

Tenth Meeting of the Progress Monitoring Committee

December 1-2, 2025

Ottawa, Ontario

Participants

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

Regrets: Talal Dakalbab

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

Meeting Summary: Day 1

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Myra Freeman, Chair, Progress Monitoring Committee (PMC), welcomed everyone.

Introduction with Trauma Counsellor

The Chair introduced Jeff Sheppard, registered psychotherapist, who was available in a separate quiet space outside the meeting room over the two days to provide support to PMC Members. Jeff led an opening grounding exercise.

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.

Remarks from the RCMP Commissioner

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Commissioner Michael Duheme joined the PMC to provide opening remarks and have a discussion with PMC Members. The Commissioner reinforced the RCMP's commitment to implementation of recommendations from the Mass Casualty Commission and those from other external reviews. Discussion with PMC Members included topics such as public alerting, working with other police services, rural policing, and training.

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 September 8-9, 2025, PMC Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Progress Monitoring Session 1: Presentation by Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Theme: Community Safety and Well-Being

Sub-theme: Community Well-Being

The Chair welcomed Christopher Shore, Deputy Minister, Chad Lucas, Director of Community Engagement, and Ali Shaver, Director of Strategic Initiatives, with the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, to share a presentation on the theme of Community Safety and Well-Being and the sub-theme of Community Well-Being.

Presenters provided an overview of how the Department is advancing community safety and well-being. They spoke about efforts to strengthen rural well-being through inclusion and partnering with and providing funding to community-based organizations to deliver programming in the counties of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants. Presenters also spoke about the provincial approach to community safety and well-being plans. Presenters also spoke about a wide range of funding programs that can support implementation of local community safety and well-being priorities.

PMC Members asked questions about legislation, poverty reduction and crime prevention, funding programs, and reaching underserved and underrepresented communities.

Progress Assessment and Rating Session 1: Presentation by Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed and rated the progress made by the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage relating to the theme of Community Safety and Well-Being and the sub-theme of Community Well-Being.

Progress Monitoring Session 2: Public Safety Canada

Theme: Community Safety and Well-Being

Sub-theme: Emergency Management Readiness

The Chair welcomed Kenza El-Bied, Director General, Policy and Outreach, and Arjun Vinodrai, Senior Director, Policy and Programs Development, from Public Safety Canada, to share a presentation on the theme of Community Safety and Well-Being and the sub-theme of Emergency Management Readiness.

Presenters shared information on the recent funding commitment in Budget 2025 to create a new National Public Alerting System (NPAS) model. They spoke about the shift from the current model with a private provider to a new model led by, and accountable to, the Government of Canada. Presenters spoke about collaboration with provinces and territories to develop a federally coordinated national system.

PMC Members asked questions about planned engagement, infrastructure challenges, contingency plans, accessibility, and how to alert people who are hard to reach and may not have access to cell phones, radio, or TV broadcasts.

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 Emergency Management Readiness.

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: Community Safety and Well-Being

Sub-themes: Emergency Management Readiness, Community Well-Being

Theme: Policing Reform

Sub-theme: Serious Incident Response Team

The Chair invited David Janzen, Executive Director of Strategic Integration and Oversight, Superintendent Caroline Stewart, Behavioural Sciences Investigative Services, and Christine Lamarche, Director General, Procurement, Materials, and Asset Management, to provide an integrated presentation on two themes and three sub-themes. Under the theme of Community Safety and Well-Being, the presentation focused on both sub-themes of Emergency Management Readiness and Community Well-Being. The RCMP also spoke about the theme of Policing Reform, sub-theme of Serious Incident Response Team.

On the theme of Community Safety and Well-Being and the sub-theme of Emergency Management, presenters shared about the RCMP's work to evaluate and improve the RCMP behavioural sciences branch in conducting post-event analysis. They also spoke about efforts to improve public communications during and after critical incidents.

On the theme of Community Safety and Well-Being and the sub-theme of Community Well-Being, presenters spoke about ongoing efforts of the RCMP regarding vehicle decommissioning.

On the theme of Policing Reform and the sub-theme of Serious Incident Response Team, presenters spoke about actions underway regarding external investigations of serious incidents involving the RCMP.

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 two themes and related three sub-themes separately: (1) theme Community Safety and Well-Being, sub-theme of Emergency Management Readiness, (2) theme of Community Safety and Well-Being, sub-theme of Community Well-Being, and (3) theme of Policing Reform, sub-theme of Serious Incident Response Team.

Acknowledgment of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

PMC Member Kristina Fifield led an acknowledgment of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, and a practice on hope.

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 in March 2026. Jeff Sheppard led the group in a closing grounding exercise.

Closing Ceremony

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