

Meeting Note
Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD)
Rick Hansen Foundation
August 14, 2024, 3:00 PM
Virtual Teams Meeting

Invitees:

- Rick Hansen, Founder, Rick Hansen Foundation
- Jessica Maughan, Sr. Executive Assistant to Rick Hansen
- Minister Paul A. Pike, Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities
- Margot Pitcher, Executive Assistant
- Alan Doody, Deputy Minister, CSSD
- Tracy English, Assistant Deputy Minister, CSSD
- Terri Jean Murray, Director, Disability Policy, CSSD

Purpose of Meeting:

- To discuss disability and accessibility harmonization across the provinces and territories.

Background:

- Rick Hansen is the Founder of the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) and a passionate supporter of people with disabilities in Canada. He is best known as the “Man In Motion” for his 26-month, 34 country, 40,000 km wheelchair trip around the world to make the world inclusive for people with disabilities and to find a cure for paralysis.
- Since the end of the Man In Motion World Tour in 1987, Mr. Hansen has dedicated his life to creating a world that is accessible and inclusive for all by removing barriers for people with disabilities. RHF is dedicated to raising awareness, changing attitudes, helping create accessible spaces, and liberating the potential of people with disabilities.

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions and overview of RHF and their focus on accessibility in the built environment.
2. Government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s (GNL) commitment to accessibility and opportunities for collaboration.

Agenda Item #1 – RHF and accessibility in the built environment**Analysis:**

- RHF was established in 1988 and is focused on raising awareness, changing attitudes, and funding spinal cord injury research and care. In 2022, 27 percent of Canadians (30 percent in NL) aged 15 and older had at least one disability. RHF is working on breaking down one of the most fundamental barriers that people with disabilities still face: physical barriers in the places where we live, work, learn and play.
- In honour of National AccessAbility Week 2024, RHF launched a new national campaign to raise awareness of the urgent need for improved accessibility in Canada. Canadians with disabilities continue to face accessibility barriers daily, an issue that needs to be urgently addressed if Canada is going to meet its goal of a barrier-free country by January 1, 2040. The campaign creative idea “Just because we can, doesn’t mean we should have to” explores

the notion that just because people with disabilities can overcome barriers throughout their day, they should not have to do so.

- RHF Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) is a rating system that measures and certifies the level of meaningful access of buildings and sites. The system helps a user to understand physical accessibilities, ways on which to improve, and helps to identify barriers for community, customers, or employees.

Potential Speaking Points

- As Minister responsible for the status of Persons with Disabilities, I commend you for your dedication to improving accessibility and inclusion across Canada.

Proposed Actions

- GNL will continue to increase accessibility and inclusion in our province as we progress toward the development of accessibility standards under the **Accessibility Act**.

Agenda Item #2 – GNL's commitment to accessibility; opportunities for collaboration

Analysis:

- Under the **Accessibility Act**, the province has appointed an Accessibility Standards Advisory Board to make recommendations to the Minister regarding standards. The first approved standard for development is Accessible Customer Service.
- Within **Accessibility Act**, all public entities are required to develop and make public, Accessibility Plans. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Accessibility Plan was developed and made publicly available, December 2023, in compliance with the legislation. Plans include measures to take in barrier removal, and the procedures to assess that the measures are working.

Potential Speaking Points

- We are dedicated to improving accessibility and inclusion in the province. Through the **Accessibility Act** and development of accessibility standards, we will continue to identify, remove, and prevent barriers experienced by persons with disabilities. Areas for standard development include the built environment.

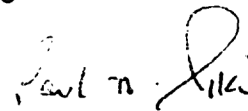
Proposed Actions:

- GNL will continue conversations with the Rick Hansen Foundation and other organizations representing Persons with Disabilities on the provincial and national levels regarding improvement of accessibility and inclusion in the province.

Prepared By/Approved By:
Ministerial Approval:

K. Dawe/T.J. Murray/T. English/A. Doody
Received by Hon. Paul A. Pike

July 29, 2024



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Decision Note
Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development

Title: Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors' Social Inclusion Initiative 2024-25

Decision/Direction Required:

- Whether to approve the recommended applicants for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Background and Current Status:

- This year's call for applications opened on February 29, 2024, and closed on April 1, 2024. Budget 2024-25 provides funding for 50+ clubs and other seniors-serving organizations to facilitate activities that promote social inclusion, healthy aging, mental wellness and overall well-being for seniors and older adults.
- As with the 2023-24 program, this year's program places an emphasis on encouraging intergenerational programs to promote interactions and skill-sharing between generations.
- The 2024-25 grants are available in the following amounts:
 - up to \$1,000 for unincorporated 50+ clubs/organizations;
 - up to \$2,000 for incorporated 50+ clubs/organizations; and
 - up to \$3,000 for incorporated or unincorporated organizations for intergenerational activities.
- Applicants must reside in NL; funding must be used for projects in NL and applicants must be in good standing in CADO.

