

Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee

Annual Performance Report

2012 - 2013

Chairperson's Message

I am pleased to provide the 2012-13 Annual Performance Report for the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee, in accordance with the requirements of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for a Category 3 Government Entity. In the development of this report, consideration was given to the strategic directions of government, as well as the mandate and activities of the Advisory Committee, as communicated by the Minister responsible for this entity.

This Annual Performance Report provides an overview of the activities of the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee and the extent to which planned and actual objectives were met during the second fiscal period covered by the 2011-14 Activity Plan. In the absence of a Committee Chair, my signature below is indicative of the entire Committee's accountability for the actual results reported, the preparation of this report, and for the achievement of the specific objectives and any variances contained therein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Cooper', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce Cooper, Board Member
Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee

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1.0 Overview

In June 2011, the Minister of Health and Community Services established the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee (CCAC). The Minister appointed the membership from a broad representation of the cancer control community throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. The establishment of the Committee was an early action of *Gaining Ground: A Provincial Cancer Control Policy Framework for Newfoundland and Labrador* (“the Framework”) released in November 2010. Policy Direction 9 of the Framework: Accountability and Measuring Success, identified the creation of the committee. This policy direction committed the Provincial Government to establish a committee to advise the Minister of Health and Community Services on actions to advance and improve cancer control in Newfoundland and Labrador. In this role, the CCAC will help foster a culture of enhanced understanding by the Provincial Government of cancer control issues.

To advise the Minister on an issue that was brought forward, the CCAC reviews current reports and research findings, receives presentations from content experts, and prepares recommendations on the issue. The CCAC strives to collect and review the best information available and to consider the information from various perspectives to provide the best advice to the Minister.

Membership

In 2012-13, the CCAC had eight members. The membership consisted of a diverse cross-section of individuals who were familiar with cancer control issues, and included representatives from the Regional Health Authorities, community organizations, Memorial University, cancer survivors, and the Department of Health and Community Services. All members and the Chairperson are appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services (see Appendix A).

Meetings and Expenditures

In 2012-13 the committee met twice in St. John’s: May 2, and May 24, 2012. Meeting expenses totalled \$631.

Mandate

The role of the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee is:

- i. To advise the Minister on:
 - priorities for action;
 - monitoring progress;
 - the development of an evaluation plan for the Framework;
- ii. To liaise with the cancer control community nationally and provincially, including patients, survivors, advocates and community organizations; and
- iii. To identify for the Minister's consideration, additional evidence-based objectives or priority directions that have the potential to improve the control of cancer in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Primary Clients

The CCAC recognized the Minister of Health and Community Services, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, as its primary client. By fostering an environment of understanding with the Provincial Government about cancer, individuals living with or at risk of developing cancer were also served.

Values

The Department of Health and Community Services' values are reflected daily as employees fulfill their roles and responsibilities in serving their clients. The CCAC has considered the departmental values and has adapted the values to better align with the role of the Committee:

Professionalism

Each member is qualified, competent and respectful in the discussions and decision-making processes undertaken when providing advice to the Minister.

Excellence

Each member brings an important perspective to the committee and from that perspective makes decisions based on the best evidence and information available to provide a high standard of advice to the Minister.

Transparency and Accountability

Each member takes their responsibilities seriously and contributes to a culture of openness in decision-making and reporting.

Collaboration

Each member engages others in the health and community services system and in the broader cancer control community, in a positive manner, respectful of others and their different perspectives.

Privacy

Each member manages and protects information related to persons/families/ organizations/communities and the Department of Health and Community Services appropriately.

Vision

The CCAC supported the following vision of the Department of Health and Community Services:

The vision of the Department of Health and Community Services is for individuals, families and communities to achieve optimal health and well-being.

The CCAC contributed to achieving this vision by providing advice to the Minister on: priorities for action, monitoring progress, and the development of an evaluation plan for the Provincial Cancer Control Policy Framework.

Mission

The CCAC adopted the 2011-2017 mission of the Department of Health and Community Services as contained in the Department's 2011-2014 Strategic Plan as follows:

By March 31, 2017 the Department of Health and Community Services will have provided leadership to support an enhanced health care system that effectively serves the people of the province and helps them achieve optimal health and well-being.

The CCAC contributed to the above mission statement through its mandate, identified actions and the collaborative efforts of the members and member organizations to further cancer control efforts within the Province. The CCAC shared the same vision and supported the mission of the Department. The CCAC provided leadership through an advisory capacity to the Minister and this role was reflected in the Committee's indicators and actions.

2.0 Shared Partnerships

The CCAC valued the support of the Department of Health and Community Services in fulfilling its mandate.

