

# Seventh Meeting of the Progress Monitoring Committee

## March 17-18, 2025

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

### Meeting Summary: Day 1

#### Opening Prayer

Myra Freeman, Chair, Progress Monitoring Committee (PMC or the Committee), welcomed [PMC Members](#), and invited Knowledge Keeper and PMC Member, Tuma Young, to start the meeting with an opening prayer.

#### Welcome Remarks from Executive Director of Dartmouth Adult Services Centre (DASC)

Henk van Leeuwen, Executive Director, DASC, extended a warm welcome to PMC Members and described the important work ongoing at DASC, including employment, programming and support for their adult participants living with intellectual disabilities.

#### We Remember

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

*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, Constable Heidi Stevenson, Elizabeth Joanne Thomas and John Zahl, and Joey Webber.*

*We remember them.*

#### Participants

**Committee Members:** Myra Freeman (Chair), Charlene Bagley, Scott McLeod, Jennifer Zahl Bruland, Christine Blair, Alison Whelan, Talal Dakalbab, Kim Stewart, Simon Coakeley, Mark Kane, Kristina Fifield, Tuma Young, and Vanessa Fells.

**Secretariat:** Heather Ternoway, Kate Meagher, Kim Preeper, Pamela Rizzo, Megan Wyszynski, and Kathleen Burns.

## **Review of Agenda / Housekeeping Items**

The Chair called the meeting to order then provided an overview of the agenda for Day 1 and Day 2 of the meeting and spoke to several housekeeping and administrative items. PMC Members then approved the meeting minutes from the December 9-10, 2024 PMC Meeting in Millbrook, Nova Scotia.

Members discussed a draft statement of the 5th anniversary of the mass casualty in April 2020.

## **General Update from the Government of Canada**

Michelle Van De Bogart, Director General, Law Enforcement Directorate, Public Safety Canada provided an update on progress made by Canada since December 2024. The presenter shared details of the Government of Canada's efforts related to Federal, Provincial and Territorial collaboration in addressing the MCC recommendations. She highlighted several recent federal actions/initiatives, including the Federal Provincial and Territorial Pan-Canadian Strategic Framework on Rural Crime, funding to strengthen community mental health support, as well as the Department of Justice's Policy Centre for Victim Issues Webinars and National Victims and Survivors of Crime Week.

The presenter then provided details of how certain provinces and territories are responding to the MCC Final Report. This includes work underway under following thematic areas: 1) Policing Reform, 2) Public Health, 3) Community Safety and Well-being, and 4) Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence.

## **General Update from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)**

David Janzen, Executive Director, Strategic Oversight and Integration, RCMP, provided a general update on progress made by the RCMP since December 2024. Deputy Commissioner Deanna Hill was also in attendance and provided remarks.

The progress updates focused on the following areas: 1) New RCMP Position Notes (Interoperability and After Action Reviews), 2) RCMP database to track mass casualty events, 3) Public complaints investigation backlog, 4) Enhancing the Canadian Firearms Program call centre, and 5) Encouraging rural and remote policing career streams.

Mr. Janzen also shared information on updates regarding the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) Mass Casualty Commission Special Purpose Committee and the partial lift of the moratorium of decommissioned vehicle sales.

## **General Update from the Government of Nova Scotia**

Kim Stewart, Senior Executive Director, Executive Council Office, Government of Nova Scotia, provided an update on progress made by Nova Scotia since December 2024.

Ms. Stewart spoke to the Government of Nova Scotia's approach to implementing the MCC Recommendations which includes: a whole-of-government response, organized by three themes: 1) Community Safety, Wellbeing and Health, 2) Gender-based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence, and 3) Public Safety and Policing Reform. Ms. Stewart then provided detailed information on work underway within the three thematic areas.

