

2015-16

**Premier's Youth
Advisory Committee**

Annual
Report

Message from the Committee

The Premier's Youth Advisory Committee 2015-16 Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements established in the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for a Category 3 entity. The committee is responsible to provide timely, relevant, and well-researched recommendations to the Provincial Government on issues important to youth. The committee operates as an independent entity in fulfilling this objective.

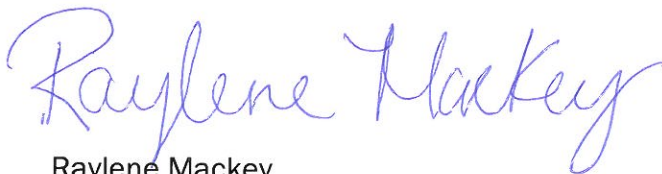
The Premier's Youth Advisory Committee is appointed by Cabinet and does not have a designated chairperson. The committee relies upon the Office of Public Engagement for its administrative needs. In that capacity, OPE makes the necessary staff available to assist the committee in its duties.

As of March 31, 2016, the committee consisted of 17 members, representing diverse backgrounds and striking a balance of regional, gender, age, and ethnic diversity. This balance provides the committee with a range of insights into the issues of relevance to youth across our province.

The Premier's Youth Advisory Committee assists the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in enhancing its understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing young people in Newfoundland and Labrador, and helps to ensure that policies and programs remain inclusive to all people. The 2015-16 Annual Report covers the period of April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

My signature below is on behalf of the Premier's Youth Advisory Committee which is accountable for the results reported in this annual report.

Sincerely,



Raylene Mackey

On Behalf of the Premier's Youth Advisory Committee

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1. Overview

The Premier's Youth Advisory Committee (committee) is currently comprised of 17 individuals from Newfoundland and Labrador, and works to provide timely, relevant, and well-researched recommendations to the Provincial Government on issues important to youth. Current committee members were selected from seventy-one applications in January 2015.

The committee does not have a designated chairperson, and is supported by the Office of Public Engagement (OPE), which provides ongoing guidance, administration, facilitation, and organizational management to the committee. In addition, the OPE facilitates collaboration between committee members and government officials as requested and required. Decisions and recommendations are made by the committee with consensus.

As of March 31, 2016, the committee was comprised of 17 members – twelve females and five males from throughout the province.

Committee Members¹	Community
Emily Alexander	Corner Brook
Sabrina Andrews	St. John's
Jennifer Bent	Conception Bay South
Aaron Chafe	Petty Harbour
Brittney Coleman	Port aux Basques
Jane Cooze	Badger's Quay
Colin Corcoran	St. John's
Kelsi Fry	Labrador City
Stephanie Granville	St. John's
Noubahar Hasnain	Mount Pearl
Desiree Luedee	Stephenville Crossing
Raylene Mackey	Goulds
Mallary McGrath	Branch
Travis Perry	St. John's
Victoria Pittman	Happy Valley-Goose Bay
Esteban Rivera	St. John's
Donovan Taplin	Bell Island

¹ Committee member profiles are included in Appendix A.

The committee does not have a budget of its own, although the OPE does allocate funding from within its existing budget to cover committee-related expenses, nor does it oversee any type of public funds. Committee members are reimbursed at standard Treasury Board-approved rates for expenses incurred as a result of committee business, including travel, accommodation, and per diems.

The Premier's Youth Advisory Committee enhances citizen and stakeholder participation through dialogue and collaboration on issues of importance to youth. Information regarding the work of the committee can be found at nlyouth.ca/ProgramsServices/community_board/yac.html.

2. Mandate

The mandate of the Premier's Youth Advisory Committee is to:

- Ensure that youth are engaged and participating in providing advice to government on issues that are important to youth;
- Provide a forum for open discussion of key issues affecting youth of Newfoundland and Labrador; and
- Advise Government on youth perspectives and provide input into developing government policies, programs, and services.

