



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



1820 – 27th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2T 1H1
www.7thstep.ca



National Board of Directors 2023-2024

- Past President-Mark Knox-Nova Scotia
- President-Mick Cawthorn- Alberta*
- Vice President-Donna Gardiner-Newfoundland
- Treasurer-Scott MacDonald-Newfoundland
- Director-George Myette (volunteer)-Alberta*
- Member-Darlene Lund-Prince Edward Island*
- Member-Maude Malson- New Brunswick
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- Member- Gwen Gleason-Graham-Saskatchewan
- Member- Valérie Préseault- Quebec
- Member- Nancy Everson-Nova Scotia*
- Member- Arnold Galet- Ontario
- Member – Sandra Burkitt - Ontario
- Member-Iridian Grenada-British Columbia*
- Member- John MacPherson-Member at large
- Member-Jason Beck-Alberta
- Member-Tammy MacDermaid- New Brunswick
- Member-Gwen Gleason-Saskatchewan
- Member Denis Le Sieur-Quebec*

*Ex offender

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 2023-2024

The 7th Step Society of Canada

President's Report

Well folks, another interesting and successful year has passed. This wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of every single board member, volunteer, group member, or partner that continues to believe in our cause. You are truly the reason for our growth and ongoing success.

We are THE voice of lived experience across Canada, and have been so for over 50 years. This year, we will continue to find new, better, and more exciting programs, and bring on new funding partners as well.

I wanted to take this time to thank each and every one of you. The success of 7th Step belongs to each of us and our partners as well. Whether we've met previously or not, I'm looking forward to meeting and seeing each of you in the future, hopefully at the AGM in Abbotsford.

Keep on Stepping

Thank you again

Mick Cawthorn



7th Step Canada

Annual Executive Director's Report for the year ending

March 31, 2024

The fiscal year April 1, 2023 – March 31st 2024 proved to be another strong year of development for the 7th Step Society of Canada. We saw new community groups, driven by committed 7th Step members, begin to take shape in various parts of Canada. Many of these efforts were led and promoted by our National Program Manager – Pete Brown, who assumed his role in September 2023. This was the first time that we had a full time, funded senior staff person in our National Office who could dedicate their energy and experience in assisting our volunteers across Canada on a local and regional level to develop community support groups and to deliver 7th Step programs in correctional facilities. Pete is located in Halifax, Nova Scotia although our registered national office continues to be located with our affiliate, the Alberta 7th Step Society in Calgary, Alberta. Our efforts were greatly enhanced by a significant financial donation from the **NorthPine Foundation** in September 2023 which allowed us to initiate an aggressive development plan over the next two years on a national scale. NorthPine Foundation has a mandate to assist charitable organizations such as 7th Step Canada who are dedicated to the successful reintegration to society of Formerly Incarcerated Persons. This donation supplements the existing core funding that we have received on a long-term basis from **Public Safety Canada through the NVO – Grant Program**. Our primary goal will be to develop a National Office staff structure to support Pete and Regional Volunteer coordinators to recruit and train volunteers who in turn, will be able to establish peer support groups and programs in their respective areas.

As Executive Director (volunteer), I will continue to act on behalf of the Board of Directors of 7th Step Canada to oversee our internal operations and to be the official representative on the Board of Directors of the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ). This allows 7th Step Canada to be a voice of Lived Experience in consultations with Public Safety Canada, Correctional Service of Canada, National Parole Board and other national community organizations who are active in the criminal justice system and in the development of criminal justice policy in Canada. Peter Brown will actively be supporting me in these activities in his role as National Program Manager.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Board of Directors of 7th Step Canada for their support and direction in all of our efforts over the past year and for their dedication as members of 7th Step and volunteers in their respective areas across Canada. I also wish to thank our stakeholder partners and funders, Public Safety Canada and NorthPine Foundation for their financial support in the delivery of our programs to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated persons in our efforts to prevent recidivism. Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank our dedicated staff (**all formerly incarcerated persons**) in our National Office and Pardon Me Project for their outstanding contributions during the past year. Together we can make a difference!

George Myette
Executive Director



Annual National Program Managers (including Pardon Me, 7th Step)

Report for the year ending

March 31, 2024

This last fiscal year has been an amazing journey for the 7th Step Society of Canada. From April 1st, 2023, to March 31st, 2024, has been full of accomplishments for the entire organization. We have secured and managed a large sum of finances through Public Safety for the 'Pardon Me 7th Step' program which has allowed us to keep 6 people with lived experience employed between Halifax and Calgary. I would like to mention that Cindy Brian has done an amazing job as manager for this program along with the entire team.

We then secured funds from the NorthPine Foundation thanks in a large part to Sara Tessier who has walked with 7th Step through her and our journey over the last several years. These funds have allowed us to grow as an organization by creating several positions including but not limited to a National Program/Volunteer coordinator, our very own Nancy (Everson) Berrigan who has hit the ground running and an administrative assistant that has been very helpful to George and I keeping things in order as we expand. As per my most recent workplan, small contracts for Regional Coordinators are in the works and will be secured in the near future.

The NorthPine funds have allowed us to have 4 public forums over the last year starting with an in-person AGM and public forum in Montreal, then public forums in Moncton NB, Kingston ON, and Ottawa ON. These public engagements have allowed our presence to grow in all of the above noted areas. They have brought groups, core members, and even new board members to the forefront.

