

The Dawn of Opportunity

**Annual Report
2008 - 2009**

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This document was produced solely by the Youth Advisory Committee with support from the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment

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Youth Advisory Committee ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09



Honourable Roger Fitzgerald, M.H.A.
Speaker
House of Assembly

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report for the Youth Advisory Committee which details the committee's activities from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. This report reflects the discussions the YAC has had over the past year and includes recommendations for government's consideration.

The Youth Advisory Committee has been an invaluable asset in helping government develop programs and policies which address the issues facing the youth of our province.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Sullivan
Minister
Human Resources, Labour and Employment

The Honourable Susan Sullivan, M.H.A.
Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment
3rd Floor, West Block
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Sullivan:

As members of the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), we are pleased and proud to present our seventh Annual Report to the Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment.

This year's theme "The Dawn of Opportunity" is reflective of our firm belief that opportunities exist and that our province will continue to prosper through the engagement of young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.


This has been another busy and exciting year for the committee. We:

- ✓ continued to work within our collective organizational structure, in which all members are equal participants who treat each other with respect;
- ✓ used a strategic approach to identify and address the issues facing the youth of our province;
- ✓ maintained ongoing communications with the Minister, departmental officials, government's liaison committee and organizations responsible for youth issues;
- ✓ welcomed nine new members from various parts of the province to fill the vacancies on the committee.

The YAC welcomes the opportunity to be active participants in present and future government initiatives which are directed at the province's youth. The YAC looks forward to continued contributions to our province's prosperity.

This Annual Report was prepared under the committee's direction and we are accountable for the results and any variances contained within it.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacenta Smith
Committee Member

Mandate

The YAC received authority to operate on May 17, 2001. A press conference on June 13, 2001, announced that the YAC was established because government placed greater focus on youth and was looking for ways to allow youth a stronger voice. Initially, it was created within a new department (Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education) and was part of an effort to coordinate youth services and provide youth with a single contact point. While the responsible department may change, the purpose of the YAC does not. The YAC was created to provide a forum for the “open discussion of key issues affecting the young people of Newfoundland and Labrador” and to advise the departments responsible for youth services and education on government’s youth-related policies and programs.

The YAC, through meetings, consultations, research and public and peer presentations, is fulfilling its mandate and is respected as a voice for the youth of Newfoundland and Labrador.



YAC members and mentors

Overview

The YAC is comprised of 15 youth members aged 15-29 and 4 adult mentors over the age of 29. All members and mentors are appointed by the Minister of HRLE in consultation with staff responsible for committee operations. The selection criteria include gender, regional location, ethnic representation, educational levels and other areas.

"We are staring at the dawn of a new age of opportunity and prosperity in this province and our success and transformation will be carried on the backs of all young people."

***Greg Knott, member
Norris Point***

Responsibilities for a Youth Member:

- attend all meetings (where possible);
- prepare for issues to be discussed;
- serve as a member of a sub-committee;
- participate as an equal member;
- must resign if leaving the province for more than six (6) months in a year; and
- may be granted a one-time leave of absence by the Minister for up to six (6) months.

Responsibilities for a Mentor:

- attend all meetings (where possible);
- prepare for issues to be discussed;
- serve as a member of a sub-committee;
- advise and direct the discussions and recommendations of the YAC.

The YAC does not require an audited financial statement. YAC expenditures for 2008-09 were approximately \$70,000. YAC finances are administered by HRLE and each year the YAC budget is determined by the department's budget process. Members and mentors volunteer their time and efforts. Further details can be provided by contacting the Manager of Career, Employment and Youth Services responsible for the YAC at 709-729-6890.

Each year the committee meets with the Minister responsible for youth and presents its annual report outlining its recommendations for that year. The Minister in turn tables the report in the House of Assembly. At this point, the recommendations are circulated to the respective line departments for their action and responses. Responses are sent back to the committee for review and further follow-up.

