

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

**March 2-3, 2026**

Millbrook, Nova Scotia

## **Participants**

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

**Secretariat:** Kathleen Burns, Jennifer MacKenzie, 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 Shawna Paris-Hoyte, a 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. Shawna 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 (a teenager), 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 December 1-2, 2025, PMC Meeting in Ottawa, Ontario.

### **Progress Monitoring Session 1: Presentation by Public Safety Canada**

#### **Theme: Access to Firearms**

The Chair welcomed Amy Johnson, Director General, Firearms Policy Directorate, with Public Safety Canada, to share a presentation on the theme of Access to Firearms.

The presenter provided an update on work that has been undertaken since their previous presentation to the PMC on this theme in September 2024. Key accomplishments include prohibiting additional types of firearms, implementing the assault-style firearms compensation program, increasing investments in border security and law enforcement, strengthened licensing rules, and strengthening partnerships.

PMC Members asked questions about the compensation program, firearms licence suspensions, and collaboration with provinces and territories. They spoke about the importance of increasing public awareness about yellow and red flag laws.

### **Progress Assessment and Rating Session 1: Presentation by Public Safety Canada**

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed and rated the progress made by Public Safety Canada relating to the theme of Access to Firearms.

### **Progress Monitoring Session 2: Nova Scotia Department of Justice**

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

##### **Sub-theme: Gender-Based Violence Response**

The Chair welcomed Cynthia Carroll, Associate Deputy Minister, Kristen Tynes, Executive Director, Justice Supports and Services, and Charys Payne, Executive Director, Gender Based Violence Division, with the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, to share a presentation on the theme of Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence, sub-theme of Gender-Based Violence Response.

Presenters shared information on organizational changes in response to the province declaring intimate partner violence an epidemic in September 2024, efforts that support a whole-of-society approach to address gender-based violence (GBV), collaboration with first voice and community organizations through the new Ministers' Table on GBV, and

initiatives to increase safety, improve information sharing, and strengthen supports and responses.

PMC Members asked questions about coordinated system responses in high-risk for lethality situations, broader consideration of all forms of GBV in addition to intimate partner violence, and access to services in rural areas. The Presenter discussed how the Ministers' Table is an opportunity for greater collaboration and transparency working with community and multiple government departments.

### **Progress Assessment and Rating Session 2: Presentation by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice**

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed the progress made by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice under the theme of Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence, sub-theme of Gender-Based Violence Response.

### **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-themes:** Improving RCMP Governance; Broader Policing Reform

The Chair invited Christiane Allard, Executive Director of Strategic Integration and Oversight, Chief Superintendent Corry Pyne, Professional Responsibility Sector, and Superintendent Karina Desrosiers, Professional Responsibility Sector, to provide a presentation on the theme of Policing Reform, sub-themes of Improving RCMP Governance and Broader Policing Reform.

The presenters shared information on the RCMP's actions and initiatives related to taking responsibility, conflict resolution, and investigation of public complaints. This work included development of renewed core values, updating conflict resolution training, and enhanced training and capacity regarding investigation of public complaints.

PMC Members asked questions about trauma-informed approaches, awareness of the complaints process, and efforts to rebuild public confidence and trust. PMC Members recognized that policies and practices are an important first step in implementing practice changes and shifting the culture within the organization.

### **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 the theme of Policing Reform, sub-themes of Improving RCMP Governance and Broader Policing Reform.

### **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 June 2026. Shawna Paris-Hoyte led the group in a closing grounding exercise.

### **Closing Ceremony**

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