

**Meeting of the Seniors' Advisory Council of Nova Scotia Minutes**  
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**Thursday, January 23 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**  
**Hotel Halifax, 1990 Barrington Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 1P2**  
**Halifax, NS**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:**

Bill Berryman, *Retired Teachers Organization*  
Alyson Hillier, *Retired Teachers Organization*  
Bernard Conrad, *Nova Scotia Government Retired Employees Association*  
Ernestine Gouthro, *Nova Scotia Government Retired Employees Association*  
Bill VanGorder, *CARP Nova Scotia Chapter*  
Helen MacDonnell, *Community Links*  
Margaret Casey, *Senior and Retired Doctors Section of Doctors Nova Scotia*  
Merv Shaw, *Senior and Retired Doctors Section of Doctors Nova Scotia*  
Peter Kerr, *National Association of Federal Retirees*  
Richard Malin, *Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia /Nunavut Command*  
Simon d'Entremont, *Department of Seniors*  
Elizabeth Haggart, *Department of Seniors*  
Alma Johnston-Tynes, *Federation of Senior Citizens and Pensioners*  
Michelle Langille, *National Association of Federal Retirees*  
Faizal Nanji, *Department of Seniors*  
Veronique Legault, *Regroupement des Aînés de la Nouvelle-Ecosse*  
Claude Renaud, *Regroupment des Aînés de la Nouvelle-Ecosse*  
Bernie LaRusic, *Federation of Senior Citizens*  
Phil Bagnell, *Senior and Retired Doctors Section of Doctors Nova Scotia*  
Ron Swan, *CARP Nova Scotia Chapter*

**Regrets:**

Terry Donovan, *Federation of Senior Citizens*  
Carol Rogers, *Community Links*  
Rita Connors, *Royal Canadian Legion/Nunavut Command*

**Welcome and Call to Order:** Bill B. called the meeting to order.

**Additions/Adoption of the Agenda**                      There were no additions to the agenda.

Moved by Bill VanGorder, seconded by Alma Johnston-Tynes                      MOTION CARRIED  
ACTION: File export/pdf re: Barry Walker presentation that occurred in October – Bill to Send to Lyndsay

**Adoption of the December 5, 2019 Minutes:**

Moved by Bill VanGorder, seconded by Alma Johnston-Tynes                      MOTION CARRIED

**Action Items** were reviewed and all 8 were completed

### **Business Arising from Minutes**

*ACTION:* Simon will talk to the new Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Kevin Orrell to see if he can come speak to the group.

**VolunteerNS.ca:** Faizal will be meeting with Bill Greenlaw on January 24 and will update the group at the next meeting.

**NSHA Mental Health and Addictions Website:** Liz Wozney will be contacting members to see if there is interest in participating in focus groups. Community Links has been contacted.

**Priorities:** Bill made three changes to the document and went over those changes with the group.  
*ACTION:* Bill will make the changes to the final document and send to members.

**NS Senior Pharmacare numbers:** Marina sent the numbers to Bill and Bill sent the information to Council members.

**Deprescribing Network:** Alyson gave the group an update. Alyson said that Jenny Herbin is happy to pass information along. Jaqueline Campbell to check and see if there is interest in the Senior Safety. Coordinators receiving this information.  
*ACTION:* Alyson will send her report to Members.

### **Treasurer's Report**

No expenses have occurred. Name tags need to be purchased for Claude Renaud and Phil Bagnall.  
MOTION: That the signing officers for financial documents of the Seniors Advisory Council of Nova Scotia are any two of the following: Bill Berryman, Chair; Bernard Conrad, Vice-Chair and Claude Renaud, Treasurer. Two signatures are necessary for any cheques.

Moved by Claude Renaud and seconded by Bernie Conrad.                      MOTION CARRIED

## Update from the Department of Seniors

**SHIFT 2.0:** Simon updated the group on this topic. He will be presenting to the other Deputy Ministers next week. Auditor General report included a statement related to aging in the province encouraging us to take a look at how aging will affect us in the future, financially.

**Silver Economy Summit:** Will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Acadia University. Theme: Reaping the Aging Dividend. Simon invited the group to attend. Acadia Centre for Entrepreneurship will be coordinating the summit.

**Age-Friendly Recognition Program:** A program for those municipalities who have been engaged in the process and met the minimum requirements as set out by the World Health Organization. Program will be launched this fiscal year. A reception will be held in the spring.

**Engage NS: Measuring What Matters:** Helen will contact Danny Graham and see when final report will be issued.

### Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Ageism

Elizabeth Haggart spoke to the group about Ageism. She sits on the committee for the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Minister's Seniors Forum that is engaging in research to better understand the social and economic impacts of ageism in Canada. Consultations will be taking place in April and May.

*ACTION:* Elizabeth will provide Bill with a short summary of the project.

## Shannex Facilities in Debert and Truro

Council members remain concerned about this situation whereby there is no family doctor available and could this be a problem in other facilities due to doctor shortages.

## Mandate Letters

Bill sent the mandate letters to Council members for the Federal Ministers of Health and Seniors. He is hoping to have a meeting with new Minister of Seniors and share the group's priorities/mandate.

## Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation - Using the Power of Immune System to Fight Cancer

Margaret spoke about the topic and Bill provided information on Dr. Carmen Giocomantonio's work using the Orbitrap Fusion Spectrometer.

## New Business

Bill passed out copies of the Legal Information Society Nova Scotia document "It's In Your Hands: Legal Information for Seniors and Families". There will be a guest speaker at the next meeting to discuss the contents.

## **Ministers of the Crown and Deputy Ministers**

### **Attendance:**

Deputy Minister Montgomerie, Labour and Advance Education

Deputy Minister Valerie Pottie-Bunge, Justice

Minister Delorey, Department of Health and Wellness

Minister Glavine, Department of Seniors and Communities, Culture and Heritage

Minister Regan, Department of Community Services

Hugh MacKay, MLA Ministerial Assistant for Minister of Business

Catherine Berliner, Associate Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs

Mark Peck, Executive Director, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Lindsay Wadden, CEO, Housing

Minister Glavine gave opening remarks to the group.

Minister Delorey updated the group on the status of the Dementia Strategy, which will be a top agenda item for the next Health Ministers meeting. He also spoke to the Palliative Care Strategy with regards to the increase in funds which will add resources. The first Hospice opened in the Halifax, one is being built in the Valley and the hope is to have one built in Cape Breton. Working on National Pharmacare program, hiring more Family physicians and medical specialists. Spoke to the Recent Master Agreement with Doctors Nova Scotia. Pharmacists now can treat certain conditions with medications and can provide up to 60 days extensions for certain drugs.

Minister Regan spoke to the crisis in childcare and the Disability Work Program. She also spoke to the importance of having knowledge of Lyme Disease and taking precautions.

Lyndsay Wadden spoke to a three years action plan with the priorities of the Housing Nova Scotia 2019-2022 action plan and how it affects seniors. Suggestion was made to have Department of Housing come and present to the group of IX.

Deputy Minister Montgomerie from Labour and Advanced Education spoke to part of the SHIFT Strategy. Spoke to NS Works promoting and hiring older adults in NS and providing employment services.

Deputy Minister d'Entremont, spoke to power bills (home warming) and how low income people can apply to have an assessment done to lower the expense of heating their home.

Valerie Pottie-Bunge, on behalf of Minister of Justice Furey, spoke to accessibility and making buildings more accessible. There are 30 volunteers on different boards and Department will provide accessibility toolkits for every public body. Providing the Rick Hansen course on how to make organizations more accessible, such as the airport did recently.

### **Opened the floor to questions:**

Bill VanGorder spoke to climate change and health as well as co-housing supports. Lindsay Wadden responded to co-housing by stating that increasing supplies and the merger of Municipal Affairs and Housing has been more effective in providing more housing supports.

Peter Kerr spoke to housing, specifically for Veteran's allowances.

Lindsay Wadden responded by saying that they're looking at an action plan in a broader way, it is delayed but hoping for a decision soon.

Alyson spoke to the Deprescribing Network

Minister Delorey responded to Alyson's comments/questions.

Merv spoke to Alzheimer's in terms of the unknown and lack of toolkit that was a key recommendation of the Dementia Strategy. Minister Delorey spoke to and responded to Merv.

## **Roundtable**

CARP, NS Chapter – Bill VG and Ron updated the group.

Retired Teachers Organization – Bill B updated the group.

Nova Scotia Government Retired Employees Association – Ernestine updated the group. Current conversations focused on pharmacare.

Royal Canadian Legion - Richard updated the group.

Federation of Senior Citizens – Alma updated the group. New dates for AGM (April 29 and 30) in Truro. Cost of food is a significant issue she wanted to raise with the Ministers. Perhaps a possible future speaker for the group.

Senior and Retired Doctors Section of Doctor's Nova Scotia –Margaret updated the group. Today was Merv's last meeting with the group and Bill thanked Merv for all his work and commitment to the Seniors Advisory Council over the many years he served as a member.

Community Links – Helen updated the group. 2020 calendar is published. Hired staff for Cape Breton, Inverness and Victoria County.

National Association of Federal Retirees – Michelle updated the group. She had an opportunity to sit in for Throne Speech. Group is talking about other important issues at district meetings e.g., continuing care, etc.

Regroupment des Aines de la Nouvelle-Ecosse – Claude and Véronique updated the group.

### **Documentation:**

No documentation

Motion to adjourn. Moved by Veronique Legault, seconded by Bernie LaRusic MOTION CARRIED

**\*Future Meetings:** February 27, 2020