



Soaring to New Heights



**Annual Report
2009-10**

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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 2009-10



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, 2009 to March 31, 2010. This report reflects the discussions the YAC has had over the past year and includes recommendations for the Provincial Government's consideration.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Susan Sullivan'.

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
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Dear Minister Sullivan:

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

This year's theme "Soaring to New Heights" 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.

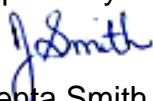
This has been another busy and exciting year for the committee. We:

- ✓ 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, the Provincial Government's liaison committee and organizations responsible for youth issues;
- ✓ continued to work closely with the Provincial Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy staff and committee

The YAC welcomes the opportunity to be active participants in present and future Provincial 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 the Provincial 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 the Provincial 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 present the 2008-09 Annual Report to HRLE’s
Parliamentary Secretary, MHA Keith Hutchings**

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.

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 2009-10 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 the Provincial Government. Their dedicated commitment as volunteers has heightened awareness of the Provincial 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.

"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**

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 the Provincial 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"



Committee member Kara Snow of St. Anthony presents information to committee

Highlights

- ✓ The YAC identified three priority headings for 2009-10:
 - Health
 - Education
 - Employment
- ✓ The YAC consulted with approximately 65 local youth from various regions of the province.
- ✓ The YAC met with the Provincial Youth Retention and Attraction Youth Advisory Panel on two occasions.
- ✓ The YAC consulted with 16 government officials.
- ✓ Two members of the YAC remained members of the Provincial Government's Youth Retention and Attraction Youth Advisory Panel.
- ✓ The YAC received peer presentations from five groups.
- ✓ The YAC met with seven agencies and organizations.
- ✓ The YAC held eight meetings in different communities of the province.
- ✓ Eight members are presently members of the Youth Leadership Team for the Province's Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy's Youth Forum.



The committee discussed youth-related issues

"Being part of the YAC is both eye opening and rewarding. By listening to the experiences of youth from all over the province, I can see the issues from different angles, which is an amazing experience."

Erika Breen
St. John's

Report of Performance 2009-10

The YAC has continued to contribute to the youth strategic direction of the Department, particularly around the focus areas of 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.



Committee members Danielle Parrott of Harbour Breton and Victoria Ralph of Carbonear take notes regarding the Career Development Partnership Initiative

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 the Provincial Government in monitoring and evaluating success.

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 the Provincial 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 2009-10	Actual for 2009-10
A. Increased the number of roundtable consultations	During the 2009-10 year, the Youth Advisory Committee held seven (7) roundtable consultations in different locations throughout the province compared with 2008-09 when the committee held four (4) roundtable consultations; a 75% increase.
B. Increased the number of participants in each roundtable consultation	<p>Notwithstanding the wording of the indicator, it was not the committee's intention to focus on the number of participants at each consultation but rather to increase overall participation of youth in roundtable consultations.</p> <p>As a result, we can report that the committee met with 65 participants at the seven (7) roundtables along with the Province's Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy's Youth Advisory Panel; compared to 2008-09 when the committee met with 37 participants at the four (4) roundtable consultations held.</p>
Planned for 2010-11	
<p>A. Increased number of roundtable consultations</p> <p>B. Increased the number of participants consulted</p>	

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: Website modified.

Planned for 2009-10	Actual for 2009-10
<p>Redesigned the Youth Advisory Committee's website and have it operational</p>	<p>Unfortunately, the YAC did not complete the redesign of the website in 2009-10. While initial work was started, it was determined that the dedicated resources to complete the task were not available.</p> <p>Subsequently, it was determined that it would be a better utilization of resources to work with the soon to be established Office of Youth Engagement to develop a web-based platform for youth.</p>
Planned for 2010-11	
<p>Partnered with the Office of Youth Engagement to develop a youth portal (website)</p>	

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 2008-09, we focused on three categories: *Educational Concerns, Community Matters and Health Issues*. In 2009-10, our three strategic categories are: Health, Education and Employment.