The YAC has repeatedly given solid recommendations to government. Their dedicated commitment as volunteers has heightened awareness of government's obligation to the province's youth and the policies and programs by which they are governed. The YAC continues to provide a reliable avenue for the voice of youth to be heard.

Vision

The vision of the YAC is that all youth in the province enjoy the highest level of safety and security, have a high standard of education and health and are engaged in the economic and social life of the province.

Mission

The mission of the Youth Advisory Committee represents two cycles of planning. It identifies the priority focus of the committee and includes performance measures to facilitate the evaluation of the committee's success. This area, if improved upon, will lead to a better understanding and acceptance by government of the recommendations put forth by the committee.

“By 2011, the Newfoundland and Labrador Youth Advisory Committee will have improved the comprehensiveness of the recommendations it provides to the government”



Jacenta and Adam compile committee notes and recommendations

Highlights

- ✓ The YAC identified three priority headings for 2008-2009:
 - Educational Concerns
 - Community Matters
 - Health Issues
- ✓ The YAC consulted with approximately 50 local youth from various regions of the province.
- ✓ The YAC met with the Provincial Retention and Attraction Youth Advisory Panel on two occasions.
- ✓ The YAC consulted with 18 government officials.
- ✓ Two members of the YAC were appointed to government's Retention and Attraction Youth Advisory Panel.
- ✓ The YAC received peer presentations from seven groups.
- ✓ The YAC met with nine agencies and organizations.
- ✓ The YAC held seven meetings in different communities of the province.
- ✓ Nine new members were appointed during the 2008-09 year from various parts of the province replacing those whose terms had expired.
- ✓ Two members participated as facilitators for the Province's Retention and Attraction Strategy's consultation process.



A committee meeting on the west coast of the province

"I am quite honoured to become a member of the Youth Advisory Committee. Being from rural Newfoundland, I understand the barriers that we face living in such a remote area. To become a voice for youth in this region is something that I am extremely proud of and something that I wish to pursue for a long time."

***Danielle Parrott, member
Harbour Breton***

Report of Performance 2008-09

The YAC has continued to contribute to the strategic direction of the Department, particularly around youth leadership development, policy development and community participation. Through youth leadership the committee has taken the lead in encouraging youth to be vocal around issues affecting them. The committee has contributed significantly in policy development through the outlined recommendations in its annual report. The committee also consults with line departments on the development of youth policy. In the area of community participation, the committee has held numerous roundtable discussions with both youth and adult stakeholders in its efforts to encourage increased community participation.

The YAC Activity Plan for 2008-11 identified two key objectives which represent the focus of the committee and include performance measurement information (ie: measures and indicators) to assist the committee and government in monitoring and evaluating success. The committee was successful in meeting its objective to enhance its consultation process. The committee decided to redesign the website to make it more user-friendly and will be reporting on the outcome in the 2009-10 report.

The following objectives apply to the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 fiscal years and will be reported on in the relevant annual reports:

Issue 1: Consultations

The Youth Advisory Committee has endeavoured to improve the consultative process with public stakeholders in an effort to increase the number of individuals and groups consulted and to widen the diversity of those who participate in the consultation process (i.e. geographics, special interests, age, gender). It is felt that by broadening the range of participants in this process, the information gathered will enhance the recommendations put forward by the committee to government related to youth policy and programming.

Objective: The YAC will have continued to enhance its consultation process with various public stakeholders.

Measure: Enhanced public consultation process.

Planned for 2008-09	Actual for 2008-09
Increased the number of roundtable consultations	During the 2008-09 year, the Youth Advisory Committee met seven (7) times in different locations throughout the province. Over the course of these meetings, the committee consulted with four (4) stakeholder groups including 37 participants along with the Province's Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy's Youth Advisory Panel—an increase of 100% compared to 2007-08 when the committee met with two (2) stakeholder groups including 17 participants. As a result of these increased consultations, the committee was better informed when formulating its recommendations to government.
Planned for 2009-10	
A. Increased number of roundtable consultations B. Increased the number of participants in each roundtable consultation	

Issue 2: Website

The Youth Advisory Committee realizes that the use of the committee's website is a valuable tool in both distributing and receiving pertinent information relevant to youth issues and policies. With the geographic challenges within our province, the YAC endorses the fact that web-based technology will have to serve as its most acceptable tool for engaging youth from all areas of the province.

