



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



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 2021-2022

The Year ending March 31, 2023

I would like to thank and congratulate all of our Board Members old and new from across Canada that have made our past year a huge success. Without all of the time and hard work you have contributed, we couldn't have made these changes. The volunteer base that has been created is second to none and it seems as though the group members continue to grow daily. We have earned the trust of many new partners and programs which are helping us make plans for the future of 7th Step and continue to support existing programs across the country. Self Help Group meetings in the community, in person and by Zoom, continue to attract existing and new members by getting them involved, which has actually expanded our volunteer base in some areas.

The National Board comprised of our provincial representatives continued to meet via Zoom on a regular basis and we are looking forward to seeing and meeting everyone in Montreal this year (for the first time in Quebec, I believe!). This is the second in-person meeting in 2 years and is a very important event, given that we are embarking on some exciting initiatives. The knowledge and experience of each of our National Board members contribute greatly to planning and supporting the various programs that 7th Step offers.

7th Step Canada continues to be an active partner and a voice of lived experience in the criminal justice community across Canada, and this is made possible by the efforts of our diverse membership, comprised of offenders, ex-offenders and non-offenders who participate in activities in the community and correctional institutions. Thanks to the financial support of Public Safety Canada and others, we are able to maintain a solid base to provide public education, volunteer development, and peer support which in turn assists offenders to make a successful transition into society.

Thanks again,

Mick Cawthorn - President



Annual Executive Director's Report

March 31, 2023

The fiscal year 2022-23 was a pivotal one for 7th Step Canada as we entered a new phase of development in our mission to prevent recidivism. Thanks to the continued support of Public Safety Canada through the NVO Grant Program, we created a full-time position for Pete Brown – National Program Manager, who will be responsible for the continued development of volunteers and peer support programs across Canada. This is the first full time staff position in the history of 7th Step Canada. Through Pete's leadership, we successfully obtained a Contributions Grant from Public Safety Canada and were able to implement the 4 year "Pardon Me" pardons support project, in partnership with the Alberta 7th Step Society. The project is headquartered in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, with a regional office in Calgary, Alberta. This program will provide free services to individuals wishing to obtain a Pardon or Record Suspension from the Parole Board of Canada.

In October 2022, we held our first in-person AGM and Public Forum in 3 years in Charlottetown, PEI with good attendance by National Board members, 7th Step members from the Maritimes and members of the public from Charlottetown. We had some wonderful presentations by persons with lived experience during our Public Forum and hope to use this as a springboard to engage the community in our efforts in PEI.

In September 2022, Pete Brown, Steve Deveau and I presented a workshop on Peer Support and Self Help at the CCJA International Congress on Probation and Parole in Ottawa. This was a great opportunity to network and share our knowledge with people from around the world as well as gain valuable insights from the efforts of criminal justice programs in other countries.

Throughout 2022-23, I continued in my role as a board member of NAACJ, representing 7th Step and the voice of lived experience. Along with Pete Brown, I participated in consultations with Public Safety Canada and CSC as we pursued the initiatives outlined in the Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism.

Our forecast for the year ahead is very positive as we plan for continued volunteer and chapter development in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick through Public Forums and community engagement. Volunteers are the mainstay of our efforts as we continue to focus on peer support programs and fulfil our mission as a self help organization. The efforts of our board members, core group members and various stakeholders make this all possible and I thank you for these contributions.

George Myette

Executive Director



National Program Coordinator/Manager's Report 2023-2023

Date: September 26, 2023

To: 7th Step Society of Canada

RE: 7th Step National Program Manager Report

Hello 7th Step Society of Canada

Moving from part time program co-ordinator to full time program manager with 7th Step Society of Canada has been an amazing journey and I want to thank each and everyone of you for the opportunity.

The growth of this organization continues to amaze me with multiple provinces expanding rapidly. There has been significant growth in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia with Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan holding the line.

Volunteers have been recruited in Abbotsford BC with the 'Taking Responsibility' (TR) program starting in the Fraser Valley Women's and Mission Minimum prisons in September. (With a Core Street Group in the works).