## **Progress Monitoring Session: Presentation by Nova Scotia's Department of Emergency Management**

### **Theme: Community Safety and Well-Being**

#### **Sub-theme: Emergency Management Readiness**

### **Theme: Policing Reform**

#### **Subtheme: Interoperability and Critical Incident Response**

### **Theme: Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence**

#### **Subtheme: Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Services**

The Chair welcomed Sandra McKenzie, Deputy Minister, Department of Emergency Management; Paul Mason, Executive Director, Critical Incidents and 911; and Paula Sibley-Fox, Executive Lead, Strategic Initiatives and Integrated Emergency Communications to share a presentation on three themes: Community Safety and Well-Being (Sub-theme: Emergency Management Readiness), Policing Reform (Sub-theme: Interoperability and Critical Incident Response), and Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence (Subtheme: GBV Services and Prevention).

Presenters began by providing an overview of the new Department of Emergency Management. Presenters also shared detailed information regarding the actions underway by Nova Scotia to respond to related MCC Recommendations, noting areas of focus, and highlighted the work underway. This work includes reviewing and updating materials, transitioning to Next Generation 911, improved alerting practices across the Province, creation of the Nova Scotia Guard and six regional operations centres, a roll out of 2,000 more trunked mobile radios to emergency responders, training and exercising with key emergency management partners, and mandatory gender-based violence and intimate partner violence awareness training.

PMC members asked questions regarding accessibility of alerts, public education, and community consultation.

### **Progress Assessment and Rating Session: Presentation by Nova Scotia's Department of Emergency Management**

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed and rated the progress made by Nova Scotia relating to the three themes and sub-themes covered in the presentation.

### **Review of Day 1 / Meeting Concludes**

The Chair reflected on the day's proceedings and highlighted key points and outcomes of discussions. She thanked Members for their participation and adjourned for the day.

## **Meeting Summary: Day 2**

### **Progress Monitoring Session: Presentations by the RCMP**

#### **Theme: Policing Reform**

#### **Sub-theme: Interoperability and Critical Incident Response**

The Chair welcomed presenters from the RCMP to share four individual, interconnected presentations on the theme: Policing Reform and sub-theme: Interoperability and Critical Incident Response.

Deputy Commissioner DeAnna Hill Reform, Accountability, Culture Sector (interim); Chief Superintendent Robin McNeil, Director General, Operational Readiness and Response, Contract and Indigenous Policing; and David Janzen, Executive Director, Strategic Oversight and Integration, Reform, Accountability, Culture shared the four presentations.

The presentations provided an overview of how the RCMP has addressed the MCC Recommendations that fall within the theme of Policing Reform and sub-theme of Interoperability and Critical Incident Response, relating to how the RCMP prepares for and responds to critical incidents. This included four presentations on the topics of: 1) Preparation: Incident Response Training and Policy; 2) Engagement: Operational Communications Centres; 3) Response: Interoperability and Coordination; and 4) Learning: After Action Review.

Presenters responded to questions regarding changes made in the last five years since 2020, training and exercises, community consultation, public education, collaboration with other policing agencies, and public reporting.

### **Progress Assessment and Rating Session: RCMP**

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed and rated the progress made by the RCMP under the theme of Policing Reform and sub-theme of Interoperability and Critical Incident Response.

### **Review of Day 2 and Next Steps**

Committee Members reflected on the day's proceedings and highlighted key points from discussions. Members also discussed planning for their next meeting that will take place in June 2024 in Ottawa, Ontario.

## **Closing Remarks from the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Nova Scotia**

The Honourable Barbara Adams, Deputy Premier and Minister for Seniors and Long-term Care, provided closing remarks, expressing her condolences, thanking the PMC Members, conveying government's commitment to implementation, and describing the impact of the mass casualty on her work as former Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

## **Closing Ceremony: Acknowledgement of the Fifth Anniversary of the Mass Casualty**

Knowledge Keeper and PMC Member, Tuma Young, conducted a closing ceremony and acknowledgement of the Fifth Anniversary of the Mass Casualty.