Health

Above all else, the Youth Advisory Committee realizes that the health of the provinces' youth is its number one concern. The committee has always stressed the importance of physical health and has recently begun identifying the importance of mental health – as seen in the recommendations. Mental health is an area that must be focused on during the early stages of life. Youth who have strong mental health will deal with the difficulties that coincide with becoming an adult with greater success. It is for this reason that investments in our youth today will no doubt bring greater returns in the years to come.



HRLE Parliamentary Secretary, MHA Keith Hutchings, discusses youth issues with YAC member Adam Vickers of Corner Brook

Education

In much of Newfoundland and Labrador – especially rural areas – the school represents the heart of the community. It is the centerpiece of recreation, sports, extra-curricular activities, fundraising and community involvement. The Youth Advisory Committee is dedicated to ensuring the Provincial Government make the most out of their investments in community schools by allowing open access and continual use of existing facilities. Not only does the Committee focus on equal access to schools but also ensuring equal access to programs for students with disabilities. As well, the YAC looks towards the Provincial Government to help promote and advance civic involvement by young people in their communities and in the democratic process. This includes educating youth about the importance of voting and supporting the work the Volunteer and Non-Profit sector performs in our communities.

Employment

Increasing numbers of youth are advancing their education every year by entering into post-secondary institutions. These students are dependent on summer jobs to provide work experience and income to help support themselves for the next school year. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is one of the largest student employers in the province. The Committee feels that a review of summer student placements should be conducted to look at job advertising, hiring processes, work descriptions, and duration of employment to name a few. The YAC feels that the Provincial Government can improve on many of these issues which will positively contribute to the public services' image as a preferred employer. As well, the committee would like to stress the importance of the Volunteer and Non-Profit sector in providing services and employment opportunities in the province for youth.

Recommendations

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

Health:

- 1) The Youth Advisory Committee recommends a review of mental health services, particularly store front services providing psychiatric assessment. The committee feels psychiatric assessments should be provided in each health authority in the province as opposed to only being offered by Eastern Health. Assessments are a crucial first step for mental health patients and having them uprooted from their family supports to travel to Eastern Health is not effective or helpful in their healing process.
- 2) The Youth Advisory Committee recommends a complete review of all provincial buildings to ensure they have the equipment needed to accommodate those with physical disabilities. The committee was disappointed to discover that not all buildings are equipped with adaptations for the hard of hearing, loss of sight or wheelchair impaired.
- 3) The Youth Advisory Committee recommends that the Provincial Government complete the intended task of legislating smoking in cars with children illegal. As the legislative body, the committee feels the Provincial Government has a responsibility to complete the necessary steps to make this action law.
- 4) The Youth Advisory Committee supports Roots of Empathy in its efforts to educate school aged children on emotions and behaviour as taught through the stages of babies first year. As seen by its rapid growth, the committee recommends that the Provincial include the Roots of Empathy as a school program, giving it the consistency of yearly funding that it requires to run its program throughout the province.
- 5) The Youth Advisory Committee further recommends that Roots of Empathy become a regular chapter during a school child's education of health. The committee feels that this program should be included twice during the child's education, first as an elementary student and again as a high school student.
- 6) The Youth Advisory Committee recommends that the Provincial Government legislate the wearing of helmets while bicycling. Many other provinces in Canada have legislated this act and Newfoundland and Labrador should follow suit to ensure the health and safety of our youth, by legislating that youth 18 years and under wear helmets at all times while bicycling.

Education:

- 7) In our annual reports of 2004-05 and 2008-09, the Youth Advisory Committee recommended that the Provincial Government allow public access to schools. The committee continues to discover that many schools are still not accessible to the community. The Department of Education replied that a follow up would attempt to identify any barriers to public access. As well, a discussion regarding the implementation of a Sports and Recreation Strategy with the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation would provide resolution of this issue. The committee would like further action taken to see schools become accessible in every way to the public. With many school closures, rural communities are losing their hubs to gather for sports, activities, and community events. The committee feels that this could easily be fixed by making the schools a community asset, whether used for schooling or not.
- 8) The Youth Advisory Committee recognizes the need to relocate students from the School of the Deaf into mainstream schools. We also recognize the need for supports and equipment to make this transition a smooth one. The committee recommends that proper efforts and infrastructure be in place to make this change successful.
- 9) The Youth Advisory Committee applauds the Provincial Government on its Make Your Mark Campaign in 2009; however the committee feels that further efforts need to be taken to encourage youth to vote. The committee recommends that the Provincial Government revisit ways to help youth across the province place their vote. The committee suggests breaking barriers presented by accessibility to voting stations by introducing clearer information on the methods available to vote. As well, more youth participation at polling stations to give youth a face in the political process.
- 10) The Youth Advisory Committee recommends changing the mandate for Elections Newfoundland and Labrador to include efforts to get the people of this province to vote. The Provincial Government mandates should reflect its people, and more than just the process of voting. Its mandate should include encouraging and supporting the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to vote.
- 11) The Youth Advisory Committee recommends that the Provincial Government provide funding to youth organizations, voluntary and non-profit groups to provide information and education on voting and the political process. The Committee feels that a lack of education is the key component of the poor youth turn out during elections, and providing information through their current outlets is a great way to educate our youth to engage in active citizenship.
- 12) The Youth Advisory Committee continues to wait on information from the Provincial Government regarding a proposal on extra curricular bussing as stated

in a reply from one of our previous recommendations. The committee feels that after school bussing remains an important issue and a strong barrier preventing our youth from engaging in extracurricular activities.

- 13) The Youth Advisory Committee recommends that the Provincial Government bring back Global Studies as an available course in Newfoundland and Labrador's education curriculum. The committee supports the Global Education Initiative in its efforts to promote global citizenship, encouraging the interaction and participation of Newfoundland and Labrador's youth.
- 14) The Youth Advisory Committee recommends that the Provincial Government explore other options of grading public exams. The committee has discovered that numerous students have been negatively affected by using the bell curve to grade public exams, thereby affecting their transition into post secondary education and subsequently career choices.
- 15) The Youth Advisory Committee suggests that public exams grade more than their students. The committee feels strongly that these exams have the ability to assess teaching methods and perhaps highlight areas where teaching methods are not working. The Provincial Government should explore these possibilities as a positive venue to change teaching methods and therefore the quality of youth education.
- 16) The Youth Advisory Committee recommends that the Provincial Government explore the return of Books by Mail as a new online ordering library. As many provincial libraries see very little activity, an online library that provides free shipping of books as opposed to the storefront cost of maintaining many libraries, this change could be very cost saving. This new online library could also eliminate the barrier of requiring transportation to nearby communities when libraries are not available.
- 17) While the Youth Advisory Committee agrees that advances in technology can assist those with hearing loss, we would like to emphasize that the hard of hearing and deaf require various supports in addition to technology resources. We are concerned that these supports will be limited and difficult to attain as the needs of persons with hearing loss are individual and vary significantly. Therefore we recommend educational supports be enhanced and delivered on a timely basis to support these students both within the K-12 system and beyond.

Employment:

- 18) The Youth Advisory Committee feels that some student summer placements within the Provincial Government are not essential. A review implemented by the Office of Youth Engagement could be performed to ensure that jobs are both necessary and fulfilling.

- 19) The Youth Advisory Committee recommends that any Provincial Government student summer placements that are not essential be reallocated to non-profit and municipal sectors.
- 20) The Youth Advisory Committee applauds the Provincial Government on the Hiring Apprenticeship Program, but feels there are still barriers for students who require work experience to complete their education. An investigation should commence to determine what barriers exist, and provide the supports needed to make this service valuable to both the employer and student.
- 21) The Youth Advisory Committee recommends that all Provincial Government paid/supported student summer placements include free training for courses that pertain to their employment. Courses such as First Aid, Basic Cardiac Life Saving, Occupational Health & Safety and office management are just some of many courses that should be available to improve a student's workplace experience.
- 22) The Youth Advisory Committee has been informed that there are a lack of summer placements for level I and II students. As some placements include criteria for enrolment in post secondary, the committee recommends changing these criteria to better provide employment to Newfoundland and Labrador's youth.
- 23) The Youth Advisory Committee applauds the Voluntary Non-Profit Secretariat "Who Cares" campaign, and its efforts to sustain employment in their sector. The committee recommends that further efforts, such as providing long term funding and benefits to these organizations could have a positive effect on their employees, as well as consistency in running their programs. These changes could remain coupled by yearly reports to determine their efficacy of long term funding.



