



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



THE SEVENTH STEP PLEDGE

Knowing that my freedom depends upon my thoughts and actions, I hereby PLEDGE:

- To face and accept the truth about myself,
- To maintain my freedom,
- To become a useful member of society,
- To help others as I am now being helped.

THE SEVEN STEPS TO FREEDOM

1. **F**acing the truth about ourselves and the world around us, we decided we needed to change.
2. **R**ealizing there is a Power from which we can gain strength, we decided to use that Power.
3. **E**valuating ourselves by taking an honest self-appraisal, we examined both our strengths and our weaknesses.
4. **E**ndeavoring to help ourselves overcome our weaknesses; we enlisted the aid of that Power to help us concentrate on our strengths.
5. **D**eciding that our FREEDOM is worth more than our resentments, we are using that Power to help free us from those resentments.
6. **O**bserving that daily progress is necessary, we set an attainable goal, towards which we can work each day.
7. **M**aintaining our own FREEDOM, we pledge ourselves to help others as we have been helped.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019-2020

MARK KNOX QC

We were fortunate to be able to meet in Moncton in September, six (6) months after the Covid19 pandemic began. Following the growth of the 7th Step in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland/Labrador, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, New Brunswick appears to be “the next step” in developing 7th Step across the country. ¹We had to wait until September for our national meeting (we started planting the seeds in February with a trip to Moncton, hosted in space provided by the JHS, for the purposes of a June AGM-delayed due to Covid 19 and concluded that a conventional and virtual “get together” could be done.

With two federal institutions (plus Dorchester Minimum) and another (Springhill) at its border with N.S., New Brunswick was once a thriving 7th step province in earlier days. But without the cultivation of new members-champions from both sides of our unique equation, as well as staff at institutions-all groups are at risk of evaporating. Due to the multiple number of N.B. men and women leaving prisons in the East, we owe it to them to lay the foundation for support and successful reintegration by developing 7th step in New Brunswick.

Congratulations to the continuing great work done by all groups and members, West to East. Here is to recognizing the Pledge, the Seven Steps, and one of our mottos, “Think Realistically.”

¹Although we have no foundation in that province, aside from various connections with volunteer groups and the program manager at Dorchester.



Executive Director's Report 2019-2020

George Myette

Although our last fiscal year ended on a somber note due to the emergence of Covid 19 and the subsequent shutdown of most activities, we made good progress in many areas and maintained a steady involvement with our various peer support programs and our activity as a member of NAACJ.

As usual, our most significant event for 2019 was our two AGM/Public Forum in Saskatoon, with full attendance from National Board members, Volunteer Facilitators, and key volunteers. The Public Forum was well attended by local community members, academics, CSC staff and 7th Step members. The Saskatoon volunteers did a great job of publicizing the event to promote local interest in 7th Step and community engagement in the criminal justice system. The strategic planning workshops with key volunteers and National board members brought great energy and ideas to the table as always.

Other than new National supported initiatives, I won't dwell on too many specifics in established provinces as those chapters will be giving their own regional annual reports, listing their activities and accomplishments. Starting in the West, our co-volunteer facilitators Alana Newton and Alecia Ozdan made visits to the Mission area to meet with institutional staff at Mission Minimum Institution as well as potential community volunteers/members to start a chapter in the community and in the institution. Staff at Mission were extremely helpful as were several potential volunteers in the community. Alana was able to meet with existing 7th Step members in Mission Institution and they were very encouraged by her visit. We were not able to initiate a group as planned due to the lack of outside committed volunteers and Covid restrictions, but Alecia continues to canvass universities and other resources in the area with a view to resuming our efforts once Covid restrictions are lifted.

In September 2019, Lee Nicholas-Pattillo visited the Tyindenaga First Nation near Belleville, Ontario to facilitate a 7th Step Volunteer Training session and then went on to Milton, Ontario to do the same with groups of community volunteers who are interested to start 7th Step self-help groups in their respective areas. The group in Milton is particularly interested in starting a group in the Vanier Institute for Women, a provincial correctional facility and following up with a community support group as well. These were very productive sessions with good potential for chapter development. We are hopeful that once Covid 19 restrictions are no longer present, we will see additional developments in these areas.