Milhaven Maximum in Kingston Ontario is still hosting the Queen's Student Volunteers for the TR program in the SIU.

Ottawa is on the cusp of starting a Core Street Group and facilitating the TR program in a transition house for men returning to the community from Ontario Provincial jails that is run by our Core Group Member Spencer Kell.

Montreal has been a hot spot for conversation about 7th Step and with our upcoming AGM and a public forum being held there, we are hoping to have a Core Street Group starting and TR being facilitated in prisons over the next few months.

New Brunswick has started the TR program and been very successful in the provincial women's jail under our very own Tammy MacDermaid's persistence. This has been another first for 7th

Step with staff facilitating the program and having a peer facilitator (Nancy Everson) join in the groups through Zoom. There have been several meetings with Corrections Management in the past year and we can expect 7th Step to grow in New Brunswick over the coming months.

On to the 'Pardon Me, 7th Step' program. With the \$1.1 million in funding secured late last year over a 3 ½ year commitment, Pardon Me has been very successful as a program within 7th Step. We have 6 employees within this program, 2 in Alberta and 4 in Nova Scotia. We have had well over 100 clients with a couple of successful Record Suspensions, and more being submitted to the Parole Board regularly. If they did not know who 7th Step was before, they sure do now! The program is running smoothly with only minor adjustments thus far. Cindy Brian (manager) and her team of case managers have made my job very easy when it comes to this program.

On a final note of business, we have secured \$500,000.00 in funding/donation from North Pine Foundation which will change 7th Step Society of Canada over the next 2 years in how we connect with our community across the country.

A very exciting time in 7th Step and I look forward to being a part of its growth and prosperity in the year to come.

Warmest Regards,

Pete Brown

National Program Manager



THE SEVENTH STEP SOCIETY OF **CANADA**

Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2023



Treasurer's Report 2022-2023

Currently we are in a positive financial standing with a budget that is well controlled and managed. This is reflected in our Operating Budget vs Actuals Statement and our Year End Statement. Our annual financial position has been reviewed and verified by Cremers & Elliott Chartered Accountants

This was our first full year returning to a normal financial environment since the Covid-19 pandemic. As we had a few years where we could not carry out normal financial operations, we still have a surplus of funds. Our primary stakeholder, Public Safety Canada has authorized us to use these funds to help expand our operations in the coming fiscal year.

In this past fiscal year, we had sufficient funds to carry out our regular activities as well as use the surplus to create a National Program Manager position. Here are some examples of our expenses:

- Full in person AGM held in PEI – October 21/22, 2022.
- Bilingual translation of program material
- Volunteer development
- Support for the “Taking Responsibility Program” in Ontario and New Brunswick
- National Program Manager salary and benefits

Going forward, a large portion of our overall budget is the 4-year Public Safety Contributions Grant for the funding for the Pardon Me Project which was received In 2022. This money is separate from our regular operating budget and is administered by the Pardon Me Program staff in conjunction with National 7th Step and a partnership with The Alberta 7th Step Society.

For our next fiscal year, we have budgeted for our normal operations as well as the cost of our new National Program Manager. We are looking for extra funding to cover future cost of this position, as well as develop new projects for 7th Step. So far, we have applied to Red Cross Vulnerable Sector Fund and North Pine Foundation for funding to help with these goals. If we are unable to secure another source of funding, we will revise our budget to cover costs accordingly.

This has been a very positive year financially, seeing us move forward and expanding our scope. I feel confident that we will find the extra funds needed to continue our expanded operations and continue to grow.

Scott MacDonald - Treasurer

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 (the Society) that comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows 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 (ASNPO), 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

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 the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Seventh Step Society of Canada as at March 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with ASNPO.

