

Fourth Meeting of the Progress Monitoring Committee

June 10-11, 2024

Ottawa, Ontario

Meeting Summary: Day 1

Welcome

Myra Freeman, Chair, Progress Monitoring Committee (PMC or the Committee), welcomed [PMC Members](#), and invited Knowledge Keeper, Tuma Young, PMC Member, to open 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 Members: Myra Freeman (Chair), Dan Jenkins, Crystal Mendiuk, Christine Blair, Alison Whelan, Simon Coakeley, Talal Dakalbab, Mark Kane, Jennifer Glennie, Kristina Fifield, Tuma Young, Vanessa Fells.

Secretariat: Lorraine Glendenning, Kate Meagher, Pamela Rizzo, Kathleen Burns, Megan Wyszynski.

Roundtable Introductions / Meeting Minutes

The Chair called the meeting to order and asked that the meeting minutes from the March 4-5, 2024 PMC Meeting be approved. As this was the first PMC meeting with Ms. Freeman as Chair, Members took a few minutes to introduce themselves.

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 items, including revisions to the PMC's Orientation Guide.

Member Check-in / Roundtable

The Chair opened the floor for Members to share reflections since the third PMC meeting. 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 with all Canadians.

Presentation & Discussion: PMC Monitoring Plan and Tool

Myra Freeman, Chair, PMC

The Chair spoke to the significant milestones and tangible advancement the PMC made in its first year, towards holding the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia accountable, and reporting progress to the public. The Chair also noted the PMC's monitoring of the initiatives undertaken by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) over the last year, as over half of the 130 MCC Final Report recommendations are focused on the RCMP and policing culture. As such, and due to the operational nature of these recommendations, the RCMP has responded and reported progress to the PMC using different thematic areas.

The Chair also discussed the PMC's development of the Progress Monitoring Plan.

The Chair reviewed the PMC Monitoring [Approach](#) that will be used to monitor the work that Canada and Nova Scotia 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

Jennifer Glennie, Associate Deputy Minister, Executive Council Office, Government of Nova Scotia, provided an update on progress made to [recommendations of the MCC Final Report](#) since March 2024. Ms. Glennie provided information on work underway within the following thematic areas: 1) Community Safety & Well-being 2) Public Health, and 3) Policing, including an update on Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT)-related recommendations. Ms. Glennie also spoke to community engagement actions underway.

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 March 2024. The progress updates focused on the following thematic areas: 1) Community Safety & Well-being 2) Public Health 3) Access to Firearms and 4) Policing Reform. Ms. Van De Bogart also spoke to Federal, Provincial and Territorial engagement being undertaken to advance the MCC recommendations. Ms. Van De Bogart concluded the update by noting the "What We

Heard" [Report](#), a summary of engagement on Contract Policing that reflects feedback from partners, has been published and is available on Public Safety Canada's website.

General Update from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

David Janzen, Director General, Strategic Oversight and Integration, RCMP, provided a general update on progress made by the RCMP since March 2024. The progress updates focused on the following thematic areas: 1) Progress made relating to Managing Crises, 2) Progress of implementing P.69 and C.30, 3) Gender-based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence, and 4) Progress Hub Development.

Mr. Janzen reiterated the RCMP's commitment to continuing to advance the implementation of recommendations from the MCC's Report and detailed funding investments for the RCMP to support these efforts. Mr. Janzen also spoke to several tools/measures in development to help ensure accountability.

Review of Day 1 / Meeting Conclusion

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

Meeting Summary: Day 2

Federal Partners Deputy Ministers' Roundtable

The PMC hosted a roundtable discussion with senior leaders of key federal departments who have a responsibility and leadership role in bringing forward the change called for by the MCC. The Deputy Minister of Public Safety Canada, Shawn Tupper; the Associate Deputy Minister of Justice, Isabelle Jacques; the Executive Vice-President of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Nancy Hamzawi; and the Deputy Minister of Women Gender and Equality and Youth Canada, Frances McRae participated in the Roundtable.

