

Minutes of In-Person Meeting with Honourable Paul Pike, Minister CSSD Coalition of Seniors', Pensioners', & Retirees' Association

September 11, 2023, 2:30 PM

Present at meeting: Coalition members - Sharron Callahan, Joanne Morrissey, Ann-Marie Cleary, Ralph Morris and Mike Siscoe.

Minister Pike was unavailable due to an unexpected meeting he had to attend at the last minute. Thus, representing the Minister were Henry Kielley and Lori Rose (Assistant Deputy Minister, CSSD).

Sharron provided a brief history and makings of the Coalition to Lori.

Henry stated that he would be able to answer some of the questions mentioned in the brief that Sharron had sent beforehand to the Minister as well as to the members of the Coalition.

Topics of discussion:

1. **Social & Economic Well-Being Plan (Poverty Reduction):** Henry stated that he had an update from Rene Ryan. The plan is almost drafted, but there will be no community summit. There will be a possible announcement by the Premier during the week of Sept. 17th, Well-Being Week.
2. **Adult Protection Act & Elder Abuse.** Sharron complimented the Government on the revisions to the act and swift development of the regulations. The NL Act and Regulations are seen as high quality in conducting research on where other jurisdictions stand. As for the amendments to the Criminal Code, Henry stated that there has been consultation within the F/P/T Forum but the mandated action to amend the Criminal Code is not yet ready. There were meetings and discussions and the What We Heard document is not out yet. Henry said that EPO or Emergency Protection Orders needs to be broadened. Right now, there are only EPOs for intimate partner violence, but nothing to support or protect other persons in abusive situations. Henry said he will give updates as EPO work goes on as well as other topics. Sharron asked that Henry and Lori apprise the Minister of this needed and additional protection into the Criminal Code and to press his colleagues to get this actioned.
3. **Position of Seniors' Advocate.** Sharron stated that this Coalition is very concerned with the inclusion of the position of the Seniors' Advocate in the current Review of the Statutory Offices of the House of Assembly. Henry stated all are watching this review. Sharron informed that the Coalition had made a submission to the Commission and the Paper was available on the Commission's website.
4. **Intergenerational Program Guide.** This is a work in progress. Sharron stated that the Guide would be helpful in bridging generational divides, but it must be meaningful and the actions sustainable, not just one-off opportunities or events, such as reading to seniors

in LTC. Henry is waiting for the exact date for the guide to be released, possibly in September. There will be an Engage NL survey on the Guide and a virtual engagement by invitation. The Coalition will get an invitation.

5. Ageism. Henry said the last F/P/T Forum was on April 20th, 2023. Henry and the Deputy Minister attended. The What We Heard Report on Ageism was approved at this meeting; however, it is not yet released or posted. The Report is expected to include action items and the next steps. Ralph commented that the learnings need to be imbedded into the school curriculum as it is applicable to all ages and needs to start with the very young.
6. Promoting Age Friendly Communities. Henry said this has been given to the Cabinet Committee on Seniors. Minister Pike is the chairperson. Henry will get the exact list of members to Sharron. The Seniors' Advocate was in to speak to the group already. Sharron stressed that age-friendliness cannot be tied to an event or seniors' fair. It must be imbedded into municipal structures, sustained with municipal policy and that Municipalities NL need to be involved in accepting and giving that direction. Sharron gave a brief overview of what is happening in St. John's which now has a WHO designation as age friendly. She advised that stakeholder engagements are planned, thanks to a grant from the GNL Age-Friendly Grants Program, and that the city is developing an Age-Friendly Policy to be applicable to all city actions, events, infrastructure, and programming.
7. Aging in Place Strategy. We know this Government is committed to achievement. Sharron asked if anyone is talking to federal counterparts on the Age Well at Home Initiative. Henry said there have been funds given out to groups, but he does not know who these groups might be in NL. They have asked what groups received this funding, how much, etc., but no response is forthcoming? Sharron suggested she might be able to find out some information and will share, if she is able to get it. Henry agreed also.
8. Building a Relationship with Federal Minister of Seniors. This Coalition has been advocating for a National Seniors Strategy for many years now. The Minister of CSSD needs to keep a push on for this.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Henry asked if the Coalition still wanted a face to face with the Minister and a written response to our questions? All members of the Coalition agreed. Sharron asked if there were any additional points to be raised. The matter of the push by GNL towards digital servicing was raised, with the continuing caution from the Coalition not to lose sight of seniors without capacity, tools, internet, and knowledge to access these services. Provision still is needed to ensure communication with these folks.

Meeting adjourned 3:45PM

Minutes kept by Ann-Marie Cleary and Sharron Callahan