Objective: The YAC will have modified its website to be more user-friendly and interactive, which will give more access to YAC-related information to the general public.

Measure: Enhanced user friendliness.

Planned for 2008-09	Actual for 2008-09
<p>Increased the number of issues-related postings.</p>	<p>During 2008-09, the YAC decided to do a total revamping of the website because the current design didn't reflect the most modern website technology. This view was further supported in a joint meeting with the YAC and the Youth Advisory Panel of the Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy.</p> <p>The YAC's decision to redesign the website meant that it was inactive for most of the year and as a result, issue postings were not measured and the planned results were not met.</p> <p>In recognition of improvements in technology related to social networking, the YAC is working with the Office of the Chief Information Officer to develop new ways of distributing and receiving information pertinent to youth through the revamped website. Once the redesigned website is operational next fiscal year the website will be more user-friendly and usage will be measured.</p>
Planned for 2009-10	
<p>Redesigned the Youth Advisory Committee's website and have it operational</p>	



Susan and Brittany listen to committee discussions

Achieving Our Mandate

Throughout this past year, we were able to continue to discuss youth-related issues and to advise the Minister on possible changes in provincial programs and policies. Previous Annual Reports have made many suggestions and, through this Annual Report, we hope to continue seeing positive changes in the provincial programs and policies that affect young people in Newfoundland and Labrador.

In order to address the issues we feel are important, we focus on three main categories of issues per year. In 2007-08, we focused on three categories: *Education, Labour Standards and Health*. In 2008-09, our three strategic categories are: Educational Concerns, Community Matters and Health Issues.

Educational Concerns

Under this category the committee put forward recommendations that range from academic-related issues to supportive services or programs that enhance academic success. A fair portion of the discussions directly centered around the need to re-evaluate the curriculum of some courses and better define some others. There was also a consensus that there must be an awareness that while the Student Aid process has improved immensely, there are still some areas where improvements can be made.

Community Matters

Under this category the committee discussed issues related to improving the lives of the youth in various parts of the province, particularly as it relates to participation and access to additional services or information. The committee feels there is room to expand access to services and information for youth by utilizing existing assets within the surrounding communities. It was also felt that some government policies, while not directly targeting youth could have a negative effect on community youth engagement if not recognized and discussed.

Health Issues

Under this category the committee applauds government on their approach to various health issues, particularly as they relate to lifestyles such as tobacco, alcohol, drug use and healthy choices. The committee does, however, feel there is much more that could be done to continuously improve the status related to abuse by youth in the pre-mentioned areas. It further feels there are strategies which need to be developed to address other high risk lifestyles facing youth.

The information collected is based on consultations with various persons and agencies and the committee has suggested realistic options for consideration by the provincial government.

Recommendations

The Youth Advisory Committee has developed the following series of recommendations based on its deliberations and activities over the past year:

Educational Concerns:

The Youth Advisory Committee:

1. Recommends that government revisit extracurricular transportation for the youth of this province. Students in this province are experiencing a barrier to access their schools for extracurricular activities. The YAC would like to see government take a leading role in helping the youth of this province avail of various school resources during after-school hours.
2. Recommends that the Career Exploration course be re-evaluated to ensure the course is both effective and beneficial as a life course for the youth of this province. The YAC feels that the course is not effectively preparing our youth for post-secondary education and this course is falling short of its capabilities.
3. Recommends that financial management skills be provided in the current Career Exploration course. Leaving secondary schooling presents youth with tasks related to budgeting, financial planning and proper time management; all which we feel should be included in this secondary school course.
4. Recommends that government legislate school grounds smoke free. While some of our school districts have taken the initiative to make their school grounds smoke free, the committee feels government should make the point of legislating it and ensuring all youth attend smoke free school grounds.
5. Recognizes there is a need in this province for an online database to store all scholarship information. The youth of this province are unaware of where to go or who to speak with to find information on scholarships that pertain to their educational choices. We feel an online database that is regularly updated with scholarship information would ensure that these scholarships are availed of by the youth of this province.
6. Recommends that following the report released from the Dominion Institute of Canada, government should re-evaluate the Canadian History requirements for high school graduation. Rating the lowest among Canadian provinces is disgraceful and the youth of this province deserve a proper education on the history of Canada.
7. Recommends that tuition vouchers have flexibility to pay more than tuition. Post-secondary education requires many different supports, whether it is electronic

aids, transportation requirements, etc., and these vouchers should be expanded to become educational support vouchers and not simply tuition vouchers.

8. Applauds government on eliminating interest on provincial student borrowing and looks forward to monitoring the progression of alleviating student debt.
9. Recommends that government address student debt carried by individuals who have graduated from post-secondary education. While recent initiatives have benefited current students, the committee feels a large number of the province's youth are unable to become financially independent due to post-secondary debt.
10. Recommends that the province lobby the federal government to take steps to follow provincial government's initiatives on lowering student debt.
11. Recommends that seats for publicly funded post-secondary institutions be more aligned with the marketplace demand. To ensure youth of this province complete their education and obtain secure employment, government should continue to take an active role in regulating post-secondary education. The committee also feels that this recommendation encourages a proactive approach to filling the marketplace.
12. Recommends that government provide post-secondary and secondary institutions with the necessary funding to address the infrastructure deficit. The committee feels infrastructure is an important part of attraction and recruitment. Improved infrastructure will also provide a better learning environment for students.
13. Applauds government on the addition of Newfoundland culture in the current junior high curriculum. However, the committee feels there should be more emphasis on Newfoundland history.

Community Matters:

The Youth Advisory Committee:

14. Recommends that government allow public access to schools after regular school hours. In the YAC annual report 2004-2005 the committee suggested schools be available to the general public after regular school hours. While we applaud government in developing the Community Use of Schools policy, it is often still left to school administrators to say yes to extracurricular activities in their school. We feel this is not fair to the youth of the province where administrators are not cooperative.
15. Recommends that government review the impact of increased costs associated with the provincial waste management strategy. These costs may hinder a municipality's ability to continue to provide social programs, such as youth

recreation. Government has the responsibility to ensure these programs are not negatively affected by increased costs.

16. Recommends that government change the legal hunting age from 18 to 14. This change would have Newfoundland and Labrador coincide with other jurisdictions across North America and would also encourage cultural tradition that has existed within the province for centuries.
17. Recommends that hunters aged 14 to 16 partake in a mentorship program that requires them to hunt with an experienced hunter (i.e. 5 years experience). This action would encourage safe and meaningful practice during beginning years for new hunters.
18. Applauds government for the establishment of the Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism and the move toward a more multicultural society in this province. We encourage government to develop a strategy with support for partners who work directly with youth so as to engage both new youth and existing youth to better understand their cultural differences and similarities.
19. Supports the Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy and advises that government move forward to approve its recommendations. The YAC also looks forward to communication and collaboration with that committee to better the life of the youth in Newfoundland and Labrador.
20. Recommends that there be a continued push towards turning our society into an ecologically friendly one. The committee further recommends there be a comprehensive province-wide recycling program.

Health Issues:

The Youth Advisory Committee:

21. Recommends that a task force be developed in this province for victims of sexual exploitation and crisis intervention. A team of professionals encompassing the fields of health, justice, and social welfare should be established to address the concerns, both mental and physical, these victims face following a crisis.
22. Recommends once again that the consumption of tobacco by youth under the age of 19 be illegal. While this is the case for alcohol, it is still not the case for tobacco.
23. Recommends that government develop an educational awareness campaign on eating disorders. The goal of this campaign would be to aid in prevention, early diagnoses and intervention of eating disorders among youth in this province.

