

**Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors (PACAS)
West Block Confederation Building, St. John's
October 4 & 5, 2016**

Meeting Notes

In Attendance:

PACAS

Leo Bonnell – Chair (Clareville)
Wayde Rowsell (St. Lawrence)
Winston Childs (Pasadena)
Damien Collier (Goulds)
Patricia Burton (Paradise)
Shirley Letto (L'Anse au Clair)

Maisie Clark (Campbellton)
Linda Oldford (Gander)
Josephine Waddleton (Trepassey)
Joan Hutchings (Mobile)
Suzanne Brake and Pamela Dawe –
CSSD

Regrets

Cecilia Hickey (Grand Falls-Windsor)
Maggie Chambers (Flower's Cove)

Shirley Boone (Mount Pearl)

October 4

- 1.0 Welcome** – Leo Bonnell, Chair
- 2.0 Review of Agenda**
- 3.0 Review of Notes: June 20 & 21, 2016** – Notes approved as read.
- 4.0 Departmental changes** – An update was provided on changes to the new department of Children, Seniors and Social Development and the department's "lifespan" focus.
- 5.0 Seniors of Distinction Awards-Debrief** – The Awards ceremony took place earlier that day and the general consensus was that the ceremony went very well. Some discussion of other ceremony models and logistical improvements to consider for next year.
- 6.0 Discussion with Minister Gambin-Walsh** – The Minister and CSSD Assistant Deputy Minister, Mark Jones, joined Council for a portion of the afternoon session. Discussion centred on seniors and finances. Council

reiterated the benefits (to seniors personally and to the province generally) provided by seniors in the workplace and as volunteers, and how seniors could be supported to stay attached to the labour market should they wish. As well, there was some discussion on how best to communicate information to seniors.

7.0 Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) - Presentation by HCS.

Presentation provided an overview of the Federal legislation. Council's input was recorded on a number of policy issues yet to be considered. Council was in agreement that:

- a) a person's death record should not state that a person engaged MAiD; however, if a person chose MAiD, that piece of information should be recorded for vital statistics;
- a) the costs of the drugs for MAiD should be covered like any other drugs dispensed under the healthcare system; and
- b) even if the drugs are dispensed as if the person is in a healthcare facility people wishing to engage MAiD should be able to choose the place where they wish to die i.e., at home, in hospital, etc. under the given when a person is cost

8.0 Collective Memories Project – The initiative is going very well with booklet #1 (*A Life-Changing Experience: Memories of City of St. John's*) due to be launched on October 11. Twenty-three communities have expressed interest in the project. A do-it-yourself kit will be developed this winter for communities wishing to undertake a similar project.

9.0 Updates

9.1 Age Friendly NL Program – As a part of the new Community Healthy Living Fund, the AFNL no longer has a deadline date. Communities have been receiving one on one orientation sessions from CSSD. A provincial WG is being established to oversee the program and help AF Communities, especially those struggling to move forward.

- 9.2 Age Friendly Transportation** – The evaluation is nearing completion and the findings are expected to be presented to CSSD before the end of October.
- 9.3 Age-Friendly Business** – Discussion of aging workforce and age-friendly workplaces and finding balance between the needs of employers and the needs of employees.
- 9.4 Community Healthy Living Fund** – Templates have been made available to help groups develop their submissions. One change to the Fund is that beginning April 1, 2017 any group applying for funds in excess of \$1,000 must be incorporated.
- 9.5 Office of the Seniors Advocate** – The development of legislation is underway and is expected to be on the agenda for the fall sitting of the House of Assembly.

10.0 FPT Activities – FPT Ministers with Responsibility for Seniors met in BC in early September. NL will be hosting this meeting in fall 2017. A dissemination plan to distribute the products from previous years' work is underway. For 2016-17 the Working Groups are: 1) Promoting the Social Inclusion of Seniors 2) Re-visioning the FPR Forum (NL co-chairs) and 3) Promoting the Labour Force Participation of older Canadians.

11.0 Key and Emerging Issues (Roundtable) – A number of emerging issues were discussed including the planned federal Dementia Care Strategy. A major focus of the conversation was the costs and associated issues related to seniors going into care. Some time was spent discussing the many “myths” particularly about assets and incomes.

12.0 Adult Protection – An update was provided outlining the most recent statistics. 16 focus groups provided input to the evaluation of the Adult Protection Act. The written report will be made available to the public.

13.0 Financial Abuse – The Chair provided updates on his recent speaking engagements on this subject. Some discussion about how to address the susceptibility (to financial abuse) that people with capacity are

experiencing. Also some discussion on whether or not financial institutions should receive more information on this issue and how it impacts clients.

14.0 Activity Plan 2017-19

- **Activity report 2015-16** – The most recent Report has been tabled.
- **New Activity Plan** – Council must begin thinking about its next three-year plan because the current one will expire March 31, 2017.

13.0 Other Business

Wrap-up and Expense Claims

Leo Bonnell thanked members for their work and wished them safe travels home.
Next meeting: TBD

Prepared By: P. Dawe/S. Brake

Approved by: Leo Bonnell, Chair, PACAS

Date: October 31, 2016