In early January 2020, I was in contact with a CBC reporter in Winnipeg who connected me with a couple of ex-offenders in the community whom she had written an article about in relation to their efforts to turn their lives around. I followed up with these two young men and they expressed an interest to start a 7th Step Chapter there as they felt it would be truly relevant to them and the community. I had planned to travel to Winnipeg to meet with them, but this was pre-empted by the Covid shutdown and will have to wait until a later date. We have been hoping to start a chapter in Winnipeg for many years and will continue to pursue this.

In New Brunswick, Lee began laying the groundwork for future development of 7th Step after receiving expressions of interest from the St. John and Moncton areas. In February 2019, Lee Mark and I travelled to Moncton where we held a small community forum with the help of Louise Leonardi from CFCN and were graciously hosted by the John Howard Society of Moncton. We had a good turnout, including Jodi Heys, a potential board member from PEI and decided that this would be an appropriate location for our 2020 AGM and a larger Public Forum in June.

In Halifax, Peter Brown and Steve Deveaux, senior Halifax members, negotiated a project and some core funding with the Nova Scotia Community College and Provincial Corrections to develop a Peer Support Counselor Training program. Due to limits on the amount of funding, the Board of Directors of 7th Step Canada agreed to supplement the project in the amount of \$3920 for program development and eventual delivery of the program. After initially starting in March, the project has been held up due to Covid 19 restrictions but will resume when appropriate.

I continue to give backup support to Dr. Nancy Lewis who lives in Prescott, Ontario and teaches at Potsdam University in upstate New York. Nancy is a dedicated 7th Step member who, along with her students has established a 7th Step group in St. Lawrence County Jail and is working toward establishing a community group in Ogdensburg, New York. Nancy also lends support where she can, in southern Ontario.

Our role as a member of NAACJ has kept us actively involved on a national basis in consultations with CSC and Public Safety on issues such as Pardons, Special Intervention Units in federal prisons, Covid 19 strategies in federal prisons and CRF's, institutional clearances for volunteers and developing health and wellness strategies for federal prisoners. I made 2 trips to Ottawa in the past year to participate in consultations with CSC and Public Safety on these issues and was joined on one occasion by Peter Brown from Halifax. Peter also took my place to represent us at a Substance Abuse conference in Winnipeg in March, hosted by the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse.

On a personal note, I was awarded the Ed MacIsaac Human Rights in Corrections Award for 2019 and was feted at a reception in Ottawa in November. I absolutely give credit for this award to 7th Step and the many opportunities it has afforded me over the years to be a voice for self-help and peer support. Mark Knox did an amazing job of nominating me for this award and in garnering many letters of support. It was a humbling experience, and I am truly honored.

On a final note, I wish to thank the many volunteers across Canada for all their efforts during the past year and particularly the National Board of Directors for their support and individual efforts in their respective regions. I look forward to another successful year in 2020 – 21.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, September 12, 2020

Moncton, New Brunswick (via Zoom)

This meeting took place via Zoom with some members of the Atlantic region in person.

Note: There was a Quorum present to proceed

In attendance via zoom and in person: David Varis, Brooklyn Bell, Scott MacDonald, Mark Knox, George Myette, Nathan Gregg, Arnold Galet, Susan Hornby, Jodi Heys, Donna Gardiner, Gwen Gleason Graham, John MacPherson, Mick Cawthorn, Holly Arthur, Craig Watson, Kara Ross, Peter Brown, Ryan Henwood, Steven Deveau, Sara Tessier, Bill MacDonald, Deena Coralini, Boyd MacKay

Recorder: Alana Newton

1:00 pm - Atlantic Time -Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Executive Director, George Myette

- AGM 20.1 Proposed meeting agenda.
- Motion: To accept the Proposed Agenda.
 - Moved: Scott MacDonald
 - Seconded: Holly Arthur
 - Carried

- AGM 20.2 Reading and Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, June 21, 2019
- Motion: To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting from June 21, 2019
 - Moved: Mick Cawthorn
 - Seconded: Gwen Gleason Graham
 - Carried

AGM 20.3 Business Arising from the Reading of the Minutes
No business

AGM 20.4 New Business: Past President, Bob Alexander prepared the following slate for the Board of Directors, 2020-2021.

George thanked Alana Newton for her many years of service as Executive Secretary.