Analysis:

- Annex A lists all 271 applications received from 39 electoral districts. The number of applications per district range from 1 to 21. Annex B provides a summary of applications received by electoral district. Total funding requests total \$600,610 exceeding the program budget by over \$400,000.
- Recommended applications are highlighted in Annex A. Not all recommended applications will receive the requested amount, given the high volume of requests and the activities proposed by the organization.
- Seniors and Aging Division staff will ensure that, where applicable, organizations are in good standing and that any final reports from previously received SSII funding are on file before funding is released.
- Letters to recommended applicants are being prepared for the Minister's signature.
- Social inclusion contributes to healthy aging and improved physical and mental health, which help older adults remain active and engaged in their communities. This program continues to be positively received, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to increased social isolation and loneliness for many seniors throughout the province.

Alternatives:

1. Approve the recommended applicants as attached in Annex A (**Recommended**).

Advantages:

- Supports social engagement of seniors throughout the province and promotes age-friendly communities;
- Aligns with Government's funding announcement in Budget 2024-25;
- Supports Minister's mandate; and,
- Supports work of the FPT Forum of Ministers Responsible for Seniors to help seniors age in community.

Disadvantages:

- Funding will be required.

2. Do not approve the recommended applicants. (Not Recommended)

Advantages:

- Funds will not be required.

Disadvantages:

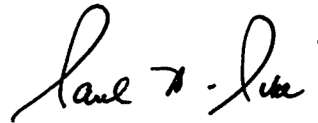
- Does not support the social engagement of seniors;
- Does not align with Government's funding announcement in Budget 2024-25;
- Does not support Minister's mandate;
- Does not support the Minister's February 29, 2024, announcement; and,
- Does not support the work of the FPT Forum of Ministers Responsible for Seniors to help seniors age in community.

Prepared/Approved by:
Minister's Approval:

R. Scaplen/H. Kielley /T. English/A. Doody
Received by Hon. Paul A. Pike

August 13, 2024

AUG 19 2024



ANNEX B

2024-25 SSII Applications by District

s. 35(1)(d)

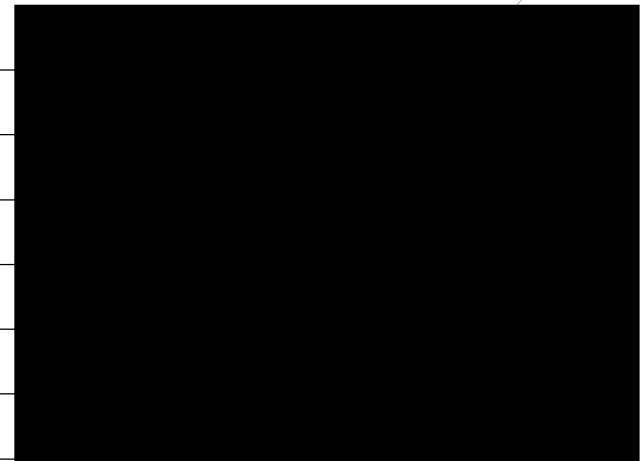
Electoral District	MHA	Applications Received from District	Applications Recommended in District
Baie Verte – Green Bay	Lin Paddock		
Bonavista	Craig Pardy		
Burgeo – La Poile	Hon. Andrew Parsons		
Burin – Grand Bank	Hon. Paul Pike		
Cape St. Francis	Joedy Wall		
Carbonear – Trinity – Bay de Verde	Hon. Steve Crocker		
Cartwright – L’Anse au Clair	Hon. Lisa Dempster		
Conception Bay East – Bell Island	Hon. Fred Hutton		
Conception Bay South	Barry Petten		
Corner Brook	Hon. Gerry Byrne		
Exploits	Pleaman Forsey		
Ferryland	Loyola O’Driscoll		
Fogo Island – Cape Freels	Jim McKenna		
Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune	Hon. Elvis Loveless		

s. 35(1)(d)