Opportunities and Challenges

The Youth Advisory Committee faces many opportunities and challenges as a volunteer-based youth committee.

There are increasing opportunities for the Youth Advisory Committee to influence government's decisions on programs and services for youth.

- The provincial government can consult on a broader basis with the YAC on youth-related issues given that our committee is the official voice of youth to the government.
- With six previous reports tabled, the committee has established itself as a credible entity within and outside government as it relates to youth issues.
- With a growing acceptance by government and society of the need to include the youth of our province in the decision-making process, the young people play an increasing role in shaping the future of the province.

Some of the challenges include:

- Being cognizant of the many diverse groups of youth in our province (eg. age, demographics, geography, education levels and special interests), it is difficult to always get a true representation at the table at any one time.
- As the desire increases to have the Youth Advisory Committee advise government on more new initiatives, the demands on the committee are increasing.
- With the increased commitment to education and employment by the committee members, it is becoming harder to have all members of the committee attend a majority of meetings, thus, at times decreasing the input from many sectors.
- With the increased out-migration in rural areas, it is at times a challenge to get interested and committed youth to serve on a voluntary board with the demands that this committee has.

Our brightest young minds will continue to make us all proud of their contribution to our province—it is our most vulnerable at-risk youth who we must do more to protect and support.

**Brian Hudson, member
St. John's**

Conclusion

The Youth Advisory Committee has worked diligently with the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment as well as other government departments and agencies involved in youth programs and policies in the preparation of our last six annual reports. Through this cooperation, we strive to develop recommendations that will create positive opportunities for the youth of our province. The contribution of the Youth Advisory Committee would not be possible without the help and support of the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment as well as the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The completion of our seventh annual report represents hard work, dedication, and commitment. We are both pleased and proud to present this document to the Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment.

The Youth Advisory Committee would like to thank the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for acknowledging, contributing to, and implementing our recommendations as well as supporting our endeavours. The members of the committee look forward to discussing the recommendations in the report as well as tackling new challenges facing youth of this province.



Brian explains a community concern to the committee

The Youth Advisory Committee would sincerely like to thank the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment for the opportunity to represent youth on such a unique and worthwhile committee. Because of the department's support, we have a voice in much of the positive changes for youth in our province. It is truly an honour to work with other youth who have such a passion and a sense of duty to fellow youth in our province.

2008-09 Youth Advisory Committee

Appendix A: Terms of Reference

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SPONSORING DEPARTMENT:

Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment

STRUCTURE:

- fifteen youth members and four adult mentors
- youth members are between the ages of 15-29 years
- adult mentors are 29 years and above
- no less than two-third youth members and at least one adult mentor will constitute a quorum for a committee meeting

DURATION OF APPOINTMENT:

The term of youth members will consist of two- or three-year terms. Ten members of the committee will serve for three years and five members will serve for two years.

The term of adult mentors will consist of two mentors serving for three years and two mentors serving for two years.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS:

All youth members and adult mentors are appointed by the Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment in consultation with staff responsible for the operations of the committee.

The selection of replacement members will be cognizant of many issues, including gender, regional location, ethnic representation and other.

REQUIREMENT OF MEMBERS:

All youth members and adult mentors must make an effort to attend all Youth Advisory Committee meetings and do the necessary preparation for each meeting.

REMOVAL OF MEMBERS:

If a member misses three consecutive meetings without notifying the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment staff representative regarding their inability to attend, the member may be replaced.