George Myette presented the following:

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

BC - GEORGE MYETTE*, NATHAN GREGG

AB - MICK CAWTHORN*, HOLLY ARTHUR

SK - GWEN GLEASON-GRAHAM

ON - ARNIE GALET, SANDRA BURKITT

NS - MARK KNOX, PETER BROWN*

PEI - SUSAN HORNBY, JODI HEYES

NL - SCOTT MACDONALD, DONNA GARDINER

MEMBERS AT LARGE - JOHN MACPHERSON, BOB ALEXANDER*

*Denotes Ex-Offender

- Motion: To Elect the Board Members as presented, as a Slate
- Moved: Alana Newton
- Seconded: Sara Tessier
- Carried

AGM 20.5 Reports

(a) Presidents Report – as circulated Mark apologized for the date being incorrect. Regarding the photos 2nd to last is the Victoria Group not William Head. He entertained questions.

(b) Executive Director's Report – circulated – George entertained any questions from the floor.

- (c) Treasurer's Report – circulated – Scott reported that we are in a good financial position.
 - Motion: To approve the Financial Statements prepared by Cremers and Elliott for the Fiscal year 2019-2020
 - Moved: Susan Hornby
 - Seconded: Holly Arthur
 - Carried

- (d) Appointment of Auditor
 - Motion: To appoint Cremers & Elliott to do a Financial Review for the fiscal year 2010-2021
 - Moved by Jodi Heys
 - Seconded, Donna Gardiner
 - Carried

- (e) Regional Reports – As circulated in Annual Reports.

AGM 20.6 Housekeeping: FREEDOM AWARD

Mick Cawthorn was presented the Tommy Gordon National Freedom Award.

Mick became a member in Calgary around 1989 when he was facing some charges. He chose to become a member first in Calgary. Then in Bowden he came to the half-way house and went through the program. He finished his term and became an extraordinarily successful businessman owning Kanes Harley Davidson in Calgary.

Mick was very humbled and thanked everyone for the recognition. He will continue to represent 7 Steps whenever he can.

AGM 20.7 Motion to Adjourn – Moved by Arnie Galet at 2:52 pm Atlantic.



THE SEVENTH STEP SOCIETY OF **CANADA**

Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2020

THE SEVENTH STEP SOCIETY OF CANADA

Index to Financial Statements Year

Ended March 31, 2020

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures



CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Derek M Cremers Professional Corporation

J. Scott Chomistek Professional Corporation Hans

Peter Cremers Professional Corporation

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of The Seventh Step Society of Canada

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of The Seventh Step Society of Canada which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020 and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flow for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Seventh Step Society of Canada as at March 31, 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.


Calgary, Alberta
June 25, 2020

C&E LLP Chartered Professional Accountants


THE SEVENTH STEP SOCIETY OF CANADA
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 33,514	\$ 34,910
Term deposits	20,416	20,416
Goods and services tax recoverable	905	907
Prepaid expenses and deposits	-	1,100
	<u>\$ 54,835</u>	<u>\$ 57,333</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,990	\$ 12,998
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>51,845</u>	<u>44,337</u>
	<u>\$ 54,835</u>	<u>\$ 57,333</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Director



Director

See notes to financial statements

THE SEVENTH STEP SOCIETY OF CANADA
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
REVENUES		
Government funding (Note 4)	\$ 79,665	\$ 79,665
Memberships, donations and other	3,721	11,248
	<u>83,386</u>	<u>90,913</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Conferences and awards	28,243	18,171
Consulting and administration	13,200	13,200
Volunteer development	9,082	22,061
Travel	8,719	8,003
Public forums	5,331	6,034
Office supplies and printing	3,234	3,280
Insurance	2,881	2,667
Professional fees	2,500	3,560
Telephone, internet and website development	1,928	4,964
Memberships and dues	760	400
PEI Seventh Step distribution	-	10,200
	<u>75,878</u>	<u>92,540</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 7,508</u>	<u>\$ (1,627)</u>

Alberta – Annual Report 2019-2020

Annual General Meeting – September 12, 2020

Alberta Provincial Report

A warm welcome to all members and guests near and far! Whether it be in person or by digital means, thank you for taking the time to join us here at the 2020 7th Step Society of Canada Annual General Meeting! As always, things have continued to be interesting and challenging not only in Alberta, but around the world since we last gathered. During these difficult times 'Seventh Steppers' have found the strength and unique ways to come together and provide support and guidance to each other and those in need.