Committee member Greg Knott of Norris Point and adult mentor Kathleen Ward of Gambo listen to presenter on Alternative Schools

Conclusion

The Youth Advisory Committee has worked diligently with the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment as well as other Provincial Government departments and agencies involved in youth programs and policies in the preparation of our last seven 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 eighth 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.



Committee members Colin Corcoran of Riverhead, St. Mary's Bay, and Kara Snow of St. Anthony review government's response to 2008-09 report

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.

2009-10 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

Entering into her first year of law at University of New Brunswick, Erika graduated with her Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) from Memorial in 2009. Past volunteer experience includes, the board of director and youth chairperson with the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as Conference workshop presenter and Conference planning committee member with CHHA National. Other accomplishments include achievement of Bronze, Silver and Gold Levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program, and the achievement of various scholarships.

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 Western Labrador. 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

Adam recently graduated from Memorial University with a degree in Political Science with aspirations of attending law school in the future. He is presently working with the Provincial Government in communications. 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 as the Wabush Town Manager.

Victoria Ralph

Victoria originates from Carbonear and continues her involvement with the Council while obtaining a degree in kinesiology at Memorial University. Victoria is a member of the MUN Seahawks Cross Country Running Team and serves on the Varsity Athletics Council where she organizes special events and raises funds for university sports teams. She is also a volunteer coach with St. John's Region Special Olympians in the sports of bowling and soccer. In her spare time Victoria enjoys competing in triathlons and can be found cutting through surrounding ponds, cycling around town, or pounding city streets. She is also an accomplished wrestler who was named School Sport Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial High School Female Athlete of the Year in 2008 and Sport Newfoundland Provincial Junior Female Athlete of the Year in 2009.

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. Greg is presently employed in the Social Sector.

Kara Snow, St. Anthony

Kara is currently studying 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.

Sarah Bursey, Deer Lake

Sarah is a second 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 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 is a third 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!).

Susan Piercey

Susan was raised in Grand Bank, on the Burin Peninsula. She has recently completed her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She is currently working towards obtaining her Masters of Arts in Political Science at Memorial University in St. John's. She has been a member of the Youth Advisory Committee since 2009 and she most enjoys visiting rural Newfoundland and speaking with the residents of those communities. She is also a longtime volunteer for the Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Centre, as well as a number of other organizations.

Colin Corcoran, Riverhead

Colin is a Business Commerce - Political Science student originally from Cootes Pond, St. Mary's Bay. He is an avid volunteer and active member of his community. Colin is a current member of MUNSU, the YRAS Youth Leadership Team, and the Telegram's Community Editorial Board. He was elected to the Riverhead Town Council in October and sits on the Placentia-St. Mary's Progressive Conservative Riding Association. While finishing up his joint degree, Colin is working with the Provincial Government as a Contract Policy Analyst. He is proud to serve the youth of our province and hopes to one day represent the people of his riding in our House of Assembly.

Katie Flynn, Forteau

Katie is currently a level III student. Since winning the title of Miss Teen Canada Galaxy at the age of fourteen, Katie has been a strong voice for youth and an avid volunteer in her small, isolated Labrador community. She has served as youth representative on the municipal council, the Labrador Straits Development Corporation and she currently sits on Futures in Newfoundland and Labrador's Youth's Provincial Youth Council and the Provincial Youth Advisory Committee. She participated in a youth parliament, organized

and led a World Vision 30 Hour Famine and has been quite active in her faith community as a lay reader, and musician. She was one of 20 youth across Canada this year, who were awarded the TD Canada Trust Community Leadership Scholarship. She plans to pursue a career in economic development and human advocacy.

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 is retired, leaving a job she loved. Today she remains committed to our province's youth and thoroughly enjoys being a YAC mentor.