RESPONSIBILITY OF YOUTH MEMBERS:

1. attend all meetings (where possible)
2. prepare for issues to be discussed
3. serve as a member of a sub-committee
4. participate as an equal member
5. a member leaving the province for more than six months per year must resign their position

6. a one-time leave of absence may be granted for up to six months by the Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment

RESPONSIBILITY OF MENTORS:

1. attend all meetings (where possible)
2. prepare for issues to be discussed
3. serve as a member of a sub-committee
4. advise and direct the discussions and recommendations of the committee as a member

MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Youth Advisory Committee's philosophy is that participation should be a learning experience whereby every member is given an equal opportunity in:

Chairing of all meetings will be the responsibility of members, both youth and adults, in the host region for the meeting. The chair structure should be decided during the previous meeting.

Recording of discussions is the responsibility of the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment staff representative at the meeting.

Preparation of the agenda is the responsibility of the member(s) from the next host region with the support from the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment staff representative.

Summary of each meeting will be compiled and distributed by the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment no longer than one month after a meeting.

Information pertaining to the next meeting will be distributed through the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment two weeks prior to the next meeting date.

Travel arrangements and accommodations will be coordinated through the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment.

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT:

- The annual report will follow the standard structure for an annual report.
- The completion of the report will be a reflection of the minutes from the Youth Advisory Committee, along with direct recommendations and general discussions.
- The format for the presentation of the annual report and the exact content of the report will be designed by a sub-committee of the committee in conjunction with the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment staff.

Appendix B: Member/Mentor Biographies

Erika Breen, St. John's

Erika graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland with a Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons.) in May 2009. She is on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association of Newfoundland and Labrador as well as the Chairperson for the Youth Group. In addition, she serves on various CHHA National Committees. Past achievements include: Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association Young Adult Award of Excellence, and numerous local scholarships.

Robyn Frampton, Carbonear

Robyn graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Bachelor of Arts, Communications (Honours) in April 2002 and has since been employed with the Regional Economic Development Board (REDB), Mariner Resource Opportunities Network Inc. (M-RON Inc.) as a Youth Career Coach. Robyn is an active volunteer and is involved with such organizations as The SPLASH Centre (Community Youth Network, Harbour Grace).

Jacenta Smith, Raleigh

Jacenta graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland with a Bachelor of Nursing in May 2007. She is currently working as a registered nurse with Eastern Health. Previous volunteer activities include being a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Youth Advisory Committee, as well as a member of the 774 Air Cadet Squadron within the Royal Canadian Air Cadet League of Canada.

Adam Vickers, Corner Brook

Currently completing his third year at Memorial University, Adam is pursuing an undergraduate in Political Science with aspirations of attending law school in the future. He is the past treasurer for the Western Youth Progressive Conservatives and plans to be further involved in politics now that he lives in St. John's. As a very active person, Adam enjoys working out at the gym, jogging, hiking and swimming. His competitive spirit has led him to set his sight on completing an Iron Man Race one day. He looks forward to continuing his role as a member of the Youth Advisory Committee and working with the youth of the province.

Brian Hudson, St. John's

Brian, a young entrepreneur and community activist, was born and raised in Logy Bay. He now calls St. John's home. He studied at St. Francis of Assisi, Gonzaga High School and Memorial University. In the 2001 municipal elections Brian was elected to the municipal council of Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove at the age of 18. In May 2005 he was awarded the Newfoundland and Labrador Youth of the Year Award and scholarship from FINALLY! (Futures in Newfoundland and Labrador's Youth). Brian is involved at the board level with a number of community organizations and currently works within the federal government.

Gregory Knott, Norris Point

Greg is from Norris Point in the heart of Gros Morne National Park. He is a graduate of Memorial University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and History. Greg also has a journalism diploma from the College of the North Atlantic. He has a number of interests in youth issues including post-secondary education, rural growth and health and recreation activities.

Kara Snow, St. Anthony

Kara is currently studying a Bachelor of Business Administration through Distance Education at Memorial University from her hometown in St. Anthony. Kara has always been an active volunteer in her community and is very passionate about keeping youth in rural Newfoundland. Along with YAC, Kara is also involved with the Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy Youth Advisory Panel, the Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat, and her local Boys and Girls Club.

