

**Provincial Cancer Control Advisory  
Committee**

**Activity Plan**

**April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2023**

## **Chairperson's Message**

In accordance with the requirements of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for a Category 3 government entity, I am pleased to present the 2020-23 Activity Plan for the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee. In this capacity, the Committee is required to prepare a three-year activity plan and report on its progress annually. This process better enables the Committee to enhance the recognition of issues related to cancer control in Newfoundland and Labrador in a way that is transparent and accountable to the public.

In the development of this Activity Plan, consideration was given to the Provincial Government's strategic directions, as well as the mandate and activities of the Committee. This Plan builds on the achievements of the Committee in providing advice on the implementation and monitoring of **Gaining Ground: A Provincial Cancer Control Policy Framework for Newfoundland and Labrador** and in identifying emerging and priority cancer control issues for government to consider.

The Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee was established by the Minister of Health and Community Services in June 2011. As Chairperson, my signature below is indicative of the entire Committee's accountability for the preparation of this Activity Plan and achievement of the objective outlined herein.

As we move onward in the presence of COVID-19, we look ahead with renewed energy to taking on the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee's mandate for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Smith".

**Sharon Smith, Chairperson**

Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee

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## **Overview**

In June 2011, the Minister of Health and Community Services (HCS) established the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee (the Committee). 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 on actions to advance and improve cancer prevention and control in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Since its establishment, the Committee has fulfilled its mandate by providing advice to the Minister on cancer prevention and control issues. As part of a broader initiative to redesign the health sector, the department released the **Chronic Disease Action Plan**. This renewed focus on chronic illness, including cancer, is critical to the realignment of health care services. Newfoundland and Labrador continues to have some of the highest rates of chronic disease in Canada. As the age of the province's population continues to climb, so will the prevalence of chronic diseases. Cancer registries, enhanced supports for smoking cessation, and cancer screening programs utilizing eHealth technology are all specific initiatives supporting health care providers in delivering high quality person-focused care, and empowering individuals in their personal efforts towards the prevention and treatment of cancer.

## **Membership**

The Committee is led by an independent chairperson and has a membership of 12 to 15 people, at least one-third of which is to be stakeholder individuals and community-based organizations. All members, including the Chairperson, are appointed by the Minister of HCS. The membership includes representatives from the four Regional Health Authorities (RHAs), community organizations, Memorial University (MUN), volunteers, cancer survivors, and other stakeholder groups.

There are currently six vacancies on the Committee. The Independent Appointments Commission is recruiting individuals to fill these vacancies, with the aim to include a diverse cross-section of individuals with a broad range of expertise and qualifications to provide input on all aspects of cancer prevention and control.

For a list of committee members, see Annex A.

## **Funding**

Members of the Committee receive no remuneration for their service. To fulfil its mandate to provide advice to HCS on actions to advance and improve cancer prevention and control in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Committee relies on administrative, strategic and financial support from the department.

## **Mandate**

The role of the Committee is to:

- i. Advise the Minister of HCS on:
  - priorities for action;
  - monitoring progress; and,
  - the development of an evaluation plan for the Framework;
- ii. Liaise with the cancer control community nationally and provincially, including patients, survivors, advocates, and community organizations; and,
- iii. 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.

## **Annual Objective**

Nearly all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are touched by cancer at some point in their lives, if not directly as a patient, then as a relative, friend, or loved one of someone with cancer. The impacts of this disease are multiple and far reaching, affecting people of all ages, races, genders, and socio-economic backgrounds. It is a major cause of concern to the public.

For 2019, the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) estimates that Newfoundland and Labrador will have the highest incidence of cancer in Canada (with an estimated 3,800 new cases of cancer in the province). The [2019 Canadian Cancer Statistics report](#) predicts the highest cancer mortality rate in Newfoundland and Labrador, with 1,600 cancer-related deaths expected. This province is seeing an increase in the numbers of people who are developing cancer. There is a range of possible reasons for this increase such as the aging population, increased life expectancy, high rates of risk factors (e.g., inactivity, unhealthy eating, smoking and overuse of alcohol) and some genetic factors.

The first priority of the **Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control** is to, “Decrease the risk of people getting cancer.” It is known that up to four in ten cancer cases can be prevented, highlighting the important work of cancer control leadership nationally, and within our province.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has identified the following strategic directions for the 2020-23 planning cycle:

- A Better Economy;
- Healthier People;
- Better Living;
- A Bright Future; and,
- A More Efficient Public Sector.

The work of the Committee is driven by Healthier People.

**Activity: Provide advice to the Minister of Health and Community Services and the Provincial Government on issues of importance surrounding cancer prevention and control.**

With support from HCS, the Committee will liaise with cancer prevention and control partners, including cancer survivors, community groups, regional health authorities,

health care professionals, and other key stakeholders and partners, to provide advice to the Minister of HCS.

Over the next three years, the Committee will meet in-person and virtually, as required, to research, discuss and formulate advice on issues related to cancer prevention and control in Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Objective:** By March 31, 2021/2022/2023, the Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee will have provided advice to advance and improve cancer control efforts in Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Indicators 2020-23:**

- 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 or progress of select cancer control initiatives.

The above objective and indicators apply to all years covered by this Activity Plan. The Provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee will report on its progress in the respective Annual Reports for those years.

## Appendix A: Committee Membership as of March 31, 2020

Representation	Full Name	Position
Chairperson	Ms. Sharon Smith	Volunteer
Member: Central Health	Vacant	
Member: Eastern Health	Vacant	
Member: Labrador-Grenfell Health	Ms. Donnie Sampson	Vice President of Labrador-Grenfell Health
Member: Western Health	Vacant	
Delegate: Faculty of Medicine, MUN	Dr. Kara Laing	Associate Professor and Chair, Oncology
Member: Faculty of Medicine, MUN	Vacant	
Member: School of Nursing, MUN	Dr. Anne Kearney	Associate Professor
Member: Stakeholder Representative	Vacant	
Member: Stakeholder Representative	Mr. Geoff Eaton	Executive Director
Member: Stakeholder Representative	Mrs. Rosemary Hedderson	Volunteer
Member: Stakeholder Representative	Mrs. Margot Reid	Volunteer
Member: HCS	Ms. Cassie Chisholm	Director, Information Management and e-Health
Member: Health Care Provider Representative	Vacant	



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