Calgary, Alberta
June 9, 2023

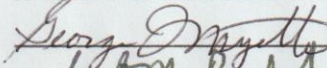
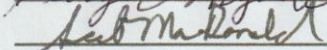


C&E LLP Chartered Professional Accountants

THE SEVENTH STEP SOCIETY OF CANADA
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 115,391	\$ 74,034
Term deposits	20,672	20,672
Goods and services tax recoverable	6,658	761
	\$ 142,721	\$ 95,467
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 7,148	\$ 2,500
Deferred income (Note 4)	60,482	-
	67,630	2,500
NET ASSETS	75,091	92,967
	\$ 142,721	\$ 95,467

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, 2023

	2023	2022
REVENUES		
Pardon Me project (Note 4)	\$ 115,894	\$ -
Government funding (Note 5)	74,041	74,041
Memberships, donations and other	959	618
	<u>190,894</u>	<u>74,659</u>
EXPENSES		
Wages and employee benefits	104,600	-
Office supplies, equipment, and printing	26,968	2,515
Conferences and awards	22,820	11,034
Consulting, administration, and bookkeeping	19,850	28,165
Travel	9,866	2,680
Rent	6,060	-
Insurance	3,559	2,963
Training	3,415	-
Telephone, internet and website development	3,024	789
Professional fees and honoraria	2,600	4,600
Public forums	1,958	2,085
Volunteer development	1,632	5,304
Supplies	1,143	-
Memberships and dues	912	1,071
Bilingual translation	363	10,307
	<u>208,770</u>	<u>71,513</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ (17,876)	\$ 3,146

Provincial Reports



SEVENTH STEP SOCIETY OF CANADA
Annual General Meeting – October 22, 2022
Alberta Provincial Report

On behalf of the board and staff at Alberta Seventh Step I want to say what a privilege it is to be here at my first 7th Step Canada AGM and to be bringing a brief report of the past year at AB7S.

As most of you are probably aware, this year has been a year of change at Alberta 7th Step. After many years with the Society, starting out as a Caseworker, then to Residential Team Lead and having been Executive Director for the last several years, Holly Arthur resigned to take a position with Calgary Parole as a Parole Officer. During her time with the organization (including several years during Covid), she was an amazing catalyst for bringing the organization to a new level and continuing to foster a solid relationship between AB7S and Calgary Parole.

During the time between Holly's departure in January and my arrival in April, we were very fortunate to have Allen Spence, our Residential Team Lead, and Laurel Carlson, our Community Services Coordinator, step up into an interim co-Executive Director role. Allen and Laurel are very passionate about the work that we do and did a great job with the support of the board to keep things running in the interim.

There have been some other changes in our staff but here is the current awesome team that we are fortunate to have:

Community Residential Facility Manager: Allen Spence

Community Services Manager: Laurel Carlson

Caseworkers: Wanda McCallum, Rebecca Ward, James Canas, Noelle Shaw,

Overnight Caseworkers: Bill Deveau, Jeremy Evers (on leave)

Relief Staff (CRF): Rheon Walters, Kathryn Huges, Aisha Chiakowski, Amy Dahl, Connor Munro, Genevieve Pryce, Dana Simpson, Saron Solomon, Dylan Brunet

Maintenance Worker: Jennifer McKinley

Cook: Jonathan Butt

Public Legal Education Speaker: Mitch Tilden

Office & Finance Administrator: Tamara Lean

Community Services Worker: Taylor Kane

Pardon Me Program Manager: Mehmed Duska

We are very excited and grateful at the end of this year to have added the Pardon Me Program as facilitated through 7 Step Canada. We have seen great interest and high client intakes for this program and are excited for the impact this program is going to have on individuals in the years to come.

Alberta Seventh Step is also very fortunate to have a dedicated and strong Board of Directors who genuinely care about the work of the organization and the individuals we serve. I am continually impressed by the commitment of our board, their dedication and compassion is irreplaceable to our agency.

The Alberta Seventh Step Society continues to hold longstanding partnerships of over 40 years with the Alberta Law Foundation and Correctional Service Canada. We are grateful not only for these long-term funders but also are also excited and passionate about the newer connections we've been able to make. The agency continues to foster its new affiliation with St Leonard's Society of Canada and are certainly seeing mutual benefits from this.

As we head into this new year and new leadership for our organization, we are looking forward to the next chapter of our agency and the work that we do! As always, we are grateful for the connection and support that we feel with our fellow 7th Step Chapters across the country and I have certainly be appreciative of the welcome and support that I have received since joining AB7S!