The achievement of the CCAC's primary objective would not be possible without the valuable input of many key stakeholders including, but not limited to: the Canadian Cancer Society, Young Adult Cancer Canada, Memorial University Faculty of Medicine, experts in the field, national organizations and working groups, the Regional Health Authorities, the Provincial Cancer Care Program, community volunteers, cancer survivors, and Departmental staff.

In 2012-13, the CCAC worked with its partners in the following ways:

- Department officials updated the CCAC on cancer control priority actions;
- Members of the CCAC reported on cancer control efforts within their own organizations; and,
- Cancer control experts and national organizations provided the CCAC with the latest research findings on specific cancer control issues such as skin cancer and tanning bed use.

3.0 Highlights and Accomplishments

During the 2012-13 fiscal year, the CCAC advised the Minister on the development of an evaluation plan for the Cancer Control Policy Framework. The Framework encompasses all aspects of cancer care along the cancer care continuum including: prevention, screening, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and support and palliative care services. It identifies nine policy directions for more effective cancer control in the province. The Evaluation Plan focuses on determining whether or not the Cancer Control Policy Framework is making a difference or achieving its intended results; assessing whether the Framework is still relevant, and whether it is serving a need. The evaluation is anticipated to begin in 2015-16.

A highlight for 2012-13 was the provision of advice to the Minister regarding the use of tanning bed services by youth. This led to the introduction of the new *Personal Services Act* which will prohibit owners and employees of tanning bed facilities to offer tanning services to people under the age of 19 years. The new Act was passed in the House of Assembly in June 2012.

4.0 Report on Performance

Issue: Cancer Control

The impacts of cancer are multiple and far reaching, as it touches most people either directly or indirectly at some point in their lives. People of all ages may be diagnosed with cancer, or they may have a relative or friend with cancer.

The Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) estimated that there will be 3,250 new cases of cancer and 1,490 deaths from cancer in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2013. Lung cancer continues to top the list with respect to deaths due to cancer. The province also has the highest incidence and mortality of colorectal cancer in Canada. Similar to other provinces and countries, Newfoundland and Labrador is seeing an increase in the incidence and prevalence of cancer. This is largely due to our aging population, but also related to increased life expectancy, high rates of risk factors (e.g. smoking, inactivity, unhealthy eating, alcohol consumption, and sun exposure) and some genetic factors.

The CCS notes that it is estimated that smoking is responsible for 30% of all cancer deaths and that one third of cancers can be linked to diet, obesity and lack of exercise. The World Health Organization also states that interventions are available which permit the early detection and effective treatment for approximately one third of cancer cases. Due to advances in cancer care, cancer is increasingly viewed as an illness from which people can survive. As is stated in the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control (2006), it is recognized that true cancer control “aspires to prevent cancer, to detect cancer at an early stage, and to treat and hopefully cure the disease in those who are diagnosed, and to increase the survival and the quality of life in those who develop it.”

In 2012-13, the CCAC contributed to cancer control efforts in the province by advising the Minister of Health and Community Services on current issues in the cancer control environment. This advice helped foster a culture of understanding within the Provincial Government about cancer control issues.

The CCAC has reviewed and considered the strategic directions of the Provincial Government and the focus area of Cancer Care related to the work of the CCAC (see Appendix B).

Objective: By March 31, 2013 the Cancer Control Advisory Committee will have provided advice to advance and improve cancer control efforts in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Measure: Provided advice

Planned for 2012-13	Actual Performance for 2012-13
<p>Provided advice on select priority actions of the Cancer Control Policy Framework</p>	<p>The CCAC provided advice on priority actions of the Cancer Control Policy Framework by providing input on the development of the Cancer Control Year 2 Action Plan which identifies a road map for achieving actions in the broader Cancer Control Policy Framework. Many of the actions from the plan were initiated or completed during 2012-13. While the CCAC provides input on the actions, the actions are initiated or completed by various partners in the cancer control community. These actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the Cancer Prevention and Awareness Grants Program; • Preparations towards the expansion of the Provincial Breast Screening Program, to include women aged 40 to 49 years; and the review of the provincial screening programs; • Evaluation of the Cancer Navigator Positions; • Provision of funding for the Canadian Cancer Society to conduct cancer education with NL residents; • Implementation of a follow-up system for cervical cancer screening; • Provision of funding for Young Adult Cancer Canada to conduct professional development with health care providers on issues facing young adults with cancer; and, • Completion of an evaluation plan and logic model for the Cancer Control Policy Framework. <p>The CCAC also provided input to inform the development of the draft Year 3 Action Plan for 2013-14.</p>
<p>Provided advice on identified emerging cancer control issues and interests</p>	<p>The CCAC provided advice to the Minister regarding the use of tanning bed services by youth. This led to the introduction of the new <i>Personal Services Act</i> which will prohibit owners and employees of tanning bed facilities to offer tanning services to people under the age of 19 years.</p> <p>Members of the CCAC brought forward emerging cancer control issues and interests for discussion, including the new cervical screening guidelines and lung cancer screening. These items will be prioritized and included as part of the committee's work to review issues and provide advice to the Minister in 2013-14.</p>