3. Primary Clients

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is the primary client of the committee. The committee independently responds to requests for input and submits recommendations to government departments and agencies on issues important to youth.

4. Vision

The Premier's Youth Advisory Committee works for:

A thriving Newfoundland and Labrador, where youth voice, opportunities, resilience, and wellbeing are respected and prioritized in advancing the social and economic health of current and future generations.

5. Report on Performance

This is the first report of the 2015-17 planning cycle. The Premier's Youth Advisory Committee will report on the same objective, measure and indicators for both years of the planning cycle.

Issue One: Provide Advice to the Provincial Government

The Premier's Youth Advisory Committee is mandated to provide ongoing advice to the Provincial Government. Issues will be selected by the Premier's Youth Advisory Committee on the basis of member interest and/or requests of a department or agency.

Where appropriate, the Committee undertakes research and broader public engagement efforts to ensure that discussions and deliberations related to advice are well-informed. Dialogue and collaboration are essential to the workings of the committee.

Objective: By March 31, 2016, the Premier's Youth Advisory Committee will have provided advice, via written submissions and/or in-person presentations, to the Provincial Government on issues of importance to youth in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Measure: Provided advice to the Provincial Government on issues of importance to youth in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Indicators	Accomplishments 2015-16
Issues identified by the Committee and/or requested for consideration by the Provincial Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The committee identified the following issues for discussion and recommendation via monthly meetings in the year 2015-16:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Transparency of the cost of post-secondary education;○ High school career preparation;○ In-school supports to LGBTQ+ youth;○ Gender segregated washrooms;○ Youth engagement in municipalities;○ Ties between aboriginal and non-aboriginal youth and youth programming;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mental wellness supports for youth; ○ Awareness of scholarship opportunities; Sexism and gender inequality in the workforce; and ○ Accessibility of professional employment networks. ● The committee further explored issues in their communities at their Face to Face Meeting, May 28-31 2015. ● Government departments and agencies approached the committee for input on a number of issues throughout 2015-16, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rural diversity and youth relevancy of the Bridge the gAPP application; ○ Outlook 2025; ○ The Workforce Development Plan of the Population Growth Strategy; ○ Challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth in rural communities; ○ The Government Renewal Initiative; and ○ The OPE Youth Engagement Strategy.
<p>Researched and/or discussed issues within topic-based sub-committees and/or as a whole committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Workshop, May 14, 2015: Hosted in-person consultation with URock Award Winners on youth issues in advance of the 2015 URock Awards. ● Workshop, January 25, 2016: Committee members met via tele- and video-conference to discuss and analyze issues related to the transparency of the cost of post-secondary education. ● Workshop, February 18, 2016: Members met via tele- and video-conference to discuss and analyze the issue of assessing the Career 2201 course outcomes. ● Workshop, March 7, 2016: Members met via tele- and video-conference to discuss and analyze LGBTQ+ issues.

<p>Provided advice to government via written submissions and/or in-person presentations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advice Provided via Written Submission, June 11, 2015: Committee members submitted a recommendation to the Department of Health and Community Services regarding the Bridge the gAPP app. This recommendation can be found online at nlyouth.ca/ProgramsServices/community_board/yac.html.• Advice Provided via In-Person Presentation, August 20, 2015: the Department of Advanced Education and Skills met in-person with committee members to review the Outlook 2025 resource.• Advice Provided via In-Person Presentation, October 20, 2015: the Department of Advanced Education and Skills met with members in-person and by tele- and video-conference to deliver a roundtable on the Workforce Development Plan.• Advice Provided via In-Person Presentation, November 2, 2015: The Department of Seniors, Wellness, and Social Development discussed the intersection of LGBTQ+ and rural challenges for young people with members via teleconference.• Advice Provided via In-Person Presentation, February 4, 2016: Committee members completed a roundtable consultation in-person and by tele- and video-conference as part of the Government Renewal Initiative.
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Appendix A: Profiles of Premier's Youth Advisory Committee

Jane Cooze, New-Wes-Valley

Jane Cooze is a Level 1 student at Memorial University and hopes to study neuroscience. At her home in New-Wes-Valley, Jane was Student Council President and a local tour guide. She continues to serve on the Community Advisory Committee of Central Health NL for the Kittiwake Coast Region, and has been a recipient of numerous athletic awards. Jane also represented Newfoundland and Labrador at the 2014 CIHR National Brain Bee hosted by McMaster University.

