

Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors

Activity Plan

April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2020

Please Note: In accordance with **Clear Print Accessibility Guidelines** (Canadian National Institute for the Blind: n.d.), italics or upper-case letters have not been used for the titles of acts, titles, sub-titles or for emphasis. Bold fonts of medium heaviness as recommended have been used instead.

Message from the Chair



In accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, I am pleased to present the 2017-2020 Activity Plan for the Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors.

This Advisory Council has been included under the Transparency and Accountability Act as a Category 3 entity and since 2011 has been planning and reporting in keeping with these requirements. This process better enables Council to enhance recognition of issues impacting seniors and achieve its accountability requirements to the public.

In the development of this Activity Plan, consideration was given to the Provincial Government's strategic directions, including **The Way Forward** and the Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework. This Activity Plan represents Council's continued efforts to assist the Provincial Government in supporting older adults. By engaging and dialoguing with stakeholders throughout the province we can identify programs and services that support and encourage the concept of healthy aging. If older adults are physically and psychologically healthy, and are encouraged to continue to play integral roles in their communities and families, society will be the beneficiary.

My signature below is indicative of the entire Council's accountability for the preparation of this Activity Plan and achievement of the objective contained in this Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leo C. Bonnell".

Leo C. Bonnell, Chairperson
Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors

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Overview

On November 26, 2004, the Provincial Government announced the establishment of a Ministerial Council on Aging and Seniors, the Office for Aging and Seniors (now the Seniors and Aging Division) and the Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors (PACAS). The PACAS provides advice to the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development, as the Minister Responsible for Aging and Seniors, on issues related to older persons and the aging process. The Seniors and Aging Division serves as a Secretariat to the Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors including providing support for meetings and activities.

The **Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework**, which was endorsed by the PACAS, was created in 2007 and the background and context continues to provide guidance for Government's policy development. In 2016, Government released **The Way Forward – Phase One, in 2017 The Way Forward – Phase Two**. These documents detail a number of initiatives which will benefit an aging population such as: a commitment to expanding housing and transportation services; healthy living assessments; implementation of recent home support review recommendations; and streamlining of the financial assessment process for community supports and long term care.

The PACAS assists the Provincial Government in its efforts to strengthen Newfoundland and Labrador's status as an age-friendly province. The Province continues to be responsive to the needs of older adults of today and tomorrow. PACAS is made up of a diverse cross-section of older adults familiar. The PACAS is listed in Schedule C of the **Public Service Commission Act** and as such, the Public Service Commission (PSC) is required to conduct a search soliciting candidates for vacancies. Consideration is given to geography, culture, gender, background, experience and skills. Members are appointed for terms of up to three years, by the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development. PACAS consists of 12 members plus a Chairperson (See Appendix A).

Objective 2017-20

The Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors supports the Provincial Government's strategic directions of "improved health and well-being outcomes for individuals, families, groups and communities" and "improved and equitable access to economic, cultural and social opportunities for those who experience barriers to inclusion" (See Appendix B). The PACAS has a responsibility to present to the Provincial Government the perspectives of older adults. Members also convey the Provincial Government's perspective to older adults throughout the Province. The Council provides support to the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development in an advisory capacity. The following objective will guide the direction of the Council for the three years covered by this Activity Plan (2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20) and will be reported on in each year. However, indicators for subsequent years may change from one year to the next.

Issue: Promoting Age-Friendly Communities

Population aging is a process whereby older individuals account for a proportionately larger share of the total population. Population aging is taking place in virtually every country in the world. There are three factors underlying this trend: increased longevity, declining fertility; and, aging of "baby boomers". Population aging impacts future policy-development, particularly in areas of labour/ workforce requirements and health care demands. Most recent estimates state that Newfoundland and Labrador has 101,242 people aged 65 years and older which is 19 per cent of the provincial population. With one in two Newfoundlanders and Labradorians older than 45 years, this province has a fast growing senior population and is expected to have increasing numbers of residents in the older age groups; it is estimated that by 2026, the aged 65+ population will increase to about 134,582 which will be 27 per cent of the population.

Newfoundland and Labrador recognizes the need to plan for the needs and contributions of the older adults of today and those of tomorrow. Older adults will continue to be active contributors to the labour market but tomorrow's older adults are likely to be employed longer, likely have higher levels of formal education, tend to own their own homes, and be more financially stable, albeit with many carrying more personal debt. The Age-Friendly Communities Program is an effective tool for communities in planning for an aging population. It can be particularly useful in rural and remote communities that are aging at a faster rate than urban centres. The diversity of Council membership lends itself well to consideration of the implications of population in urban and rural/remote communities.

Annual Objective

By March 31, 2018, 2019 and 2020, the Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors will have advised the Minister on key issues relating to older adults.

Indicators:

- Obtained expert and member expertise
- Invited stakeholders to provide information
- Prioritized advice to be provided to the Minister
- Identified target audience for related age-friendly government initiatives
- Made recommendations on related government initiatives.

Appendix A: Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors Membership

- Leo Bonnell, Chairperson - Clarenville
- Shirley Boone - Mount Pearl
- Patricia Burton - Paradise
- Maggie Chambers - Flowers Cove
- Winston Childs - Pasadena
- Maisie Clark - Campbellton
- Damien Collier - Goulds
- Cecilia Hickey - Grand Falls-Windsor
- Joan Hutchings - Mobile
- Shirley Letto - L'Anse au Clair
- Linda Oldford - Gander
- Josephine Waddleton - Trepassey
- Wayde Rowsell - St. Lawrence

Appendix B: Strategic Directions

The strategic directions are created to provide social, economic or cultural outcomes and actions needed for all government departments, agencies and boards. The Transparency and Accountability Act requires government departments, agencies and boards to develop strategic directions in their performance activity plans.

The following Strategic Directions speak to the work of the Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors for the planning period 2017-20 as follows:

Strategic Direction: Improved health and well-being outcomes for individuals, families, groups and communities.

Outcome: Individuals families, groups and communities experience measureable improvement in health and well-being.

Focus will be in the following areas:

- Awareness and engagement of individuals to take action for healthy, active lives
- Creation of communities that support healthy living
- Health and well-being of infants and young children
- Adults who do not understand or appreciate that they are at risk of abuse and neglect are protected.
- Access to One-Window, Multi-Year Community Grants

Strategic Direction: Improved and equitable access to economic, cultural and social opportunities for people who experience barriers to inclusion.

Outcome: People at all stages of life and of variable abilities can participate economically, socially and culturally in a strong and viable province.

Focus will be in the following areas:

- Inclusion and improved access to services for persons with disabilities and seniors by expanding housing and transportation service
- Build a positive image of aging and persons with disabilities and
- Individualized funding model
- Poverty reduction and social development
- Client focused interventions to support individuals with complex needs
- Health in All Policies
- Inclusion-based Disabilities Act

Appendix C: Contact Information

Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors
c/o Seniors and Aging Division

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