Juliette Dupré, St. Lawrence

Juliette attended high school at St. Lawrence Academy, in St. Lawrence on the Burin Peninsula. Actively involved in numerous volunteer pursuits and youth programs, including Allied Youth, the Sea Cadet Movement, and The Duke of Edinburgh, Juliette has always been passionate about advancing the standing of youth in her community and province. Juliette recently received a full scholarship to attend Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific in British Columbia where she is currently studying the International Baccalaureate. Juliette looks forward to returning to Newfoundland when her IB is completed. She has been a member of the NLYAC since 2006.

Sarah Bursey, Deer Lake

Sarah is a 19 year old first-year university student currently living in Corner Brook attending Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. Originally from Deer Lake, Sarah hopes to graduate with a bachelor of nursing in 2011. At SWGC, she is involved in residence council and volunteers at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital. In high school, Sarah co-chaired the school's wellness committee, as well as founded TROY (Tobacco Reduction Operation by Youth), sponsored by Health Canada. She was also yearbook editor, a member of student council executive and a volunteer with the Canadian Red Cross.

Danielle Parrott, Harbour Breton

Danielle, 25, is an active member in her community of Harbour Breton. She is currently employed by the Harbour Breton Community Youth Network working as an Information Outreach Coordinator, promoting youth employment programs and services offered through the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment. She is also an active volunteer within the Youth Network, the Kid's Eat Smart Breakfast Program, Canadian Cancer Society Committee Member, Secretary for FINALLY!, Junior Achievement Mentor and a Youth Mentor. In her spare time she loves to scrapbook, spend time with friends and travel. She is a very proud member of the Youth Advisory Committee and is looking forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

Brittany Tibbo, Holyrood

Brittany, 19, is a second year student at Memorial University studying psychology and business. She has always been an active member of her hometown, starting the first Holyrood Youth Council in 2005 and volunteering in other capacities throughout the community. She is currently heavily involved with Student Services at Memorial University, volunteering as an Orientation Assistant and with other leadership programs. Brittany also served three years as Eastern Representative of the Provincial Youth Council with Futures in Newfoundland and Labrador's Youth (FIINALY!).

Colin Corcoran, Riverhead

Colin is 20 years old and from Riverhead, St. Mary's Bay. He is completing his third year at Memorial University where he is pursuing a double major in Business Commerce and Political Science. He plans on continuing to do a Masters in Political Science or Law. Colin has been working closely with the Voluntary and Non-Profit Secretariat as an intern and now a consultant regarding the needs of the sector within government. While not studying or working, he is an active volunteer in such organizations as the Newfoundland and Labrador Youth Parliament and Memorial University of Newfoundland Students Union. This is Colin's first term with NLYAC.

Jim Davis, Stephenville (Mentor)

Jim has worked in the public college system for over thirty years as an instructor, project leader, campus administrator, and provincial program development co-ordinator. He has been involved with all aspects of curriculum development and has participated in many projects of various dimensions. His volunteer involvements have seen him participating and leading at many local, regional, provincial, and national levels with both youth and adult organizations. He currently administers an ABE school at a correctional centre where many youth are incarcerated.

Kathleen Ward, Gambo (Mentor)

Kathleen has worked with youth and young adults for many years as an instructor, program coordinator, and employment counselor. Her volunteer involvements have included work on local education committees, school councils, and the local district school board. She also has worked on provincial community inclusion projects. Kathleen lives in Gambo and her hobbies include writing and painting.

Carol Ruby, Portugal Cove-St. Philips (Mentor)

Carol has spent her career working with young people beginning as a grade two teacher in rural Newfoundland. She then moved to teaching young adults and progressed into public administration within the federal and provincial governments. The highlight of Carol's career was her appointment as an ADM for a Youth Services Branch in the Dept. of Youth Services and Post -secondary Education and then in the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment. Carol retired two years ago, leaving a job she loved. Today she remains committed to our province's youth and thoroughly enjoys being a YAC mentor.