Jennifer Bent, Conception Bay South

Jen Bent is a Level 3 student at Gonzaga High School, where she is Vice President of the Student Council. Ms. Bent currently oversees Gonzaga's Mental Health Coalition, is a Silver Medalist with the Duke of Edinburgh Program, and has competed on the National stage in soccer for the past four years. Jenny is a certified soccer coach and referee and has also worked as a camp counsellor.

Aaron Chafe, Petty Harbour

Aaron Chafe is completing Level 3 French Immersion at St. Kevin's High School. He has worked in Tourism as a tour guide in the Town of Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove, and is currently serving on St. Kevin's Student Council.

Noubahar Hasnain, Mount Pearl

Noubahar Hasnain is a Level 3 student at Mount Pearl Senior High School where she is Chair of the Causes for Concern Group and Co-Chair of the Environmental and Animal Rights Group. She is also the President of the Mount Pearl Youth Action Team and was named Mount Pearl's 2014 Female Youth of the Year. Noubahar was recently awarded the prestigious Loran Scholarship, one of two recipients in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Kelsi Fry, Labrador City

Kelsi Fry is currently a Level I student at Menihek High School in Labrador City. She is the secretary of her school's Student Council, and volunteers her time coaching curling to young children at the Carol Curling Club. Kelsi plays many sports and has been recognized in soccer as the Most Valuable Player in her local association.

Brittney Coleman, Port aux Basques

Brittney Coleman is a level 3 student at St. James Regional High. She is passionate about helping others in the community. She is president and founder of her school's first mental health awareness team. She volunteers her time throughout the community with multiple organizations such as the Girl Guides of Canada.

Raylene Mackey, Goulds

Raylene Mackey is currently completing her B.A. in Political Science and French at Memorial University. She currently works as a Page in the House of Assembly, a student recruiter for the Memorial University Faculty of Arts, and as an Assistant Events/Marketing Coordinator at Milestone Promotions. Raylene represented the province in 2014 as Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador, spending her year volunteering at over 160 events across the province. Ms. Mackey currently actively volunteers with over 10 different organizations such as Eastlink TV, the Shake, Rattle and Roll Gala for Parkinson Society NL and the NL Kids Expo and is currently the spokesperson for Safety Services Newfoundland Labrador. Raylene was the recipient of a 2014 URock Volunteer Award and as well as numerous scholarships including the Credit Union Outstanding Community and School Involvement Scholarship.

Donovan Taplin, Bell Island

Donovan is a storyteller and community organizer. He is currently studying for an interdisciplinary undergraduate degree in Communication Studies at Memorial University. Named of "12 Young Leaders Changing Canada" by CBC Gen Why Magazine, Donovan has been a guest speaker to thousands of young Canadians, sharing stories from his time vying for some of Canada's top scholarships and his experience as a United Nations Delegate in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. As an advocate for stigma reduction, Donovan was a keynote speaker for NL's first province-wide mental health conference, while also being selected to represent the province at the Atlantic Summer Institute's Symposium on Child and Youth Mental Health, and the 2016 Jack.Org Summit. At the age of 19, Donovan was elected to his municipality's town council, becoming both the youngest and first openly-gay elected official in his hometown. As a Councillor, Donovan has represented the Town of Wabana on the Public Relations Committee of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador and the Northeast Avalon Joint Council, while also being an associate of the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation.