To say the least, agency programs, staff and residents have seen their struggles during times of COVID-19. However, that is not to say we have not experienced positive changes and successes either.

With lots of personnel movements, The Alberta Seventh Step Society has many new faces. Amongst them, we said a heartfelt goodbye to Bob Alexander from his role as Executive Director after 16 years of dedicated service. We wish him the best during his retirement. After six years with the agency, I am delighted to have taken over this position and am passionate to continue and grow the amazing work that Alberta Seventh Step achieves on a daily basis.

Although, our Community Residential Facility has seen a decrease in numbers due to the pandemic, we continue to accept intakes regularly and assist with community reintegration needs of offenders all while working with Alberta Health Services to ensure the health and safety of residents and staff.

With the cease of institutional visits, Core Groups were put on a temporary hiatus in March. We are anxiously awaiting the approval to return to both Bowden and Drumheller for formal meetings once again. In the meantime, our Outreach Team have been hard at work ensuring they can still support our members by mailing out workbook packages regularly and responding to correspondence. In person community groups have started up again, along with our 8-week Taking Responsibility program. We are excited to announce our new 12-week Taking Responsibility- Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence program is close to completion and are hopeful for future partnerships with Probation and the Courts of Alberta.

Our Public Legal Education Speakers had another successful year speaking to over 16,518 youth, over 319 presentations at over 260 venues and as schools resume, so do our speakers. Although, in a different form, they are back in full-swing ready to present digitally or in person to deliver their story and resources to youth. During these unknown times where our communities, nation and world seems closed, Seventh Step will always remain open. We will never stop working as a team and united front to help those as we have been helped.

Keep on Steppin'!

Holly Arthur
Executive Director (Alberta Seventh Step Society),
Board of Director & Secretary (7th Step Society of Canada)

British Columbia – Annual Report 2019-2020

March 21, 2020

The past fiscal year in British Columbia showed us maintaining our presence on Vancouver Island with an institutional chapter at William Head Minimum Security Federal Institution and a community chapter in Victoria. We have seen a steady stream of successes with our William Head members (mostly lifers), with 7 members receiving parole or day parole during that time. This was the culmination of several years of steady group participation by the members and a tribute to the 7th Step philosophy. Most of the members remained in the Victoria area and are attending community meetings when they can. Covid 19 shut down outside volunteers attending inside meetings and we are hopeful to resume normal group operations in the fall.

One of our Victoria community members, Nathan Gregg, who has a tree planting background, has started a non profit social enterprise (Tree Hab) which will operate in the Prince George area during the summers and will give preference to 7th Step members and work release inmates who will follow the 7th Step philosophy. The kickoff will be in 2021. Nathan has made arrangements with a local CBRF in Prince George that will supply accommodation.

Thanks to the efforts of our Western Co-Volunteer Facilitators, Alana Newton and Alecia Ozdan, we had a presence at the Mission Institution Community Resource Fair in the lower BC mainland in the June and November and also met with potential community volunteers. Alana was able to meet several previous 7th Step members in the institution along with staff who were supportive of starting a group, before handing things off to Alecia in December who continues to pursue this objective by recruiting local volunteers. Logistics and Covid 19 put things on hold in the last quarter of the fiscal year but Alecia is hopeful of picking things up again with circumstances permit. The primary goal is to establish a solid group of community volunteers who can support an inside group in Mission Minimum Institution.

In the fall of 2019, George was invited to sit on the board of the British Columbia Criminal Justice Association as a representative of 7th Step. The BCJA is a chapter of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association and has a focus on public education, criminal justice best practices and innovation.

St. John's Newfoundland – Annual Report 2019-2020

From 2019 to March 2020 pre Covid19 our volunteer group had 5 devoted volunteers.

We had program running inside our local prison HMP weekly. We usually had 10 weeks to complete a program. We took the first few weeks getting to know the new group of inmates and then we started the 7 Steps. Our community group was unfortunately a hit or miss with those released from prison. We did have at times one to two from the community along with two volunteers meeting in a church hall room at no cost.

Since Covid19 all programs from outside resources have been cancelled inside the prison HMP.

Since Covid19. We have cancelled community group until a month ago. We are still unable to return to the church hall so we chose Tim's to meet. We had two interested community members but since one dropped out but at time contacts a volunteer the other has since been rearrested.