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts today." - Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Jason Beck

Executive Director (Alberta Seventh Step Society) & Board Member (7th Step Society of Canada)



7th Step Society

British Columbia – Annual Report

The 7th Step Society of Canada – British Columbia Chapter

British Columbia activities remained relatively stagnant during most of 2022-23, with the exception of regular Core group meetings via Zoom based out of Victoria and hosted by our anchor volunteer member, Jack Yu.

Late in the fiscal year, we saw a strong interest starting to develop in the Fraser Valley with requests from several federal institutions to have us begin delivering our Taking Responsibility (TR) Program. George Myette followed up with Fraser Valley Women's Institution, Matsqui Institution and Mission Institution along with the Fraser Valley University to begin developing volunteer resources in the area to deliver the TR program. In late March, George and Pete Brown – National Program Manager travelled to Abbotsford to host a Public Forum which was attended by CSC referred volunteers and various members of the community, including formerly incarcerated persons, with a focus on 7th Step peer support programs and the opportunity to become involved in the area. The turnout and interest were very encouraging and laid the groundwork for further development in the coming year. Of primary importance will also be the development of a community support group for 7th Step members and this will be a concurrent focus along with institutional programs.



New Brunswick - Annual Report

The past year has seen some big developments with respect to 7th Step's presence in our province. A great deal of this is thanks to the tireless work of Tammy MacDermaid, who joined the 7th Step National Board in January 2023 and has been instrumental in raising the profile of 7th Step in New Brunswick. I am proud to report that we have achieved last year's goal of getting 7th Step into the New Brunswick Women's Correctional Centre in Miramichi. Tammy MacDermaid, Nancy Everson and I facilitated our first round of the Taking Responsibility program starting in January. Learning from that experience, Tammy revised the TR program to incorporate a continuous intake model better suited to the needs of the population at NBWCC; we launched a second round of the program using this model in March.

In the community, our New Brunswick Zoom meetings continue to be well-attended and we continue to benefit from the support of dedicated volunteers both in New Brunswick and across Canada. Looking ahead, our goal is to build sustainably on the foundation we have laid, both by expanding to other correctional centers in the province and by establishing our first in-person street groups in the community. We have big goals for 7th Step in New Brunswick – our biggest hurdle at this point is finding the manpower to execute our plans, but we are hopeful that as we continue to expand, we will see an increase in local volunteers who are able to help out on the ground. There are so many New Brunswickers who can benefit from 7th Step and we are excited about helping to make that happen!

Maude Malson, Volunteer and National Board Member for New Brunswick



St. John's Newfoundland – Annual Report

2023

St John's - This past year has had its struggles with our program as we have had no access for 8 months inside HMP due to lack of staff, holidays and sick leave. Before this we had been consistent over the past 9 yrs. We are finally back inside to commence our TR program the past month, starting in September.

We have two new volunteers waiting to join us, but we are waiting on their criminal record checks to be completed and the return of consistency in entering HMP. We lost one volunteer this year as she relocated to another province.

We had one fundraiser this past year and used what we raised from a basket filled with donated items valued just under \$500.00 to pay a few bills i.e., our web site and purchased 7 Step long sleeved T Shirts. We also had three community information booths with a fair bit of interest in what 7 Step is all about and also reaching out to other people involved in our community who also work with those who fell between the cracks.

Adrienne Peters, Criminologist, who is one of our volunteers, gave a presentation to Legal Aid and spoke on the NL 7th Step program.

There is a working group in St. John's with the Justice Minister and several people from Justice, where Adrienne also participates. Again, 7th Step is discussed there and they are working on a manual for the inmates at HMP.

We applied for and received a grant for \$1600. We have used that money to hire a university student to collect information on art-based programs inside the prisons that are successful. Adrienne, who also teaches at Memorial University has had meetings with Zina Lee who is Head of Criminology in Fraser Valley University, BC. Zina is looking at models like the approach NL uses and hopefully pass on to her students. Adrienne will be following up with Zina.

