

**Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors (PACAS)  
West Block Confederation Building, St. John's  
February 8, 2016**

**Meeting Notes**

**In Attendance**

Leo Bonnell – Chair (Clareville)	Maisie Clark (Campbellton)
Cecilia Hickey (Grand Falls-Windsor)	Shirley Boone (Mount Pearl)
Wayde Rowsell (St. Lawrence)	Linda Oldford (Gander)
Winston Childs (Pasadena)	Josephine Waddleton (Trepassey)
Damien Collier (Goulds)	Joan Hutchings (Mobile)
Patricia Burton (Paradise)	Suzanne Brake and Pamela Dawe –
Maggie Chambers (Flower's Cove)	SWSD

**Regrets**

Shirley Letto (L'Anse au Clair)

**1.0 Welcome and Introductions** – Leo Bonnell, Chair

Due to the storm forecast for the next day (Feb. 9/16) the agenda was amended so as to conclude business on February 8/16.

**2.0 Review of Notes dated October 1 & 2, 2015** – Notes approved as read.

**3.0 Business Arising**

**3.1 Memories Project** – The Collective Memory Project is an initiative which will invite seniors to record “their stories” for archiving and sharing. Partnering with the Intangible Cultural Heritage Outreach Office, a Working Group with representation from the Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors, the Interdepartmental Working Group on Aging and Seniors and SWSD, will oversee this project. Dale Jarvis, Intangible Cultural Heritage Development Officer with the Heritage Foundation of NL joined the meeting to discuss next steps.

ACTION: SWSD will forward the link to the oral history booklets referenced by Dale.

ACTION: The Working Group will report back on progress at next meeting.

**3.2 Importance of Flu and Shingles Vaccinations** – Presentation by SWSD on the development of age-friendly facts sheet on vaccinations.

ACTION: The facts sheet will be posted on line, emailed via SWSD's list serve and distributed through the Seniors Resource Centre's Information and Referral System.

**3.3 Terms of Reference - Revision** – Amending the Terms of Reference will be deferred until government completes its review of all Councils.

**3.4 Low-income** – Presentation by SWSD on the income levels of NL seniors.

ACTION: SWSD will conduct further research and analysis on current income levels and cost of living and share with Council at next meeting.

**3.5 Mammograms** – Presentation by SWSD on when physician referrals are needed for mammograms. Worth noting, referrals are needed for hospital mammograms; however, at the Breast Screening Clinics, eligible women aged 40-49 also need a doctor's referral but aged 50-69 can self-refer.

**3.6 Pathology Reports** – Information was shared on why wait times may be longer for some tests than others. A number of factors may impact the timeline including types of body tissues tested; more samples might be needed; use of special stains or tests can add a few days; the pathologist may seek a second opinion; and the time needed to process and deliver results.

## **4.0 Updates**

**4.1 Age Friendly NL Communities Program** – To date 45 communities have received funding to complete a community assessment. Others have received funding to support initiatives identified through the

assessment. Last year's evaluation points to the need to re-engage some of these communities to ensure work is moving forward.

**4.2 Age Friendly Transportation Pilot** – The project is progressing well. The focus now is on the evaluation and sustainability of the successful models beyond the pilot. Sites are engaged in self-evaluation exercises. An evaluation committee is in place. Recommendations are expected to be available in fall 2016 to inform budget requests for 2016-17.

**4.3 Community Healthy Living Grants** – SWSD provided an update on the new Community Healthy Living Fund which has an annual budget of \$2.2M. [http://www.swsd.gov.nl.ca/grants/chl\\_fund.html](http://www.swsd.gov.nl.ca/grants/chl_fund.html). It is important to note that the \$100,000 previously ear-marked for seniors' organizations and retiree groups for age-friendly initiatives is now embedded in the Community Healthy Living Grants. Update is being monitored.

**4.4 FPT Activities** – Next meeting is set for June 2016 in BC. The Minister of SWSD will present on the outcomes of the Social Innovation Social Isolation Working Group. Activities of working groups (Caregiver Readiness & Social Isolation) are progressing. Some themes which may be considered for 2016-17 work include low income seniors, elder abuse, and social isolation.

**5.0 Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework** – Direction will be sought about next steps.

**6.0 Activity Plan 2014-17** Council reviewed its Activity Plan to ensure that work for Year 2 (2015-16) is aligned with the Plan. Drafting of the annual activity report will be underway soon.

**Discussion with Minister Gambin- Walsh** – Minister joined Council for a portion of the afternoon session. This was the Minister’s first meeting with this Council. She expressed her interest in and appreciation for Council’s advice on aging and seniors issues. A discussion of the planned establishment of the Office of the Seniors’ Advocate was a major focus. Council offered feedback indicating support for an Office of the Senior’s Advocate but also noted the importance of not duplicating services already provided by the Seniors Resource Centre and the Citizen’s Representative. Council recommended that a focus be placed on addressing systemic issues that impact seniors in NL. Council also suggested that current services be promoted to ensure all people, especially seniors and their families, are aware. For members with terms of appointment soon to expire, the Minister asked that they kindly consider remaining in their positions for a while longer while government completes its review of all Councils.

**8.0 Provincial Food & Nutrition Plan – Update – Deferred**

**9.0 Adult Protection** – Presentation by SWSD. Since the Adult Protection Act became law in June 2014, more than 400 reports have been evaluated and 23 of these were investigated under the Act. The majority of reports are about adults over age 60 and female. A mid-term evaluation is underway. A Status Report is under development which is expected to be available to the public.

**10.0 Round Table** – A number of emerging issues were discussed with a major focus on the pros and cons of regionalization, especially in light of increases in municipal taxes. Members expressed concern about the increasing numbers of seniors who live in rural and remote communities and have challenges accessing services and programs.

**11.0 Conclusion** – Leo Bonnell thanked members for their participation and wished them safe travels home. Next meeting is scheduled tentatively for June 2016.

**Prepared By:** Pamela Dawe/Suzanne Brake

**Approved by:** Leo Bonnell, Chair, PACAS

**Date:** March 28, 2016