We have a past 7 Step. Volunteer return to group making our volunteers to six.

We are in the process on arranging a fundraising so we can make copies of our manual, make bookmarks etc.

Submitted by Donna
Gardiner St. John's NL
August 28 2020

Whitbourne Youth Group reports that the group is still active yet very low numbers due to the lack of offenders in the facility. The group is still active and supported by the Management.

Submitted by Scott
MacDonald Whitbourne, NL

Nova Scotia – Annual Report 2019-2020

Prepared: September 10, 2020

7th Step Society of NS Street Group

A primary way in which 7th Step Society of NS members receive and offer support is through weekly support group meetings held in Halifax, NS. In late March 2020, the street group meetings began being held online due to the COVID-19 public health restrictions. To date, 25 weekly online street group meetings have been held and, although it presents challenges especially for people who may require or prefer in-person meeting, it has been successful in continuing to provide a way for members to engage with each other, provide and give support, and manage the adverse effects of social isolation. Members have also organized and participated in gatherings this summer (such as Mark Knox's Canada Day Backyard Barbeque and the Point Pleasant Park Picnic) to help with community-building during the pandemic.

Additionally, discussions stimulated by the Black Lives Matters protests beginning in May 2020 led to the development (coordinated by Doreen Carter) of an Indigenous land acknowledgement and an anti-racism statement that is now read at the beginning of each street group meeting.

Limitless Peer Support Program

The Limitless Peer Support Program is a joint initiative between the NS Department of Justice (DoJ), the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), and the 7th Step Society of NS. Limitless is a program, operated by the NSCC and the NS DoJ, that prepares and supports people serving provincial custodial sentences in Nova Scotia to transition to college (NSCC) and acquire a trade after their release. The 7th Step Society of NS received funding to hire a core group member with lived experience of incarceration and reintegration to provide peer support to people participating in the Limitless program in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. Steven Deveau was hired into the role and has been supporting Limitless participants – helping them navigate issues and linking them to services and supports – since December 2019. Building upon this work, a partnership was developed with 7th Step National to support the development of peer mentoring training materials – work that is currently underway.

Central Nova Scotia Correctional Centre Reintegration Program

In early 2020, the 7th Step Society of NS partnered with the Correctional Services Division of the NS Department of Justice to develop and conduct a 6-week program in the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Centre (CNSCC) focused on helping people plan and prepare for community reintegration. The program was initiated in early March 2020 and three sessions were delivered at the CNSCC by Peter Brown and Steven Deveau. However, in late March 2020, the program was paused indefinitely because of public health restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

7th Step Society of NS Community Outreach

The 7th Step Society of NS continues to create opportunities for its members to share their stories and experiences at various venues, such as schools, in the community. Anne Marie Houston has been leading this initiative since October 2020 and has created supporting materials (e.g., pamphlets, presenter packages). Prior to COVID-19, 7th Step members participated in several speaking events at schools throughout the Halifax region. Additionally, 7th Step members attended and spoke at nation events, including Steven Deveau's talk at a national forum hosted by the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

7th Step Society of NS Peer Research Team

In September 2019, funding was received by the Change Lab Action Research Initiative (CLARI) to create a peer research team consisting of members of the 7th Step Society of NS with the goal of developing and conducting a research project on a topic chosen by the team. Since then, a peer research team was formed, a research topic was chosen, a study was designed, research ethics approval was received, peer research training was completed, and a study was initiated. The qualitative study is examining the reintegration needs of formerly incarcerated people who've interacted with the 7th Step Society of NS, with a particular focus on examining their views and experiences with the 7th Step Society. To date, peer researchers (ex-offender members of the 7th Step Society) have conducted research interviews (mostly by Zoom) with 12 participants. Up to 20 people will be recruited and interviewed. The study is expected to be completed in early 2021.

7th Step Society of NS Board of Directors

Board members have kept busy with establishing the necessary policies and procedures to manage the range of initiatives with which the 7th Step Society of NS has been involved, as well as the associated challenges. The Society's new human resource and payroll activities has led to obtaining the services of a bookkeeper, filing appropriate paperwork the NS Registry of Joint Stock Companies and the Canada Revenue Agency, and purchasing officer liability and general liability insurance. The Board has considered and discussed issues of diversity and inclusion in relation to the 7th Step Society of NS that will be incorporated into its regular business and decision-making (e.g., representation on the Board).