Gander	Hon. Dr. John Haggie
Grand Falls-Windsor – Buchans	Chris Tibbs
Harbour Grace – Port de Grave	Hon. Pam Parsons
Harbour Main	Helen Conway-Ottenheimer
Humber – Bay of Islands	Eddie Joyce
Humber – Gros Morne	Hon. Dr. Andrew Furey
Labrador West	Jordan Brown
Lake Melville	Perry Trimper
Lewisporte - Twillingate	Derek Bennett
Mount Pearl - Southlands	Paul Lane
Mount Pearl North	Lucy Stoyles
Mount Scio	Hon. Sarah Stoodley
Placentia – St. Mary's	Sherry Gambin-Walsh
Placentia West – Bellevue	Jeff Dwyer
St. Barbe - L'Anse aux Meadows	Hon. Krista Lynn Howell
St. George's – Humber	Scott Reid
St. John's Centre	James Dinn
St. John's East – Quidi Vidi	Hon. John Abbott
St. John's West	Hon. Siobhan Coady

s. 35(1)(d)

Stephenville - Port au Port	Tony Wakeham
Terra Nova	Lloyd Parrott
Topsail – Paradise	Paul Dinn
Virginia Waters – Pleasantville	Hon. Bernard Davis
Waterford Valley	Vacant
Windsor Lake	Hon. John Hogan
Total	



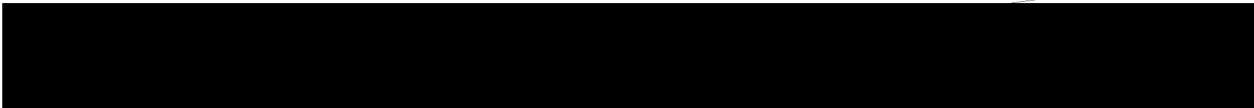
Decision Note
Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development

Title: 2024-25 Newfoundland and Labrador Community Transportation Program

Decisions/Directions Required:

- Approval of the recommended applicants for the 2024-25 Newfoundland and Labrador Community Transportation Program (NLCTP).

Background and Current Status:

- Between fiscal years 2013-14 and 2015-16, the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD), conducted a three-year, Age-Friendly NL Transportation Pilot. Incorporated Non-Governmental Organizations, municipal governments, Indigenous community governments and reserves were invited to explore public/private partnerships to create sustainable, Age-Friendly Transportation Models.
- Five projects employing different alternative transportation models were approved for funding for three years: Red Cross; Metrobus; Clarenville; Springdale; and Bay St. George South. A sixth project from Twillingate – New World Island, was added during the life of the pilot. These pilots initially focused on older adults. The Red Cross discontinued its program in 2017.
- On December 5, 2018, the Age-Friendly NL Transportation Pilot Project became the NLCTP, with an associated budget of \$300K to fund transportation projects that are innovative, sustainable, and as inclusive and accessible as possible.
- This year, Seniors and Aging received twelve applications with a total request for funding of \$773,108. Evaluation matrices and complete applications are available for review in HPRM folder 080-25-007.
- Four projects are recommended for funding as noted in Annex A. Approval letters and funding agreements are attached for signature.
- Feasibility studies will only be funded for a maximum of \$10,000, similar to the planning phase of the Age-Friendly NL Communities program going forward.
- s. 29(1)(a)

- Seniors and Aging will contact unsuccessful applicants, encourage them to apply next year (if eligible), and provide information on improving their applications.

Analysis:

- The lack of affordable and accessible transportation has been raised as a concern during the recent consultations for the Social Well-Being Plan. It can be a barrier to social inclusion identified by individuals of varying ages, abilities, and locations.

- Projects are more sustainable where there is strong municipal support and a stable volunteer base.

Alternatives:

Option 1: Recommended – Approve the recommended applicants.

Advantages:

- Supports work being done in communities to plan for population aging and build inclusive communities.
- Supports individuals and organizations who identify transportation needs.
- Supports priorities set out by the FPT Seniors Forum to help seniors age well in the right place and decrease social isolation.
- Supports poverty reduction by mobilizing individuals and helping them connect to the labour force.
- Supports mental health by facilitating social engagement.

Disadvantages:

- Expenditure of funds.

Option 2: Not Recommended – Do not approve the recommended applicants.

Advantages:

- Cost savings.

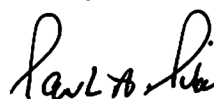
Disadvantages:

- Does not support work being done in communities to plan for population aging and build inclusive communities.
- Does not support individuals and organizations who identify transportation needs.
- Does not support priorities set out by the FPT Seniors Forum.
- Does not support poverty reduction.
- Does not support social engagement and subsequent mental health benefits.

Prepared/Approved by: G. Dupont/H. Kielley /T. English/A. Doody

Ministerial Approval: Received by Hon. Paul A. Pike

July 30, 2024



Annex A – Projects Recommended for Approval

AUG 14 2024