Donna Gardiner – St. John's Facilitator & Director

7 Step Whitbourne - The Youth group in Whitbourne NLYC had ceased due to low population. We have a new staff member / volunteer who wants to start offering the TR "Taking Responsibility Program" as well as starting a core group inside the institution as residents increase. We have the possibility of restarting a youth group at the provincial institution.

Scott MacDonald – Director

7 Step Grand Falls / Windsor – 7th Step activity in Central NL has primarily consisted of efforts to create awareness and support the 7th Step Society of NL

John MacPherson - Director

7th Step Newfoundland is looking forward to a more active and engaged 2023 – 24!



Nova Scotia – Annual Report

April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

This year has been hectic! There is a steady stream of new core group members at our street group meetings. Our Peer Support team has had a few challenges, but we face them together and learn from them. We have a presence at the Provincial Court and on the streets to reassure individuals that we care and can provide support.

The Taking Responsibility Program has taken on many forms and is proving to be a valuable program. From facilitating at Jamieson, it has now transformed into a revolving program. Having a Peer Support Worker assisting with the TR Program at the New Brunswick Women's Correctional Centre / NB Youth Centre (Miramichi, NB) is a huge accomplishment. We have been working hard to have 7th Step facilitate programs in Correctional Facilities in Nova Scotia. Peer Support Workers instill hope in incarcerated individuals. It is gratifying for everyone involved. I can't think of a better way to become a productive member of society than to share lived experiences with others going through the Criminal Justice System.

COVID played a considerable part in the lack of programs by individuals with lived experience going inside. We are still not in Federal Prisons in person, but have been working hard to accomplish this. Some of our core group members have been persevering to have 7th Step go into the Waterville Youth Center. Our other programs, such as the Peer Support Training, have been facilitated via Zoom, which has challenges. It's different from in-person, but we make it work.

Our 7th Step t-shirts have been well received! A core group member designed the logos. We have Peer Support t-shirts and a 10th Anniversary/Prisoners' Justice Day t-shirt available. The Peer Support Workers also received jackets with the Peer Support logo. We wear our t-shirts in the community when doing OUTREACH and facilitating PROGRAMS. We have also updated our pamphlet, flyer and bookmarks!

7th Step Canada introduced a new program, Pardon Me 7th Step. This program assists individuals in obtaining Pardons/Record Suspensions. We opened an office in Dartmouth managed by ex-offenders! We have a Program Manager and three Case Workers. It is

rewarding to help others move on from the wreckage of the past towards a brighter future. It proves that we are not our crimes and that people can change.

Nancy Everson

National Board Member

Peer Support Coordinator, 7th Step Society of NS

Pardon Me 7th Step Case Manager, 7th Step Society of Canada



Ontario - Annual Report

September 14, 2023

Henry Trail Community Correctional Centre & the Kingston Parole Office:

On February 6, 2023 Sandy Burkitt, Peter Brown and Olivia Elliot attended Henry Trail CCC. Peter Brown gave an excellent presentation on the 7th Steps Society of Canada and the different programs offered such as the Core Peer Mentoring Program and the Taking Responsibilities Program. CSC hope to deliver the Taking Responsibilities Program at Henry Trail CCC with the help of Olivia Elliot and the Queen's Correctional Service Volunteers in the near future. Along with the staff at Henry Trail CCC, the Kingston Parole Office staff was also in attendance.

SIU (Structured Intervention Unit) Millhaven Open House:

On May 10, 2023 CSC invited 7th Steps of Canada to an open house to venture beyond the walls of Millhaven Institution and tour the SIU. Arnie Galet and Sandy Burkitt met with the SIU Team who guided them through the day-to-day operations and support for each offender in the SIU. Arnie and Sandy met with Olivia Elliot of the CSC Queen's Correctional Service Volunteers, who was also in attendance.

Quinte Detention Centre (provincial):

The Taking Responsibility (TR) Booklet

Twenty (20) certificates of completion have been issued to offenders who have successfully completed the TR booklet (correspondence) from January to September 2023. The Volunteer Coordinator at Quinte Detention Centre will be reaching out to the Volunteer Coordinator at Vanier (provincial) to promote the TR booklet by correspondence at their facility.

