

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

Annual Report

April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**, I am pleased to present the 2023–2024 Annual Report for the Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health and Addictions (the Recovery Council). The Recovery Council is a Category Three (3) government entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act** and plans and reports under these requirements. As Chair, my signature below acknowledges the Recovery Council is accountable for the results reported.

The past year has been a productive year for the Recovery Council. This year, it advised on the implementation of **Our Path of Resilience: An Action Plan to Promote Life and Prevent Suicide in Newfoundland and Labrador**, the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan: Reducing Alcohol Harms and Costs in Newfoundland and Labrador**, and other program materials that are transforming the mental health and addictions system in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sincerest gratitude to all members of the Recovery Council for their continued dedication to mental health and addictions issues in the province. On behalf of the Recovery Council, I also extend appreciation for the efforts of staff within the Department of Health and Community Services for their support in making our work possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Bourne', followed by a horizontal line.

Jeff Bourne, Chair

Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health and Addictions

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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 on and supports HCS's oversight of 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 (Our Path of Resilience)** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan: Reducing Alcohol Harms and Costs in Newfoundland and Labrador (Provincial Alcohol Action Plan)**.

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

- Ongoing transformation of the provincial mental health and addictions system;
- Mental health, substance use and addictions issues affecting individuals and their 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.

The Vision of the Recovery Council is that provincial policies and programs reflect the needs of persons with lived and/or living experience as identified by the Recovery Council. Further information about the Recovery Council is located on the Department of Health and Community Services website and can be found [here](#).

Membership

Recovery Council members are selected through an expression of interest and appointed by the Minister of Health and Community Services. Membership, including the Chair and Vice-Chair, 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.

Member terms: Recovery Council members are appointed for a term of three years and may be re-appointed for one further term of three years, for a maximum of six years. Where the term of office expires and a successor has not been appointed, the member may continue to hold their position until a successor is appointed.

Funding

Members are not remunerated for their participation on the Recovery Council. Administrative costs associated with Recovery Council meetings are covered by the Department of Health and Community Services. Therefore, financial statements are not required.

The Recovery Council does not maintain a separate office, and secretariat support is provided by the Mental Health and Addictions Division, Department of Health and Community Services.

Meeting Frequency

In the 2023-24 reporting period, the Recovery Council held six virtual meetings. These meetings were held on April 19; June 7; October 3; and November 29; 2023, as well as March 14 and 27, 2024. Because meetings were held virtually, no expenses have been incurred.

Highlights and Partnerships

The Recovery Council maintains a strong partnership with the Department of Health and Community Services, the Provincial Indigenous Health Team and the Provincial Advisory Council for Mental Health and Addictions in providing oversight on **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan**.

The highlights of 2023-24 include:

- Provided oversight on the implementation of **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan**.
- Prepared and submitted its first three-year Activity Plan for 2023-26 which was posted on the House of Assembly website.
- Updated its Terms of Reference to reflect **Our Path of Resilience** and the **Provincial Alcohol Action Plan**.

Report on Performance: Objectives 2023-2026

The Recovery Council provides support to the Minister of Health and Community Services in an advisory capacity. As such, the following objective will guide its direction for the period April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026, and will be reported on yearly for the duration of this period.

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

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.

Initiatives Measure: Provided commentary and recommendations.

Indicator	Outcome
Provided input on all actions completed in Our Path of Resilience and the Provincial Alcohol Action Plan	The Recovery Council provided input on the development of the Monitoring and Surveillance Framework for Our Path of Resilience and the Provincial Alcohol Action Plan . It also provided input on the Workplans developed by the Working Groups under Our Path of Resilience .
Obtained expert and group member expertise	The Recovery Council continued to utilize the combined expertise of its members by providing feedback on the process of patient flow between the Recovery Centre and residential treatment facilities as well as the transitional supportive housing initiatives at the Comfort Inn.
Invited community groups and other organizations to present information	The Recovery Council invited officials from Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services (NLHS) and Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation (NLHC) to present on supportive housing initiatives at the Comfort Inn. It also invited officials from HCS to present on the Provincial Alcohol Action Plan , Health Workforce Planning related to retention and recruitment; and the All-Party Committee on Mental Health, Substance-Use and Addictions.
Attended presentations on mental health and addictions policies and programs.	Recovery Council members attended a presentation by the Steering Committee established under Our Path of Resilience on the Work Plans developed by its working groups.
Provided advice to the Minister of Health and Community Services	Recovery Council feedback and advice was provided to the Minister on many areas related to mental health and addictions. Priority topics included: the Monitoring and Surveillance Framework for Our Path of Resilience and the Provincial Alcohol Action Plan ; Workplans developed by the Working Groups under Our Path of Resilience ; the process of patient flow between the

	Recovery Centre and residential treatment facilities; and the transitional supportive housing initiatives at the Comfort Inn.
Made recommendations on government-led mental health and addictions initiatives	The Recovery Council made recommendations to the Minister on many areas related to mental health and addictions. Priority topics included: the Monitoring and Surveillance Framework for Our Path of Resilience and the Provincial Alcohol Action Plan ; Work Plans developed by the Working Groups under Our Path of Resilience .

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

The Recovery Council continues to hold its meetings virtually. This improves access for people living in rural communities and allows for regional representation. However, it does not allow for the same level of interaction afforded by meeting in person. This emphasizes the importance of bringing the Recovery Council together at events, such as the annual Recovery Forum.

The Recovery Council will also continue to provide guidance on the development of person-centred, community-based mental health and addictions programs as they are implemented throughout the province.

Appendix A: Recovery Council Membership 2023-24

Name	Position
Jeffrey Bourne	Chair
Dr. Jason Chaulk	Co-Chair
Mike Herrell	Member
Amnesty Cornelius	Member
Serena Payne	Member
Alexandra Young	Member
Joanne Power	Member
Margaret Noseworthy	Member
Sandra Hewitt-Parsons	Member
Harriett Rutie-Lampe	Member
Dustin Spurrell	Member
Jill Ralph	Member
Olive Williams	Member

Provincial Recovery Council for Mental Health and Addictions

Secretariat Support and General Inquiries:

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