC Final Report, including a rationale for these initiatives, and not implementation.
- The Committee also discussed operational procedures of the PMC.

Presentations by the Governments of Nova Scotia and Canada: A Call to Action

Government of Nova Scotia

Jennifer Glennie, Associate Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office, Government of Nova Scotia, spoke to Executive Council Office's role in coordinating the provincial response to the recommendations and findings of the MCC Final Report. Nova Scotia's commitment is to work collaboratively with government, policing, and community partners to achieve the recommended systemic, operational, and legislative changes outlined in the MCC Final Report. She presented an overview of Nova Scotia's immediate response to the mass shooting, its proposed implementation approach regarding the MCC Final Report, and an update on work undertaken since the release of the MCC Final Report in four areas: community safety and wellbeing, public health, policing, and gender-based and intimate partner violence. Associate Deputy Minister Glennie also spoke about the proposed themes and sub-themes that Nova Scotia is using to guide implementation efforts and the advancement of recommendations. Nova Scotia's future reporting to the PMC, as directed by the Chair, will indicate which recommendations (and initiatives responding to such recommendations) are planned, underway, or completed.

Public Safety Canada, on behalf of the Government of Canada

Julie Thompson, Director General, Policing Policy Directorate, Public Safety Canada, spoke to Public Safety Canada's role as the lead federal department responsible for coordinating the federal response to the recommendations and findings of the MCC Final Report. She noted that Public Safety and other federal departments continue to work closely with provinces and territories, in particular Nova Scotia, to align efforts as implementation of MCC recommendations with early deliverables advance. She presented a high-level overview of initiatives that the Government of Canada has undertaken to date to respond to the recommendations under the themes of violence, community and policing, noting that these are merely a representation of work underway, and that there are many findings that will be unpacked in the coming months. Ms. Thompson also spoke to the thematic approach that Public Safety Canada is using to monitor the Government of Canada's progress toward the recommendations of the MCC Final Report, noting that some recommendations could belong under more than one subtheme.

The Province of Nova Scotia and Public Safety Canada continue to work together to reach a shared understanding on sub-themes and the categorization of recommendations under such themes.

Presentation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police: A Call to Action

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

David Janzen, Director General, Strategic Implementation Team, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) provided an overview of the immediate actions the RCMP took following the mass shooting as well as an update on efforts being undertaken to address the recommendations outlined in the MCC Final Report. He spoke to the new sector established within the RCMP, which is dedicated to advancing complex reforms and external reviews of the RCMP. He spoke to the themes and sub-themes that the RCMP is using to address the recommendations, in line with the Federal whole-of-government approach. To date, the focus of the work has been on in-depth “deep dives” which bring together subject matter experts from diverse areas across the country to inform the overall action plan of the RCMP. In closing, Mr. Janzen reiterated the RCMP’s commitment to implementing the MCC recommendations through: transparency, by providing regular updates on its [website](#); communicating with the families who are most impacted; and ongoing engagement with the PMC.

Review of Day 1

- The Founding Chair, Ms. Oland, provided closing remarks and reflections on the discussion from Day 1. She thanked members for their participation and noted the important contributions made throughout the day.

Meeting Summary: Day 2

Overview of Agenda

- Ms. Oland reviewed the Agenda for the day, noting that discussions would focus on the PMC's monitoring plan, community engagement, future meetings and structure, closing with reflections from members on the inaugural meeting.

Monitoring Plan – Overview and Discussion

- Ms. Oland referred to the [PMC's Terms of Reference](#) highlighting the mandate of the PMC to develop a plan for monitoring the work that Canada and Nova Scotia are undertaking in response to the MCC.
- The Committee discussed their responsibilities to: share the PMC's monitoring plan before its completion with Canada and Nova Scotia officials for consultation; create a website, in both official languages, where the monitoring plan, progress, and updates will be posted; and upon completion of the monitoring plan, the PMC Secretariat will assist the Chair in submitting the plan to the Minister of Public Safety Canada and the Minister of Justice for Nova Scotia.
- PMC members then had an open discussion regarding how best to develop a monitoring plan. In general, it was recognized that a thematic approach to monitoring (similar to the thematic approach to reporting used by the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia and the RCMP), may have value, and should be further explored.
- PMC members expressed their desire for the reports from the governments and the RCMP to highlight: which recommendations are complete; which are close to being complete; as well as any challenges they are facing with respect to implementation.

Expanding the Conversation – Role of the PMC

- Ms. Oland led a discussion with PMC members to explore how the PMC wishes to undertake activities, in accordance with its mandate and responsibilities. She referred to the [PMC's Terms of Reference](#) (Part B of its mandate and Section 2.2 of its responsibilities).
- Members noted that there are many federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal departments and agencies that are undertaking initiatives related to the MCC Final Report recommendations and have a vested interest in the PMC work.

- It was agreed that members would submit a list to the Secretariat for the PMC's consideration of existing bodies that the PMC may wish to collaborate with to advance its work.
- It was also agreed that PMC members would revisit how best to liaise and consult with others, including community members on strategies related to the monitoring of the work undertaken by Canada and Nova Scotia in response to the MCC Final Report.

Looking Forward

- PMC members shared their views and preferences on the structure of future meetings, including the length of meetings, timing and location, and presentations from subject matter experts they would like to better understand initiatives being undertaken to respond to the MCC Final Report. Several members expressed the desire to hold PMC meetings in other parts of Nova Scotia (e.g., Truro, Colchester County).
- It was agreed that the next meeting of the PMC will take place on Dec. 11, 2023, in Nova Scotia (location TBD). At this meeting, Canada and Nova Scotia will provide another update on the implementation of the MCC recommendations. It was also agreed that the PMC will hold one of its four annual meetings in Ottawa.

Roundtable – Reflections from Inaugural Meeting

- Members shared their perspectives of the inaugural PMC meeting, with several members noting their commitment to beginning and advancing the substantive work of the PMC and their desire to begin the substantive work. Members also expressed their appreciation of the presentations by the Governments of Nova Scotia, Canada, and the RCMP.

Closing Ceremony

- PMC member, Tuma Young closed the meeting with a closing prayer.

Links

[Work begins on how to make changes set out in report on 2020 mass killings in N.S. | CBC News](#)

[Group monitoring RCMP response to mass shooting inquiry needs public's help: chair](#)