GTA:

Arnie will be meeting with Derek Twyman and Stefan Horodecki in the near future to discuss the potential revitalization of 7 Steps in the GTA.

Arnie Galet and Sandy Burkitt

7th Step Society
of
Prince Edward Island



Think Realistically

Prince Edward Island - Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

The Prince Edward Island 7th Step Society is like a cat: it has had a number of lives. And with a number of wonderful folks in leadership roles and as active members. In this iteration, 7th Step has been active in PEI since 2018. In the past year, we have been able to continue our practice of the past couple of years of Zoom meetings, and hybrid meetings when we are able to do so.

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.

The PEI society became a formal entity, again thanks to our friends in Nova Scotia, in 2019 when we were incorporated.

2022-2023 ACTIVITIES

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

- The most exciting development that occurred in 2022-2023 was in October when PEI hosted the 7th Step Society of Canada 2022 annual general meeting and public forum.

- What is best about this past year is the consistent support and dedication to 7th Step nationally and to the PEI society from members within PEI and throughout Canada. It really shows the great privilege it is to count such amazing people in the country as fellow 7th Step members and friends.
- Although the COVID-19 pandemic has brought much difficulty to our work to advance 7th Step Society, the introduction of Zoom meetings has permitted 7th Step on PEI to form connections with 7th Step members throughout the country in a way never possible before. For a place as small as PEI, this has been the difference between an active group and a non-functioning one.
- We were also able to get an idea of how other provinces were managing to maintain and grow their groups - and in the case of New Brunswick develop a brand new group and begin to hold the Taking Responsibility program in a provincial institution. We are grateful for this upside of the pandemic, because this brought new perspectives and contacts to our members.
- Like all groups, the PEI society has seen its highs and lows in the last year: we have lost members who were cornerstones to the success of the group; and we have gained new members who are new cornerstones. We have learned a great deal about what it means to be in community, bringing various views and histories and beliefs together and, in the middle of all of this, learning trust and ensuring respect.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Lund and Susan Hornby

President and Vice-president, 7th Step Society of Prince Edward Island



Quebec - Annual Report

Québec Report 2023

We are making good progress to establish a 7th Step presence in Quebec. In the last year we had several meetings with different people such as Valerie Presault of the Université de Montréal as well as the Phare de Longueuil Halfway House. We also held a mini forum via Zoom and had good participation from a number of interested people in the Montreal community. We have 2 students volunteers who have helped with translation of some literature to raise our profile in the Montreal area. We have also translated the Seven Steps to have them start with the first letter of “FREEDOM” in French (“LIBERTE”).

We have worked hard in the last few months with directors from other provinces to organise the 7th Step Canada AGM in Montréal and look forward to greeting everyone in October.

Hopefully we will start a Chapter and community group soon after the AGM.

Denis Le Sieur - Représentant du Québec de la Société de la 7^{ième} Etape du Canada

Saskatchewan - Annual Report



The 7th Step Society of Canada

Saskatchewan Chapter Report

There has been no in person activity in Saskatchewan in the last fiscal year. Despite various efforts to contact staff in the Saskatoon Correctional Institution and Sask. Pen., along with an additional contact with the National Aboriginal Council, these have not resulted in any movement for the 7th Step organization. It is thought the best way to introduce 7th Step back into the province is to offer the Taking Responsibility program in an institution. I will continue to work with Peter in finding a contact that would be willing to meet with me to introduce the program.

I remain interested in hosting a 7th Step Podcast, however I have put this on hold until I step back from full time work, which will happen in the New Year 2024.

Along with a faithful volunteer who resides in Prince Albert, I continue to be involved with the 7th Step Zoom Group based in Victoria, BC.

In closing I would like to add that it has been a privilege to be a part of this dynamic and honorable organization for 40+ years. I wish all of you a productive and inspiring AGM in Montreal!!

Respectfully Submitted,

**Gwen Gleason-Graham – National Board Member & Volunteer Facilitator
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**