



**House of Assembly
Newfoundland and Labrador**

**Minutes of the House of Assembly
Social Services Committee**

Date: April 29, 2026

Location: House of Assembly Chamber

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Joseph Power, Member for Labrador West (Chair)

Jim McKenna, Member for Fogo Island - Cape Freels

Pam Parsons, Member for Harbour Grace - Port de Grave (substituted for Paul Pike, Member for Burin Grand Bank)

Jeff Dwyer, Member for Placentia West - Bellevue

Hal Cormier, Member for St. George's Humber

Sheilagh O'Leary, Member for St. John's East - Quidi Vidi (substituted for Jim Dinn, Member for St. John's Centre)

John Hogan, KC, Member for Windsor Lake (substituted for Sherry Gambin-Walsh, Member for Placentia - St. Mary's)

Other:

Angelica Hill, Official Opposition Caucus

Nick Ellis, Official Opposition Caucus

Steven Kent, Third Party Caucus

House of Assembly Service:

Bobbi Russell, Principal Clerk of Committees

Emily Gushue, Committee Analyst

Witnesses Appearing:

Department of Justice and Public Safety

Helen Conway Ottenheimer, Minister

Gerrie Smith, Deputy Minister

Justin Caines, Assistant Deputy Minister, Legal Services

Kim Harding, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety & Correctional Services

Mike Noseworthy, Assistant Deputy Minister, Courts & Justice Services

Bonnie Steele, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporates & Strategic Services

Lisa Stead, Director of Public Prosecutions

Joanne Turner, Director of Provincial Court Services

Mark Walsh, Departmental Controller

Cayla Hillier, Manager of Budgeting

Vaughn Hammond, Director of Communications

Lesley Clarke, Media Relations Manager
Clair Bartlett, Executive Assistant
Chief Patrick Roche, Chief of Police, RNC
Andrew Green, Executive Director Support Services, RNC
Terri Twyne, Manager of Court Security
Shelley Organ, Chief Executive Officer, Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

On motion, the Member for Labrador West was acclaimed Chair.

The Committee recessed proceedings at 7:04 p.m. and resumed at 7:22 p.m.

The Committee recessed proceedings at 8:43 p.m. and resumed at 9:01 p.m.

The Committee reviewed and passed, without amendment, the Estimates of the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

On motion, the Committee adjourned at 9:54 p.m. to Monday, May 4, 2026 at 6 p.m. to review the Estimates of the Department of Social Supports and Well-Being and the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation.

Joseph Power, MHA
Chair

Bobbi Russell

Bobbi Russell
Principal Clerk of Committees