

# **Ninth Meeting of the Progress Monitoring Committee**

## **September 8-9, 2025**

Halifax, Nova Scotia

### **Participants**

**Committee Members:** Myra Freeman (Chair), David Burkholder, Tammy Oliver-McCurdie, Christine Blair, Alison Whelan, Talal Dakalbab, Kim Stewart, Simon Coakeley, Mark Kane, Kristina Fifield, Tuma Young, and Vanessa Fells.

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

### **Meeting Summary: Day 1**

#### **Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Myra Freeman, Chair, Progress Monitoring Committee (PMC), provided a warm welcome to the two new PMC family member representatives, Tammy Oliver-McCurdie and David Burkholder.

The Chair then invited Knowledge Keeper and PMC Member, Tuma Young, to start the meeting with an opening prayer.

#### **We Remember**

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

*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.*

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

The Chair called the meeting to order and provided an overview of the agenda and spoke to several housekeeping and administrative items. PMC Members then approved the meeting minutes from the June 3-4, 2025, PMC Meeting in Ottawa, Ontario.

## **Morning Reflections**

PMC Member Kristina Fifield led an opening grounding exercise. PMC Member Tammy Oliver-McCurdie facilitated a group teambuilding activity.

## **Progress Monitoring Session 1: Presentation by Nova Scotia Department of Justice**

### **Theme: Policing Reform**

#### **Sub-theme: Provincial Policing**

The Chair welcomed Jennifer Glennie, Deputy Minister of Justice, Hayley Crichton, Executive Director, Public Safety and Security Division, and Charcy Marchand, Director, Public Safety and Security Division, Department of Justice, to share a presentation on the theme of Policing Reform and the sub-theme of Provincial Policing.

Presenters provided an overview of policing in Nova Scotia, including contract policing, municipal policing, and jurisdictional responsibilities regarding police services. Presenters noted the MCC Final Report recommendation linkages to their actions and initiatives relating to the comprehensive review of the structure of policing. They spoke about changes that were implemented prior to the review being completed, including Provincial Policing Standards and establishing a new Public Safety Audit Function. Presenters described the comprehensive review of policing in Nova Scotia, including details on trauma-informed approaches, engagement, and what they heard. Finally, presenters outlined six foundational changes resulting from the review.

PMC Members asked questions about engagement, the role of community safety boards, police audits, records management, and training for police advisory boards.

## **Progress Assessment and Rating Session 1: Presentation by Nova Scotia Department of Justice**

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed and rated the progress made by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice relating to the theme of Policing Reform and the sub-theme of Provincial Policing.

## **Introduction with Trauma Counsellor**

The Chair introduced Shawna Paris-Hoyte, registered psychotherapist, clinical social worker and lawyer (non practicing), who was available in a separate quiet space outside the meeting room over the two days to provide support to PMC Members.

## **Progress Monitoring Session 2: Public Safety Canada**

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

#### **Sub-theme: Community Well-Being**

The Chair welcomed Jennifer Esdaile, Director, Crime Prevention and Community Safety, Nicole Frenette, Director, Research Division, and Isabelle Ouellet, Senior Policy Advisor, from Public Safety Canada, to share a presentation on the theme of Community Safety and Well-Being and the sub-theme of Community Well-Being.

Presenters shared how Public Safety Canada has progressed work under this sub-theme to strengthen rural well-being through inclusion, including sharing information about research activities, collaboration with Statistics Canada and development of publications to deepen understanding of rural crime and to inform policy and decision-makers. Presenters also shared examples of various initiatives that Public Safety Canada has undertaken to improve community safety and well-being, including development of the Pan-Canadian Strategic Framework on Rural Crime, launched in October 2022.

PMC Members asked questions regarding differences in reporting between urban and rural areas, bringing a rural lens to online violence and hate crimes, and funding opportunities for community safety initiatives including prevention.

### **Progress Assessment and Rating Session 2: Presentation by Public Safety Canada**

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed the progress made by Public Safety Canada relating to the theme of Community Safety and Well-Being and the sub-theme of Community Well-Being.

PMC Members agreed to defer the conclusion of their assessment and rating to Day 2.

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

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

## **Meeting Summary: Day 2**

### **Progress Monitoring Session 3: Presentation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)**

**Theme:** Policing Reform

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

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

**Sub-theme:** Police Impersonation

The Chair invited David Janzen, Executive Director of Strategic Integration and Oversight, Elaine Maisonneuve, Corps Sergeant Major, and Roch Séguin, Director General of Air Services, from the RCMP, to provide a presentation on two themes and sub-themes. The first part of the presentation focused on the theme of Policing Reform and the sub-theme of Interoperability and Critical Incident Response, while the second part addressed the theme of Community Safety and Well-Being and the sub-theme of Police Impersonation.

On the theme of Policing Reform and the sub-theme of Interoperability and Critical Incident Response, presenters shared about the RCMP's internal evaluation of air support services that identified strategic gaps. The presenters spoke about key initiatives underway to address the gaps, including air fleet renewal and modernization, a 24/7 air services duty phone for coordination, a national relief strategy and contingency model, human resources, and partnerships and protocols with other agencies for mutual supports, to ensure access to appropriate air support for critical incidents.

On the theme of Community Safety and Well-Being and the sub-theme of Police Impersonation, presenters shared information about RCMP actions to address police impersonation, including improvement of policies and procedures regarding the use, collection, and disposal of RCMP uniforms and kits. They also spoke about efforts to improve the recording and sharing of police impersonation cases among police services in Canada. Presenters noted that they intend to provide a subsequent update to the PMC regarding decommissioned police vehicles.

The RCMP highlighted Nova Scotia's *Police Identity Management Act*, enacted in 2022, as a best practice and model that other provinces and territories could follow, noting that Newfoundland and Labrador passed similar legislation in 2024.

### **Progress Assessment and Rating Session 3: RCMP**

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed and rated the progress made by the RCMP on both themes separately, first under the theme of Policing Reform and the sub-theme of Interoperability and Critical Incident Response, and second

under the theme of Community Safety and Well-Being and the sub-theme of Police Impersonation.

### **Continuation of Progress Assessment and Rating Session #2: Public Safety Canada**

The Chair moderated a follow-up discussion on the presentation from Public Safety Canada on Day 1. PMC Members considered the role and mandate of Public Safety Canada and the actions and initiatives presented to arrive at their consensus rating.

### **PMC's Second Annual Report**

The Chair spoke about the forthcoming release of the PMC's Second Annual Report in October 2025. The Second Annual Report will include assessments and ratings from Year Two of the PMC's mandate, including the December 2024, March 2025, and June 2025 meetings.

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

PMC Members reflected on the day's proceedings and highlighted key points from discussions. PMC Members discussed planning for their next meeting. PMC Member Kristina Fifield led the group in a closing grounding exercise.

### **Closing Ceremony**

Knowledge Keeper and PMC Member, Tuma Young, conducted a closing ceremony.