Travis Perry, St. John's

Travis Perry is currently completing a Bachelor of Arts at Memorial University while Chairing the Canadian Federation of Students – a role in which he is accountable to more than 28,000 public post-secondary students in Newfoundland and Labrador. Mr. Perry has previously worked as the Director of Finance and Services at the Memorial University Students' Union.

Mallary McGrath, Branch

Mallary McGrath is currently completing a Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Victoria by distance, and holds a B.A. in English Language and Literature and Newfoundland Studies from Memorial University. Ms. McGrath has served as an

elected Town Councillor in the Town of Branch since 2011, and is chairperson of the Branch Literacy-Arts Committee. She is currently completing her final social work practicum.

Emily J. Alexander, Corner Brook

Emily Alexander is currently completing a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at Grenfell Campus, where she works as a Student Assistant at both Grenfell's Registrar's Office and Ferriss Hodgett Library. Ms. Alexander is also a Councillor-at-large for the Grenfell Campus Student Union, is a member of the Psychology Society, the Mental Health & Wellness Committee, and volunteers for Let's Talk Science. She has served on the National Youth Advisory Committee for the RCMP, and is the recipient of the 2014 Bay St. George Chamber of Commerce Scholarship.

Sabrina Andrews, Grand Falls-Windsor

Sabrina Andrews is currently completing a B.A. in French and Political Science at Memorial University. She has worked as an usher at the Gordon Pinsent Centre of the Arts since 2010, and has taught music at Acadia and through participation in the cadets. Ms. Andrews was an awards recipient at the 2013 URock Awards, and was named Grand Fall-Windsor Youth of the Year in 2010 and 2013.

Victoria Pittman, Happy Valley-Goose Bay

Victoria Pittman is registered care worker in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, having recently completed the Electrical Program at the College of the North Atlantic. She has been a volunteer with Young Cancer Canada since 2009, and served as Vice-President of the CNA Students' Union, President of the CNA Student Council, and the Labrador Representative for the Canadian Federation of Students during her time at CNA.

Desiree Luedee, Stephenville Crossing

Desiree Luedee has worked as a Registered Nurse for six years, having graduated from the Nursing Program at St. Francis Xavier University in 2009. Ms. Luedee has worked to actively promote, preserve, and protect the Mi'kmaq Culture of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nations Band, and is the Youth Representative of the Qalipu Cultural Foundation.

Stephanie Granville, St. John's

Stephanie Granville grew up in Gander, and currently resides in St. John's with her husband, son, and two dogs. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Chemistry) from Memorial University, as well as Bachelor of Education and a Master of Science (Chemistry) from the University of Ottawa. Stephanie was awarded a Professional Training Scholarship as well as a Canada Graduate Scholarship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. She has worked as an Adult Basic Education Instructor at Academy Canada in Conception Bay South, and as a

substitute teacher with the NLESD, and is currently a Curriculum Consultant for trades programs at Academy Canada.

Esteban Rivera, St. John's

Esteban Rivera is Projects Coordinator for the Refugee and Immigrant Advisory Council, and Chair of the Rotary Club Services Committee. Mr. Rivera holds a B.A. in Philosophy from Memorial University and came to Newfoundland and Labrador in 2002 as a Columbian refugee.

Colin Corcoran, St. John's

Colin Corcoran, originally from Riverhead, is currently Director of Finance and Administration at Choices for Youth, Board Treasurer for the Holyrood Pond Development Inc. as well as a NL Director for 21 Inc. He has worked as a Senior Policy Analyst for the Intergovernmental & Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat and previously served as Councilor and Mayor of the Town of Riverhead. Colin was a member of the former Provincial Youth Advisory Committee as well as the Youth Retention and Attraction Strategy. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Memorial University as well as a Graduate Certificate in Risk Management from York University. Colin is a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and completed the Certified Management Accountant (CMA) designation. Colin was named one of the Top 50 Emerging Leaders of Atlantic Canada by 21 Inc in 2010.