Vernon Curran, St. John's (Mentor)

Vernon is Director of Academic Research and Development and Associate Professor of Medical Education with the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University. He also holds a cross appointment with the Faculty of Education and instructs in both undergraduate and graduate degree programs in adult education and post-secondary studies. He has past work experience in the youth outreach, career, employment and recreation fields having worked with Trinity Conception Community Futures, Brother T.I. Murphy Centre, YM-YWCA and the Department of Recreation of the City of St. John's.

There are a number of members who have left due to their terms being completed or who have left the province for education or employment reasons. We would like to thank them for their invaluable input into this report and previous reports in advising government on programs and services to improve the lives of the youth of our province.

Appendix C: List of Persons/Agencies Consulted

Person/Agency Consulted	Topic(s) Covered
Minister Shawn Skinner, Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Overview of NLYAC
Ms. Rhonda Tulk Lane, Retention and Attraction Strategy, Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Retention and Attraction consultation process update
Ms. Janet Short, Manager of Client Services, Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Regional Information Career Resource Officers' responsibilities within the school system
Mr. Geoff Chalk, Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association, Newfoundland Branch	Canadian Mental Health Youth Proposal
Mr. Jim Paul, Guidance Counsellor, Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI)	CDLI programs and orientation for students – update from previous report
Ms. Julie Moore, Director, Student Loans Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador, Department of Education	Discussion on Student Aid Reform and programs and services presently being offered
Mr. Vince Withers, Chair, Eating Disorders Association of Newfoundland and Labrador	Presentation on present situation regarding eating disorders among young people in the province
Ms. Aisling Gogan and Ms. Melodie Kelly, Poverty Reduction Strategy, Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment	Poverty Reduction presentation and round table discussion
Mr. Kevin Coady, Executive Director, Alliance for the Control of Tobacco	Presentation and discussion related to present statistics on tobacco use by youth
Mr. Bruce Cooper, Assistant Deputy Minister, Inter-departmental Committee on Minimum Wage	Roundtable discussion on minimum wage increases and effects on youth and their lifestyles
Mr. Blaine Edwards, Senior Privacy Analyst, Department of Justice	Government Privacy Overview
Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy Youth Advisory Panel	Discussion between the Youth Advisory Panel and the YAC regarding the recommendations by the committee related to the Retention and Attraction Strategy
Angela Crockwell, Coordinator, CYN St. John's and guests	Street Reach and other CYN initiatives

Appendix D: Newfoundland & Labrador Fact Sheet

Provincial Youth Population (15-24 years)	62,400
% of Total Population (15 & over)	14.6%
Net Migration:	
15 - 19 years	-270
20 - 24 years	-1393
25 - 29 years	+214
Paid Labour Force (15 years and above)	253,800
Youth Labour Force (15-24 years)	34,800 (13.7%)
Provincial Employment %	51.7%
Youth Employment %	44.9%
Provincial Unemployment %	13.2%
Youth Unemployment %	19.3%
% of Provincial Income Support Clients (15-29 years)	20%
% of Youth in School (15-19 years)	62.3%
High School Drop-out Rate (15-19 years)	9.3%
Average Tuition (per year)	\$2,606.00
Average Student Debt	\$20,400.00
Post Secondary Completion:	
Memorial University of Newfoundland	80%
College of the North Atlantic	
1-2 Year Programs	73%
3 Year Programs	65%
Youth Crime per 1000 youth (15-24 years)	35.7
Teen Pregnancy per 1000 women (15-19 years)	31.9
Induced Abortions per 1000 women (15-19 years):	
Total	7.5
Hospital	2.9
Clinic	4.6
Attempted Youth Suicides per 1000 youth (15-19 years)	31
% of Youth Dealing with a Mental Health issue (12-24 years)	20%

Source: *Community Accounts – Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency*