

Meeting of the Seniors' Advisory Council of Nova Scotia
Minutes, Thursday, February 25, 2021
9:45-3:15 Location: Brightwood Golf Club, Dartmouth

PRESENT:

Ron Swan, *CARP Nova Scotia Chapter*
Bill VanGorder, *CARP Nova Scotia Chapter*
Earl Muise, *Community Links*
Helen MacDonnell, *Community Links - Via Zoom*
Peter Kerr, *National Association of Federal Retirees*
Michelle Langille, *National Association of Federal Retirees*
Terry Donovan, *Nova Scotia Federation of Seniors (NSFS)*
Bernie LaRusic, *Nova Scotia Federation of Seniors (NSFS)*
Bernard Conrad, *Nova Scotia Government Retired Employees Association*
Ernestine Gouthro, *Nova Scotia Government Retired Employees Association*
Véronique Legault, *Regroupement des Aînés de la Nouvelle-Ecosse*
Claude Renaud, *Regroupement des Aînés de la Nouvelle-Ecosse*
Margaret Casey, *Section of Senior and Retired Doctors Section of Doctors Nova Scotia*
Bill Berryman, *Retired Teachers Organization*
Alyson Hillier, *Retired Teachers Organization*
Richard Malin, *Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia /Nunavut Command*
Nancy MacLellan, *Department of Seniors*
Faizal Nanji, *Department of Seniors*
Shalini Keel, *Department of Seniors*

Regret(s):

Phil Bagnell, *Section of Senior and Retired Doctors Section of Doctors Nova Scotia*
Rita Connors, *Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia /Nunavut Command*

9:00 – 9:15 AM Members Only Session

Bill Berryman assumed the Chair for the start of the meeting. Starting with the election of the Chair, he called for nominations from the floor (three times). Hearing none he declared Terry Donovan as Chair.

Following this Terry assumed the Chair and followed the same procedure for the other officer positions. Elected were: Bill Berryman, Vice-chair, Claude Renaud, Treasurer and Bernard Conrad, Member-at-Large.

9:15 AM – Regular business - the Council was joined by the Dept. of Seniors personnel.

1. Welcome and Call to Order:
Terry called the meeting to order.

2. Additions/Adoption of Agenda
MOTION: That the agenda be approved with the addition of Signing Officers
Bill B./ Peter K. CARRIED

3. Approval of January 28, 2021 Minutes
MOTION: That the minutes of January 28th be approved.
Peter K./Bernie CARRIED

4. Business Arising:

A) Redefining Retirement Program – Acadia (Funding from DOS) Nancy/Faizal

Funding is available and can be applied from Acadia website. Unfortunately, due to lack of interest, this program has been placed on hold for now. Faizal to send members an update on the status of the program.

B) Action Items – Bill Berryman reviewed the Action Items from the January 28th. Bill will continue to develop these action items for each subsequent meeting.

Follow up: Request Danny Graham to present at another Advisory meeting.

Request list of New Ministers and Deputy Ministers. (See list attached)

Guest Presenters: Members recommended to limit the number of presenters for each meeting, depending on the current issues, to allow more time for discussion.

5. Treasurer's Report Claude

Claude provided a verbal report to the members. Funds in account \$1,070.14

Motion: To accept the report as presented.

Claude R./ Alyson

CARRIED

6. Working Session:

A) Roles and Responsibilities:

Terry shared the Draft Roles and Responsibilities for Chairperson and Vice-Chair. Feedback from members is welcomed. The document is for members information and not to be incorporated into the Structure and Operating Procedures as it is for the present arrangement only. The Council may wish to review this at a later time for R&R to be part of the S&O Procedures.

Terry also shared a Draft - Member-at-Large Role and Responsibilities. This will be incorporated into the revised S&O Procedures of the Council.

B) Member Information Update

Terry shared an updated member list. Members are asked to review and provide additions or deletions. Two changes were noted: email updates:

Claude Renaud - cl.renaud@ns.sympatico.ca

Alyson Hillier - Alyson.Hillier53@gmail.com

Terry to send updated list to members (Action Item).

Terry shared a draft list of the Seniors Advisory Council Organizations with a brief description of each. Members were asked to review this document and provide Terry with changes/updates. Members expressed concerns about their email address, home address, and phone numbers being shared outside the group. It was agreed that this is for internal use only. It was suggested members start blind copying each other on emails. It was also suggested that an email address be created for Senior Advisory Council ex: GIX@gmail.com.

Terry asked if some of this information can be posted on the Department of Seniors website. Currently, Seniors Advisory Council has information on the department website. This website will need updating to reflect the new Chair information. Member suggested a group picture should be taken. Terry to work with Department of Seniors staff to have the information on the website and in the Positive Aging Directory regarding the Senior Advisory Council updated.

C) Structure and Operating Procedures Update

A subcommittee was created with Peter K., Bernie C., Bill B., and Terry D. to do a review of the current Structure and Operating Procedures. Peter K. presented the updates. Members discussed and provided feedback. Peter will amend the document based on the discussions and this will be brought back to the Council for final review.

Motion: The signing officers for the financial transaction are the officers of the Seniors Advisory Council. Bernie L./Alyson H. CARRIED

D) Priorities 2021 – This was not discussed as time ran out. It is deferred to the next meeting.

E) Topics: Member Groups Focus

Terry shared a Draft list of Topics of Interest with members for discussion. Each Organization is asked to choose a topic and be responsible or become the point person/expert on that subject. Members support this suggestion. Members to review and provide feedback, suggestions, advice, and/or comments back to the chair.

F) Member Information Resource Packages

Suggested an Information Resource Package to be created and shared with each member. This could include: Member Information, SAC Organizations Summary, SAC Structure and Operations Procedures, Dept. of Seniors Information, NS Government – Premier and cabinet Information, SAC Priorities, Topics of Interest and Lead Organizations, positive Ageing Directory, SHIFT 2.0 - Reimagining Aging Well in Nova Scotia, etc. Terry and Bill to work with Department of Seniors to develop.

G) Round Table Groups - This was not covered due to time constraints.

7. Updates from Department of Seniors

A) Transition Planning - New Premier (budget & business plan for 2021/22 (N MacLellan)

Nancy provided members with an update regarding the transition planning underway with the new Minister of Seniors. Briefing binder has been prepared and provided to the Minister. Minister's Mandate letters are being drafted. The Council is mentioned in the draft for Minister of Seniors. House opens March 9, 2021.

B) Positive Aging Directory (N MacLellan)

The Deputy provided an update on the positive aging directory to members. The department is currently working on the distribution list. Fewer copies of the directory to be printed but the department has the option of printing additional copies if needed. The target delivery date is April 1, 2021. The department is working actively with 211 regarding the *Directory on Demand* option.

C) Shift 2.0 Reimagining Aging Well in Nova Scotia (N MacLellan)

The budget ask is around \$3million. Documents will go to central government process by mid-March.

NOTE: Council to invite Vicki Elliott-Lopez, Senior Executive Director of Continuing Care, Department of Health and Wellness to provide an update on the Blueprint document at a future meeting.

D) DM 4R Action Committee Updates and Information (F Nanji)

4R stands: Restore, Resolve, Resilience, Reimagine

The Department of Seniors was the first to present to the Action Committee regarding Shift and Shift 2.0. The committee will focus on 3 topic areas: Ageism, Intergenerational Food Insecurity, and Digital Inclusion (the latter on the agenda for the Feb. 26th. meeting of the group).

Bernie LaRusic noted that clubs have not received any funding as a result of COVID. Members would like to know if funding support is available. Earl Muise shared that his club received funding from the Province. Earl will share this information with Department of Seniors and members.

8. Dr. Janice Keefe – LTC - (Virtual Presentation and Discussion)

Dr. Janice Keefe from the Centre on Aging, MSVU provided an update and presentation to members regarding Long Term Care. Dr. Keefe agreed to share the presentation with members. Her presentation will be sent with minutes to Chair.

Staffing is identified as an issue, however; there are no statistics to support a recommendation due to the various models of care. Temporary staffing (LTC Assistants) is being looked at but benefits, recruitment and retention are issues. The 4.1 ratio model does not work because of so many variables in service delivery. The provincial budget is expected on March 24th. and it is expected there will be monies for system improvements. Some pilot projects are underway.

The Community Hub Model is being looked at in terms of how to spread FTEs to more than one facility.

Ron inquired about the work of the committee being carried over to Home Care. Using the Community Hub Model staffing should not be separate.

Funding levels are out of date. Why not by the person rather than by the bed?

Another concern is governance (board operation & operating models) for LTC delivery.

Dr. Keefe also brought us an update on the 5 recommendations from the Minister's Expert Panel on Long Term Care as well.

9. Minister of Seniors, the Honourable Kelly Regan spoke briefly to members as the newly appointed Minister of Seniors. Minister Regan advised the House will open on March 9, 2021.

10. Senior's Week Planning - Oct. 1-7, 2021 Terry spoke about the need to recognize older adults provincially some time during the week of Oct. 1-7. WHO has declared Oct. 1st as International Day of Older Persons. This day conflicts with Treaty Day which is celebrated by Nova Scotians annually on October 1 in recognition of the Treaties signed between the British Empire and the Mi'kmaq people. The suggestion is to recognize another day of that week for Older persons or use the whole week to plan events. Planning and coordination with the Dept. of Seniors and member organizations is needed. This will be added to the March meeting of the Council.

11. COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Update - Tracy Barbrick, Associate Deputy Minister, DH&W

Associate Deputy Minister Tracy Barbrick provided an update and presentation to members regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout. Her presentation is included as an attachment to the minutes.

12. Next Meetings March 25, 2021.

13. Adjournment