

**Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors (PACAS)
West Block Confederation Building, St. John's
October 1 and 2, 2015**

Meeting Notes

In Attendance

Leo Bonnell – Chair (Clarenville)	Damien Collier (Goulds)
Cecilia Hickey (Grand Falls-Windsor)	Maisie Clark (Campbellton)
Wayde Rowsell (St. Lawrence)	Shirley Boone (Mount Pearl)
Shirley Letto (L'Anse au Clair)	Linda Oldford (Gander)
Winston Childs (Pasadena)	Josephine Waddleton (Trepassey)

Suzanne Brake and Pamela Dawe – Seniors and Aging Division, SWSD

Regrets

Patricia Burton (Paradise)	Maggie Chambers (Flower's Cove)
Joan Hutchings (Mobile)	

1.0 Welcome and Introductions – Leo Bonnell, Chair

Greetings – The Honourable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Seniors, Wellness and Social Development brought greetings and thanks to Council as this would be his last meeting before retirement.

2.0 Review of Notes dated June 8 & 9, 2015 – Notes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

3.0 Business Arising

3.1 Memories Project – It was agreed that a working group be established to move forward with this project. Pat Burton, Linda Oldford and Leo Bonnell have agreed to sit on the Committee on behalf of PACAS.

ACTION: SWSD will canvas the Interdepartmental Working Group on Aging and Seniors for a representative.

3.2 Seniors of Distinction Awards – Members were very pleased with the Seniors of Distinction Awards Ceremony. There was an impressive pool of applicants, the venue was excellent and recipients and their families/friends were very pleased. There was good media coverage. There was discussion on how to raise the profile of this Award within municipalities.

3.3 FPT Activities – The Division provided an update on FPT activities. Two Working Groups have been established this year: Caregiver Readiness and Social Isolation of Seniors. NL co-chairs the working group on social isolation and there will be a local idea exchange taking place on October 20, 2015 in Grand Falls-Windsor.

3.4 Importance of Flu and Shingles Vaccinations

ACTION: SWSD will compile an age-friendly fact sheet on vaccinations and provide Council with information on cost/coverage prior to next meeting.

- 4.0 Disclosure of Meeting Notes** – In keeping with government’s Open Government Initiative, notes from this meeting, and all subsequent meetings, will be posted on Government’s website. Council felt very positive regarding this move and supported release of notes to the public.
ACTION: The Terms of Reference will be amended to reflect this change.
- 5.0 Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework**
- 5.1 Status Report** – Council reviewed the recently released Report which provided a summary of initiatives implemented since 2007 to support the Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework.
- 5.2 Next Steps** – Council suggested that greater effort be made working with municipalities on age-friendly living, geographical challenges and sharing of seniors’ activities, services, and programs.
ACTION: Representatives of MNL will be invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss ways to further age-friendly communities.
- 6.0 Activity Plan 2014-17**
- 6.1** Year 2 – Council reviewed its Activity Plan to ensure that work for Year 2 (2015-16) is aligned with the Plan.
- 7.0 Presentations**
- 7.1** Representatives from Service NL provided information on seniors and driving issues. A handout was provided to members.
- 7.2** SWSD updated Council on the new Community Healthy Living Fund. ([Link to Community Healthy Living Fund](#))
- 8.0 Other Business**
- 8.1 Low-income seniors** – The financial well-being of low income seniors in NL was discussed. This issue has been an ongoing priority identified in the Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework and addressed through several significant initiatives as detailed in the Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework - Status Report ([Link to Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework status Report](#))
ACTION: Further research and analysis regarding current income levels and cost of living will be undertaken by SWSD.
- 8.2 Mammograms** – Discussion occurred about mammograms for women aged 70+.
ACTION: SWSD will research current protocols and any changes to protocols and bring to next meeting.
- 8.3 Pathology Reports** – Concern was expressed about the length of time it takes for some people to receive results.
ACTION: SWSD will forward this concern to the DHCS.
- 8.4 Home Heating Rebate** – To receive this rebate, an application must be submitted and processing takes place within 10 weeks. For the Low Income Seniors Benefit no application is needed but individuals must ensure that their annual income tax return is filed. This benefit is paid in October and is included in the same cheque as the GST/HST credit. Council suggested that consideration be given to tying the Home Heating Rebate to income tax similar to the Low Income Seniors Benefit.

ACTION: SWSD will explore and report to Council.

- 8.5 Long Term Care and Community Supports** – Concern was raised regarding using income and assets when completing financial assessments for living in long term care. It was noted that HCS will address this issue under the Long Term Care and Community Supports Strategy.

ACTION: SWSD will forward concern to HCS.

- 9.0 Conclusion** – Leo Bonnell thanked members for their participation and wished them safe travels home.

- 10.0** Next Meeting: December 14 & 15, 2015 - **TBD**

Prepared By: Pamela Dawe/Suzanne Brake

Approved by: Leo Bonnell, Chair, PACAS

Date: October 26, 2015