

Second Meeting of the Progress Monitoring Committee December 11-12, 2023

Truro, Nova Scotia

Meeting Summary: Day 1

Welcome

- [Linda Lee Oland, Founding Chair, Progress Monitoring Committee](#) (PMC or the Committee), welcomed [PMC members](#), and invited Tuma Young, PMC member, to open 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.

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, Lorraine Glendenning, Pamela Rizzo, Kathleen Burns.

Member Check-in / Reflections since the Inaugural Meeting

- Members reiterated their commitment to the work of the PMC, underscoring how the tragedy of April 2020 continues to affect families and communities. They also stressed the significance of maintaining the Committee's efforts in the public domain. Moreover, they discussed issues relating to gender-based and intimate partner violence, policing, and the need for trauma-informed approaches.

Presentation: Policing and Emergency Management during an Emergency Situation

Public Safety Canada, on behalf of the Government of Canada, Nova Scotia Department of Justice, and Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Housing and Affairs, Emergency Management Office

Julie Thompson, Director General, Policing Policy Directorate, Public Safety Canada spoke to the MCC Final Report noting that over 50 of its recommendations focused on critical incident response, including recommendations for law enforcement and other public safety actors. From a national perspective, she pointed out that policing and emergency management are shared areas of responsibility and interest for federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) government, indicating that the federal government has responsibilities for policing emergency management services that are of national interest, including national security and the National Public Alerting System. Ms. Thompson further stated that Public Safety, in collaboration with other federal departments, continues to work closely with provinces and territories, in particular Nova Scotia, to align efforts as implementation of MCC recommendations advance.

Hayley Crichton, Executive Director, Public Safety and Security Division, Department of Justice, Nova Scotia and Paul Mason, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office then described how policing is organized within the province of Nova Scotia and outlined agencies and programs that support interoperability in critical incident or emergency situations, including 911 public safety answering point, call-taking and dispatch.

Mr. Mason spoke to the role of the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office in developing a general culture of preparedness. Mr. Mason stressed the importance of consistent standards, joint training and exercises, joint communications and joint management practices amongst agencies and partners to help them prepare for emergencies or to respond to critical incidents.

Ms. Crichton provided information related to interoperability in policing, noting that police interoperability is extremely complex and layered. Ms. Crichton also spoke to the importance of systems that police use to record incidents, noting that there are currently three distinct Records Management systems in operation across Nova Scotia.

Presentation: Trauma-informed Approaches to Monitoring Progress

Be The Peace Institute

Sue Bookchin, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Be the Peace Institute spoke to the importance of trauma-informed and victim-centred approaches in responding to the impact of trauma on individuals and communities. She stressed the need for a shift to a more human-centred approach to monitoring progress of the MCC response, noting how some systems (e.g. the judicial system) can create trauma and feelings of betrayal when people are harmed by the impacts of those systems. She also stressed the importance of relationships, noting that these are central to a trauma-informed approach. In closing, Ms. Bookchin noted that the MCC Final Report refers to systemic and transformational change which is a long-term effort that requires a shift in thinking.

Presentations by the Governments of Nova Scotia, Canada, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Government of Nova Scotia

Jennifer Glennie, Associate Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office, Government of Nova Scotia, provided an update on progress made on recommendations in the [Mass Casualty Commission's Final Report](#). Ms. Glennie informed PMC members of Nova Scotia's efforts towards community engagement in implementing the recommendations of the MCC Final Report, which includes partnering with community organizations, provincial government departments and others. She also highlighted the ongoing collaboration at the federal and provincial levels, including work to improve the overall use, sustainability and governance of the National Public Alerting System. Ms. Glennie then provided a progress update on actions the government of Nova Scotia is taking to address the recommendations and findings in the MCC Final Report.

Public Safety Canada, on behalf of the Government of Canada

Julie Thompson, Director General, Policing Policy Directorate, Public Safety Canada reiterated that that Public Safety and other federal departments continue to work closely with provinces and territories (PTs), noting that PTs are engaged and discussing areas of collective interest and taking their own action to respond to the MCC Final Report recommendations. Ms. Thompson informed PMC members that in October 2023, FPT Ministers of Public Safety and Justice discussed the MCC Final Report and issued a [communiqué](#) which signaled an agreement to work together to address the underlying issues outlined in the report, including a need for effective, responsive, and coordinated policing across Canada, and enhanced intergovernmental collaboration and coordination to ensure the safety of Canadian communities. Ms. Thompson then provided a progress update on actions the Government of Canada is taking to address the recommendations and findings in the MCC Final Report.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

David Janzen, Director General, Strategic Implementation Team, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) spoke to the holistic, organization-wide approach and changes that the RCMP is taking in response to the recommendations in the MCC Final Report, including improving operations, supporting victims and survivors, and making communities safer. He also spoke to the RCMP's recent engagement efforts, including continued collaboration and consultation with the broader Canadian law enforcement community and updates to its external [website](#). Mr. Janzen then provided an update on actions the RCMP is taking to address the recommendations outlined in the MCC Final Report.

Review of Day 1

- PMC members shared their initial thoughts on the presentations and discussions from Day 1. The Founding Chair, Ms. Oland, provided closing remarks, 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, and the meeting would close with a discussion on forward planning.

Roundtable: Reflections from Day 1

- Members shared their perspectives of Day 1, with several members noting their desire to have focused discussions on certain issues. Members also expressed their appreciation of the presentations by the Governments of Nova Scotia, Canada, and the RCMP.

PMC Monitoring Plan: Presentation and Discussion

- The Founding Chair, Linda Lee Oland, provided members with a context on the development of a monitoring plan. Ms. Oland referred to the [PMC Terms of Reference \(TOR\)](#) which states that the mandate of the PMC is to monitor and periodically report on the initiatives that Canada and Nova Scotia are undertaking in response to the MCC Report, including a rationale for these initiatives. She also reminded members of four strategic objectives of the MCC Final Report which were established during the Commission's deliberations: 1) a comprehensive blueprint to keep Canadians safer; 2) a transformation of public safety; 3) addressing the root

causes of violence; and 4) community safety and healing – all of which are connected to the 130 recommendations.

- PMC members then had an open discussion regarding how best to develop a monitoring plan, given the complexity associated with measuring progress on some of the longer-term goals. 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), should be considered when monitoring progress. In addition to monitoring progress made on the implementation of recommendations, PMC members expressed interest in also monitoring how the governments are responding including: 1) community engagement; 2) federal-provincial-territorial engagement and coordination; 3) collaboration and coordinated approaches to implementation; and 4) trauma-informed approaches, as appropriate, including being inclusive of the perspectives and needs of diverse, disadvantaged, and marginalized communities.

Looking Forward: March 2024 Agenda Planning

- It was agreed that the next meeting of the PMC will take place on March 4-5 in Colchester County, Nova Scotia (location TBD). At this meeting, Nova Scotia, Canada and the RCMP will provide a six month update on the implementation of the MCC recommendations and the PMC will discuss the draft monitoring plan

Closing Ceremony

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