<p>Provided advice on the monitoring of progress of select cancer control initiatives</p>	<p>The CCAC provided advice to inform the development of an evaluation plan and logic model for the Cancer Control Policy Framework. The evaluation plan was approved by the Minister in March 2013.</p>
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Discussion of Results

In the 2012-13 fiscal year, the Committee considered and submitted advice to the Minister on the use of tanning bed services by youth, recommended the continuation of the Provincial Cancer Prevention and Awareness Grants Program, discussed future priorities for cancer control in this province, and informed the development of the evaluation plan for the Cancer Control Policy Framework. With the identification of priority issues for 2013-14 already started, the CCAC anticipates being able to meet its objectives by providing advice to the Minister on priority actions of the Policy Framework, emerging issues and interests, and on monitoring progress of select cancer control issues in the coming year.

The objectives and indicators for 2013-14 are provided in the Activity Plan 2011-14, which is available on the Department of Health and Community Services website at: http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publications/CCAC_final-tabled_Mar1_12.pdf

Objective for 2013-14: By March 31, 2014 the Cancer Control Advisory Committee will have provided advice to advance and improve cancer control efforts in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Measure for 2013-14: Provided advice

Indicators for 2013-14:

- Provided advice on select priority actions of the Cancer Control Policy Framework.
- Provided advice on identified emerging cancer control issues and interests.
- Provided advice on the monitoring of progress of select cancer control initiatives.

5.0 Challenges and Opportunities

The CCAC expects to fulfil its mandate in 2013-14, given the Minister's support for the Committee's work. The challenges of committee membership vacancies are anticipated to be resolved in 2013-14.

There are a number of partnership opportunities and initiatives which may support and/or direct the CCAC's work in the coming year, including:

- Monitoring the implementation of recommendations regarding the Provincial Breast Screening Program;
- Monitoring the implementation of the new governance structure for the three Provincial Cancer Screening Programs (Breast, Colon, and Cervical) that was announced as part of Budget 2013;
- Supporting the actions in the new *Provincial Tobacco Reduction Strategy*, developed by the Alliance for the Control of Tobacco;
- Providing advice to the Minister on the implementation of the new *Personal Services Act*, which will regulate the tanning bed industry with the aim of reducing exposures to ultraviolet radiation; and,
- Providing advice to the Minister on emerging issues including: the new cervical screening guidelines and lung cancer screening.

Appendix A – Committee Membership as of March 2013

Members:

Department of Health and Community Services - Mr. Bruce Cooper
Eastern Health – Representative appointed by the CEO: Ms. Katherine Chubbs
Central Health – Representative appointed by the CEO: VACANT
Western Health – Dr. Susan Gillam
Labrador-Grenfell Health – Representative appointed by the CEO: VACANT
Memorial University Faculty of Medicine – Dr. James Rourke or designate
Canadian Cancer Society - NL Division – Mr. Matthew Piercey
Young Adult Cancer Canada – Mr. Geoff Eaton
Representative for Cancer Survivors – Mrs. Rosemary Hedderson
Representative for Community Volunteers – Mrs. Margot Reid
Representative for Family Physicians – VACANT

Appendix B – Strategic Directions

Strategic directions are the articulation of desired physical, social, or economic outcomes and normally require action by or involvement of, more than one government entity. They summarize the outcomes desired for the health sector and are communicated to entities that plan and report in collaboration with the Department.

Strategic Direction 1: Population Health Outcome: Improved Population Health

To achieve “improved population health”, focusing efforts on public health interventions that will: promote healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities, prevent acute and chronic illness and injury, and protect people from health hazards, are necessary.

An integrated and collaborative approach, which preserves and promotes health and prevents and controls disease, is needed to:

- reduce the incidence of many of the illnesses that currently contribute to the burden of illness in Newfoundland and Labrador; and
- prepare the health system for illnesses and threats to health that are expected to emerge as society and the physical environment change.

Activities in these areas will decrease the burden of illness and associated health care and treatment costs, and contribute significantly to a sustainable health system.

Focus Areas of the Strategic Direction 2011-2017	The Population Health Strategic Direction is Addressed by the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee's		
	Activity Plan	Operational Plan	Work Plan
	Cancer Care	✓	

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