Deputy Minister (DM) Tupper opened the discussion by thanking Family Members for their continued strength to revisit the traumas of the tragic loss of their loved ones. He spoke to the importance of the work of the PMC, providing federal leadership, and how the Department of Public Safety continues to align its work with the MCC recommendations. DM Tupper emphasized although the tragedy occurred in Nova Scotia, it is an issue that affects all of Canada. He also stressed the importance of collaboration between all levels of government related to the MCC Final Report recommendations and the PMC's work, government financial investments, and Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) engagement.

The Chair then guided an inclusive, open and two-way discussion between DMs and the PMC Members. Topics discussed included: MCC recommendations and timelines, Gender-based Violence, societal culture change, building community resilience, FPT relationships, applying lessons learned in Nova Scotia to other Canadian communities, the dynamic landscape of prevention, the intersectionality of issues and need to apply equity lenses, and engagement with Indigenous communities.

Progress Monitoring, Theme: Gender-based Violence

The Chair welcomed Crystal Garrett-Baird, Director General, Gender-based Violence Branch, Women and Gender Equality Canada, Nicole Johnson Morrison, Associate Deputy Minister, Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, and Josie McKinney, Executive Director, Status of Women Office, Nova Scotia to share a joint presentation from the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia: National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence, as well as a presentation from Nova Scotia: Additional actions relating to the theme of Gender-based Violence. Presenters shared detailed information regarding the National Action Plan and additional actions underway by Nova Scotia related to Gender-based Violence, including: development of the National Action Plan, funding investments, the complexities of the intersectionality of Gender-based Violence, and a national snapshot of data relating to Gender-based Violence in Canada. Presenters noted challenges, such as the time required to support societal change, underreporting of severity of Gender-based Violence, higher demand for support services with high wait times that lead to capacity challenges in system, and deepening complexity of intersectionality. They also provided an overview of the bilateral funding agreements with Provinces and Territories (PTs) in place to support this work.

The presentation then focused on the actions undertaken by Nova Scotia to address Gender-based Violence, including its approach to the National Action Plan, the province's priorities and goals, as well as how the province has aligned its approach with MMIWG2S, the MCC recommendations, and other Inquiry recommendations. Presenters spoke in detail to the Government of Nova Scotia's response to the MCC recommendations, noting its areas of focus, and highlighted the extensive work underway.

Discussion: Assessment and Rating of presentations relating to Gender-based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed and rated the presentations from the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia on their presentations of progress since March 2024 relating to the theme of Gender-Based Violence.

Members also discussed the assessment tool. Members agreed that the tool may require adjustments, noting that the monitoring approach is iterative and will require ongoing discussion.

Update on Private Members Bill Relating to Coercive Control

The Chair welcomed Robert Brookfield, Director General and Senior General Counsel, Justice Canada and Nathalie Levman, Senior Counsel, Department of Justice, to share an update on a Private Members Bill relating to coercive control. Following the update, PMC Members and presenters discussed the importance of providing training to criminal justice practitioners relating to coercive control and the implications of this work to victims.

Next Steps: PMC Deliverables and September 2024 Agenda Planning

Members discussed the approach and timing of the PMC's Annual Report, noting that further discussion is required.

The next PMC meeting will take place on September 16-17, 2024 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Closing Remarks

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs addressed the PMC and shared closing remarks. The Minister spoke to Family Member representatives of their tragic losses, reiterated the Government of Canada's commitment to supporting the work of the PMC, and noted the importance of applying the recommendations of the MCC Final Report across Canada, including in rural areas.

PMC Members shared comments and concerns with the Minister, noting the complexities associated with the transformative change as called for by the MCC, and the importance of increasing awareness across Canada of the MCC and the PMC's work.

The Chair noted the transition of Family Member representatives on the PMC and thanked them for their shared knowledge and valuable contributions to the work of the Committee.

Closing Ceremony

The Chair thanked PMC Members for their commitment and dutiful work over the course of the two-day meeting.

PMC Member Knowledge Keeper Tuma Young closed the meeting with a prayer.