Ontario - Annual Report 2019 - 2020

Needless to say, the pandemic has taken a toll on face-to-face interaction since last February.

The Peterborough Street Group last met in January 2020 with all members in attendance.

As a high note, Brian (Bucky) was in attendance in his wheelchair, the same replacement powered wheelchair provided for so generously by the national Seventh Step Society in 2019. Bucky continues to be most grateful and continues to be an active and contributing member of this group.

The institutional group that has been planned and prepared for at the Vanier Correctional Centre for Women was to have begun its' sessions in February 2020. This date came about after some delays due to staffing issues at the institution. Through a re-doubling of efforts with provincial corporate correctional management, the program was re-approved and targeted for 2020 commencement.

Given the pandemic, all volunteers and associated programming were put on hold. In the interim, and pending a return of volunteers, Donna Keating is maintaining the relationship with the institution. Donna also continues to meet with Kim O'Connell and Cathy Morris as the trio heading up this initiative. A telephone meeting is scheduled with the institution in September to review status/progress. As a final note, the three individuals referred to above are also supported by an additional four volunteers.

Hopefully, late 2020 or early 2021 will result in some significant forward movement in our programs.

We look forward to taking part in a productive 2020 AGM to be held in Moncton, New Brunswick. We regret not being able to be there in person due to the pandemic but will join by Zoom.

Sincerely,

Arnold Galet

Sandra Burkitt

Prince Edward Island - Annual Report

2019-2020

INTRODUCTION

In this past year, the PEI 7th Step Society has met regularly, added new members, and made connections with the community organizations that also support ex-offenders. And, then, like everywhere else in the world, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and in-person meetings were shut down. In the past six months or so, we have continued to maintain contact with our members through our Facebook page, Zoom meetings, including the very successful Halifax 7th Step Zoom meetings and, in late August, an in-person meeting that started outdoors and moved to a local coffee shop. Lucky to be Islanders at this time!

OVERVIEW

The PEI 7th Step Society was started in or about 2007 by Rev. Scott MacIsaac, then chaplain of the Provincial Correctional Centre. For a few years, he held meetings in the jail and in the community. Over the years, the members have attempted to hold street meetings in Summerside as well as Charlottetown. As members changed, the group waned.

In 2018, the group was re-energized by a donation from the Prince County PEI chapter of 100 Women Who Care. This group was very enthusiastic about the concept of 7th Step Society – in PEI and in the rest of Canada – and felt it worth their support.

As a result of this donation, new members were sought, the experience and skillset of the group in Halifax was enlisted, and the PEI group began anew. A provincial executive was struck and new members began to show up for meetings.

2019-2020 ACTIVITIES

The following items represent a number of the activities that have taken place for 7th Step PEI during the past year:

- A barbeque last September resulted in a number of PEI members and guests, as well as 7th Step friends from Halifax and Moncton – it was very successful.
- We have held a number of hot seats and our core group members have increased in numbers. Every person who has been hot seated has reflected many times since about the value in their lives of this experience.
- We are incorporated! With tremendous thanks to our Nova Scotia 7th Step friends and a Charlottetown lawyer, the work to develop our bylaws has been completed.
- We have made a brochure and look forward to developing other communications pieces.

- We have been thrilled to participate in and help out with the 2020 7th Step of Canada Annual General Meeting and Public Forum. Because it is located in Moncton, a number of our new members have an opportunity for a first-hand glimpse into the many people and gifts that make up the breadth and depth of this important contribution to community, social justice, public safety, and the mental wellbeing of all.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hornby

President, 7th Step Society of Prince Edward Island

Saskatchewan - Annual Report 2019-2020

Annual General Meeting:

Meetings were held in Saskatoon twice per month until mid-February, 2020. Due to the pandemic, in person meetings were put on hold and still have not resumed. At that time, there was one prospective ex-offender member. It is anticipated the situation will remain as is for the remainder of 2020.

Since March, I have been attending the Victoria 7th Step meetings via Zoom. I have kept in contact with other Saskatoon members via text and all remain well and interested in keeping involved with 7th Step.

Gwen Gleason-Graham

Saskatchewan Board Member

