

Twelfth Meeting of the Progress Monitoring Committee

June 1-2, 2026

Halifax, 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.

The Chair also acknowledged the lives that have been lost in the years since April 2020, those who were deeply affected by these events.

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 March 2-3, 2026, PMC Meeting in Millbrook, Nova Scotia.

Progress Monitoring Session 1: Presentation by Women and Gender Equality Canada

Theme: Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence

Sub-theme: Gender-Based Violence Services and Prevention

The Chair welcomed Frances McRae, Deputy Minister, Marc-André Millaire, Director General, Social Affairs, and Marjorie Emmannuel, Senior Director, Gender-Based Violence Directorate, with the Department of Women and Gender Equality Canada, to share a presentation on the theme of Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence, sub-theme of Gender-Based Violence Services and Prevention.

The presenter provided an update on the work that has been undertaken since their previous presentation to the PMC on this theme in June 2024. Key accomplishments include: coordinating with Provinces and Territories under the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, leading the Federal Gender-Based Violence Strategy, funding organizations addressing gender-based violence, and the StatsCan Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces.

PMC Members asked questions about generational violence, approaches to rural communities, online violence, scaling successes, and ongoing transparency and accountability.

Progress Assessment and Rating Session 1: Presentation by Women and Gender Equality Canada

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed and rated the progress made by Women and Gender Equality Canada relating to the theme of Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence, sub-theme of Gender-Based Violence Services and Prevention.

Progress Monitoring Session 2: Nova Scotia Status of Women Office

Theme: Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence

Sub-theme: Gender-Based Violence Services and Prevention

The Chair welcomed Nicole Johnson Morrison, Associate Deputy Minister, Nova Scotia Status of Women Office and Department of Opportunities and Social Development, Meredith Naylor, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Nova Scotia Status of Women Office, and Jennifer Burke, Director of Curriculum Development, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, to share a presentation on the theme of Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence, sub-theme of Gender-Based Violence Services and Prevention.

The presenter provided an update on the work that has been undertaken since their previous presentation to the PMC on this theme in June 2024. Key accomplishments include: \$115 million in the 2026-027 provincial budget to address gender-based violence, mandatory school curriculum on gender-based violence, GuysWork programming for male youth, and the Ministers' Table on Gender-Based Violence.

PMC Members asked questions about the rollout of the gender-based violence school curriculum, violence in schools and community, sustainable funding, and rurality.

Progress Assessment and Rating Session 2: Presentation by the Nova Scotia Status of Women Office

The Chair moderated an open discussion where PMC Members assessed the progress made by the Nova Scotia Status of Women office under the theme of Gender-Based Violence and Intimate Partner Violence, sub-theme of Gender-Based Violence Services and Prevention.

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: Broader Policing Reform; Interoperability and Critical Incident Response

The Chair invited Christiane Allard, Executive Director of Strategic Oversight and Integration, Assistant Commissioner Jennifer Ebert, and Superintendent Tara Norman, RCMP Indigenous, Provincial, Territorial, and Municipal Policing, to provide a presentation on the theme of Policing Reform, sub-themes of Broader Policing Reform and Interoperability and Critical Incident Response.

The presenters shared information on the RCMP's actions and initiatives relating to consumption of alcohol and drugs, including development of consistent policy guidance. They shared details on work undertaken to increase interoperability and critical incident response, including emergency operational plans and effective use of public radios.

PMC Members asked questions about self-assessments of intoxication, trauma-informed approaches, peer-to-peer supports, operations in rural and remote communities, member tracking, and radio functionality.

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 Broader Policing Reform and Interoperability and Critical Incident Response.

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 Year Three and Final Annual Report.

Recognition of PMC Members

The Chair acknowledged the conclusion of the terms of the Year Three family member representatives to the PMC and thanked them for their contributions to the PMC's work over the last year. The Chair then presented certificates to all PMC Members in recognition of their commitment over the PMC's mandate.

Closing Ceremony

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