

Third Meeting of the Progress Monitoring Committee

March 4-5, 2024

Dartmouth, 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 welcome and 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 Second Meeting

Members spoke to the importance of clear communication regarding the PMC's efforts to date and public accountability. Members also reiterated their commitment to the work of the PMC and their desire for the Monitoring Plan and 6-month public update to demonstrate the work of the Committee.

Presentation & Discussion: PMC Monitoring Plan and Tool

Linda Lee Oland, Founding Chair, PMC

Ms. Oland provided Members with an overview of a proposed Monitoring Plan and tool for monitoring the work that Canada and Nova Scotia are undertaking in response to the MCC as per the PMC's mandate and responsibilities as set out in the [PMC Terms of Reference \(TOR\)](#).

The proposed Monitoring Plan adopts a thematic approach given that the findings and implementation suggestions in the MCC Final Report are cross-cutting, including various jurisdictions. It also proposes a collective rating approach that will be used to assess progress on actions/initiatives undertaken by Canada and Nova Scotia.

Members agreed that the rating approach will be as follows:

- **Completed:** Action/Initiative has been completed and meets the spirit and intent of the MCC Report's recommendations.
- **On Track:** Progress continues to be made and action/initiative meets the spirit and intent of the MCC Report's recommendations.
- **Initiated:** Some progress demonstrated. Requires further attention to meet the spirit and intent of the MCC Report's recommendations.
- **No expectation of material progress at this time:** Rationale will be provided for this decision.

General Update from the Government of Nova Scotia and a focus on the sub-theme of Grief, Bereavement and Mental Wellness

Jennifer Glennie, Associate Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office, Government of Nova Scotia, provided an update on progress made on recommendations since December 2023. Ms. Glennie provided information to PMC Members on work underway within the following thematic areas: 1) Community Safety and Well-being, 2) Gender-Based and Intimate Partner Violence, and 3) Provincial Policing.

Kathleen Trott, Deputy Minister, Office of Addictions & Mental Health, Government of Nova Scotia and Bethany McCormick, VP Operations, Nova Scotia Health provided a detailed update of Nova Scotia's work under the sub-theme of Grief, Bereavement and Mental Wellness.

DM Trott provided an overview of work being undertaken to improve access to healthcare including mental health and wellbeing. This will include universal access to mental health and addictions care no matter where people live in the province. Work is underway in three areas:

- Expanding and enhancing existing mental health and addictions services, adding new ones;
- Supporting existing capacity in communities; and
- System integration - making it easier for people to get the care they need from the right provider at the right time.

Ms. McCormick outlined the progress being made to implement Recommendation [C.13](#) which calls for action to address the unmet grief, bereavement and mental wellness needs in Colchester, Cumberland and East Hants counties.

General Update from the Government of Canada and a focus on the sub-theme of Grief, Bereavement and Mental Wellness

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 December 2023. The progress updates focused on the following themes: 1) Community Safety and Wellbeing, 2) Gender-based and Intimate Partner Violence, 3) Firearms and 4) Policing Reform. Ms. Van De Bogart also spoke to the [Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers' commitment](#) to manage emergencies in a coordinated and collaborative way, with all levels of government, including Indigenous Peoples and federal, provincial and territorial partners, to build a robust emergency management systems that focuses on mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Michael Collins, Vice President, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Branch, Public Health Agency of Canada provided an overview on the role of the Government of Canada to supporting health and wellbeing through leadership, collaboration, funding, support and awareness.

Stephanie Priest, A/Director General, Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Public Health Agency of Canada gave a detailed overview on how the Government of Canada is responding to MCC Recommendations relating to Public Health, including [C.10 – C.13](#). Ms. Priest spoke to a bilateral agreement that was signed with Nova Scotia in January 2024, providing over \$355 million over the next three years to improve health care, with 30% of the overall budget directed to mental health services.

Review of Day 1 / Overview of Agenda for Day 2

PMC Members shared their initial thoughts on the presentations and discussions from Day 1. The Chair provided a brief overview of the Agenda for Day 2, provided closing remarks, thanked Members for their participation and adjourned for the day.

Meeting Summary: Day 2

RCMP, H Division, Nova Scotia hosted the PMC at its headquarters in Dartmouth on the morning of Day 2. Assistant Commissioner Dennis Daley, Commanding Officer of RCMP H Division welcomed PMC members to the facility.

Presentations from RCMP: General Update, Alert Ready, Recruitment

David Janzen, Director General, Strategic Oversight and Integration, Royal Canadian Mounted Police provided a general update on progress made by the RCMP since December 2023. Mr. Janzen reiterated the RCMP's commitment to continuing to advance the implementation of recommendations from the MCC's Report. Mr. Janzen spoke on the issue of Managing Crises, outlining actions taken to improve the RCMP's Critical Incident response.

C/Superintendent Robin McNeil, Director General, Operational Readiness and Response, Contract and Indigenous Policing, Royal Canadian Mounted Police presented on public alerting in the RCMP. Mr. McNeil provided PMC Members with information on how the RCMP has improved public alerting to date, what they are working towards, and the challenges of a national public alerting system.

A/Commander Derek Santosuosso, Chief National Recruitment Officer, Royal Canadian Mounted Police presented on current recruitment strategies and how changes in policing are changing the RCMP's target candidates and their national recruitment process. Mr. Santosuosso identified trust, perception, competition with other police services and employment considerations as key challenges to overcome in candidate recruitment. He informed Members of targeted initiatives that are underway to increase the diversity of officers to better reflect the communities they serve. Mr. Santosuosso also spoke to improvements made to streamline the recruitment process, while still upholding organizational standards. He also informed Members of the RCMP's Psychological Suitability Screening – a tool to help evaluate if applicants are free from emotional or mental conditions that may interfere with their exercise of power as a police officer.

Guided Tour of the Operational Communications Centre at RCMPNS Headquarters

Members were taken on a guided tour of the Operational Communications Centre located at RCMPNS headquarters to see firsthand changes that have been implemented to improve RCMP responses to critical incidents in Nova Scotia.

After the tour, the PMC Members left RCMPNS headquarters and returned to the meeting location to continue their discussions.

Next Steps: PMC Deliverables and June 2024 Agenda Planning

PMC Members reviewed and approved a final draft of the PMC Progress Monitoring Plan.

In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the PMC will:

- Share the PMC Monitoring Plan, before its completion, with Canada and Nova Scotia officials for consultation;
- Submit the Plan to the Minister of Public Safety Canada and the Minister of Justice for Nova Scotia; and
- Post the Plan, progress and updates to the PMC website.

Members also discussed the contents and timing of the 6-month public update. It was agreed that the update would be released on May 1, 2024.

The next PMC meeting will take place on June 10-11, 2024 (TBC) in Ottawa, Ontario.

Closing Ceremony

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