

**Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health and Addictions
Activity Plan**

April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, I am pleased to present the 2023 – 2026 Activity Plan for the Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health and Addictions (the Recovery Council). The Recovery Council is a Category 3 Provincial Government entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act** and plans and reports under these requirements.

This Activity Plan identifies key objectives to be accomplished during the planning period in an effort to provide sound advice that will inform effective decision-making and policy development, including the voice of lived and/or living experience. In the development of this plan, careful consideration was given to the strategic directions of the Provincial Government in the area of health and community services.

As Chairperson, my signature acknowledges the Council's accountability for the preparation of this plan and for the achievement of the objectives contained herein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Bourne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. Jeff Bourne, Chairperson
Provincial Recovery Council

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Overview

The Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health and Addictions (the Recovery Council) reports to the Minister of Health and Community Services, provides the voice of lived and living experience, and advises on key mental health and addictions matters to support decision-making and policy development. The Recovery Council also provides input and oversight for the completion of all actions outlined in the five-year provincial action plans: **Our Path of Resilience: An Action Plan to Promote Life and Prevent Suicide in Newfoundland and Labrador** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan: Reducing Alcohol Harms and Costs in Newfoundland and Labrador**.

The Recovery Council was initially appointed in 2017 by the Minister of Health and Community Services, and was categorized as a Category 3 Government Entity in accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act** in 2023. The Terms of Reference for the Recovery Council were amended in April 2023 to include oversight for the implementation of the two action plans noted above. Membership of the Recovery Council is provided in Annex A below.

The work of the Recovery Council is supported and funded by the Mental Health and Addictions Division, Department of Health and Community Services.

Mandate

The Recovery Council provides input and advice on matters related to:

- Successful completion of **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan**;
- Ongoing transformation of the provincial mental health and addictions system;
- Mental health, substance use and addiction issues affecting individuals and families;
- Person-centered care, promoting the use of recovery-focused, harm reduction and inclusive approaches;
- Family and caregiver issues and perspectives;
- Peer support;
- Reducing stigma and discrimination; and
- Other priorities as they emerge.

Lines of Business

The Recovery Council provides support to the Minister of Health and Community Services in an advisory capacity. All final decisions related to provincial policies and programs rest with the Minister of Health and Community Services.

Vision

Provincial policies and programs reflect the needs of persons with lived and/or living experience as identified by the Recovery Council.

Issue

Issue Statement: Provide input and oversight for completion of all actions contained within the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan** and **Our Path of Resilience**.

On June 1, 2022, the Provincial Government released **Our Path of Resilience: An Action Plan to Promote Life and Prevent Suicide in Newfoundland and Labrador**, a five-year action plan that includes 12 targeted actions and a commitment to improve monitoring, surveillance and research aimed at reducing the incidents of suicide in Newfoundland and Labrador. The plan can be viewed [here](#). The action items focus on community mental health literacy and capacity building, as well as prevention, intervention and follow-up services for people impacted by suicide. The Recovery Council is embedded into the governance structure to provide meaningful input and oversight of the implementation of the actions. There will be regular reporting to the Advisory Council by HCS officials.

On July 5, 2022, the Provincial Government released the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan: Reducing Alcohol Harms and Costs in Newfoundland and Labrador**. The five-year action plan focuses on prevention, screening, brief intervention, referral and treatment and includes 13 actions to be completed by March 2026. The plan can be viewed [here](#). The Recovery Council is embedded into the governance structure to provide meaningful input and oversight of the implementation of the actions. There will be regular reporting to the Recovery Council by HCS officials.

Objective and Indicators

The annual objective of the Recovery Council will remain the same until all actions contained in **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan** have been implemented. Simultaneously, the Recovery Council will continue to advise the Minister of Health and Community Services on key mental health and addictions matters to formulate effective decision-making and policy development. The indicators will change annually as work progresses on the implementation of actions, and other priorities emerge.

Annual Objective

- By March 31, 2024, the Recovery Council will have provided the Minister of Health and Community Services with advice on key mental health and addictions matters to support decision-making and policy development, as well as provided input and oversight to advance work on all actions contained in **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan**.

Indicators

- Provided input on all actions completed in **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan**;
- Obtained expert and group member expertise;
- Invited community groups and other organizations to present information;
- Attended presentations on mental health and addictions policies and programs;
- Provided advice to the Minister of Health and Community Services; and
- Made recommendations on government-led mental health and addictions initiatives.

Annex A: Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health and Addictions Membership

Membership, including the chairperson and vice-chairperson, are appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services. The Recovery Council is listed in Schedule C of the Public Service Commission Act as a Tier 2 Board for the purposes of making appointments. Therefore, appointment to the Recovery Council will be made utilizing the list of recommended candidates provided by the Public Service Commission using a merit-based approach.

The Recovery Council's Terms of Reference state there will be no less than 15 members but there are currently two vacancies. Recovery Council members have diverse backgrounds, skills and experiences. Membership may bring experience from a variety of sectors; however, the primary experience most relevant to the Recovery Council includes:

- Personal lived or living experience with mental illness, substance use, and/or addictions;
- Family experience with mental illness, substance use, and/or addictions; and
- Experience with the provincial mental health and addictions system.

Name	Experience
Jeff Bourne	Chair, Community Service Provider with Lived Experience
Dr. Jason Chaulk	Co-Chair, Physician with Lived Experience
Mike Herrell	Community Service Provider with Lived Experience
Amnesty Cornelius	Lived Experience
Joanne Power	Lived Experience
Alexandra Young	Community Service Provider with Lived Experience
Margaret Noseworthy	Lived Experience
Sandra Hewitt-Parsons	Counsellor with Lived Experience
Serena Payne	Community Service Provider with Lived Experience
Harriett Ruthie Lampe	Nunatsiavut Government Employee with Lived Experience
Dustin Spurrell	Justice Background with Lived Experience
Jill Ford	Metal Health Counsellor with Labrador-Grenfell Zone, Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services
Olive Williams	Lived Experience

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