The revision of the Taking Responsibility program has had great reviews, and our new Program/Volunteer Coordinator has been working on a revision for the 'Peer Support Training' and our 'Volunteer Training' programs. With other members help, I look forward to the updated programs with fresh language and the most recent best practices.

The National office now has 8 employees' including myself and I am proud to say that 7 of 8 have lived experience when it comes to conflict with the law. We are proving everyday that there is life after incarceration.

I would like to thank our Executive Director George Myette and the Board of Directors for all the trust and support they have shown me in the last year, and I look forward to what the next year with the 7th Step Society brings!

Attached is the 'Pardon Me 7th Step' Managers report and National Program/Volunteer Coordinator overview.

Pardon Me Project Update:

Since the project's inception, we have connected with 256 people seeking information or support in preparing a pardon or record suspension application. A total of 12 pardons have been granted, 33 are before the Parole Board now pending a decision and we are actively working with 175 people.

Case managers continue to experience challenges getting court documents, fingerprints, and local police check documents to process the applications. The high costs of procuring court documents in some provinces are a barrier for those who have lengthy criminal records as they charge for each page of their records. We continuously explore financial assistance from external community and government agencies to help cover the costs as our support fund is limited. Staff is actively engaging with community groups to promote the 7th Step and the Pardon Me project.

Yours in community, Cindy

National Program/Volunteer Coordinator Overview:

I would like to take a moment to thank George and Pete for believing in me and allowing me to grow as the National Program/Volunteer Coordinator. I also want to thank everyone on the board and members of 7th Step for welcoming me into this new role. I appreciate your support and patience. I look forward to working with Warren and Tim as we continue to improve our Programs. I'm excited to offer training to 7th Step Volunteers. We couldn't do what we do without them. Stay tuned for new ideas, as we collaborate with other organizations and within our communities.

Nancy (Everson) Berrigan

Warmest Regards,

Pete Brown

7th Step National Program Manager



7th Step Society of Canada Treasurers Report

2023-2024

Currently we are in a positive financial standing with a budget that is well controlled and managed. This is reflected in our Balance sheet and Profit and Loss Statement. Our annual financial position has been reviewed and verified by C&E Chartered Accountants in Calgary, Alberta.

This was another excellent financial year. We continued to receive our 5-year Public Safety NVO Sustaining grant and will re-apply for a new cycle next year. We received a major donation from NorthPine Foundation of \$500,000 in September 2023 and have prorated this over 3 years. We also continue with our four-year Pardon Me grant. We are still carrying a small surplus of Federal funds from Covid years and Public Safety has authorized us to use these funds to help expand our operations.

In the past fiscal year, we had sufficient funds to carry out expanded chapter development activities as well as fund our new National Program Manager position.

A large portion of our overall budget is the four-year Public Safety Canada Contributions Grant which funds the Pardon Me Project. This money is included in our overall budget but administered separately.

For our next fiscal year, we have budgeted for our expanded operations which now includes our National Program manager and 4 support staff, as well as the development and expansion of various 7th Step projects across Canada.

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

Please contact me if you have any questions and I would be happy to respond.

Thank You

Scott MacDonald

Treasurer 7th Step Canada

*Full financial statements for 2023-24 can be requested at seventh@7thstep.ca

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, 2024, 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, 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with ASNPO.

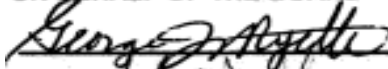

Calgary, Alberta
May 23, 2024

C&E LLP Chartered Professional Accountants

THE SEVENTH STEP SOCIETY OF CANADA
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 73,136	\$ 115,391
Term deposits (Note 4)	410,695	20,672
Interest receivable	10,596	-
Goods and services tax recoverable	13,845	6,658
	<u>508,272</u>	<u>142,721</u>
TERM DEPOSITS (Note 4)	<u>10,599</u>	<u>-</u>
	\$ 518,871	\$ 142,721
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,138	\$ 7,148
Deferred income (Note 5)	25,896	60,482
	<u>29,034</u>	<u>67,630</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>489,837</u>	<u>75,091</u>
	\$ 518,871	\$ 142,721

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, 2024

	2024	2023
REVENUES		
Donation - The Northpine Foundation	\$ 500,000	\$ -
Pardon Me project (Note 5)	276,495	115,894
Government funding (Note 6)	74,041	74,041
Memberships, donations and other	11,512	959
	<u>862,048</u>	<u>190,894</u>
EXPENSES		
Wages and employee benefits	316,092	104,600
Rent	33,431	6,060
Conferences and awards	32,161	22,820
Consulting, administration, and bookkeeping	22,726	19,850
Travel	15,086	9,866
Professional fees and honoraria	9,398	2,600
Public forums	8,435	1,958
Volunteer development	4,670	1,632
Insurance	3,385	3,559
Telephone, internet and website development	1,245	3,024
Office supplies, equipment, and printing	601	26,968
Memberships and dues	72	912
Supplies	-	1,143
Training	-	3,415
Bilingual translation	-	363
	<u>447,302</u>	<u>208,770</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 414,746	\$ (17,876)



Provincial Reports



British Columbia – Annual Report

The 7th Step Society of Canada – British Columbia Chapter

After a 2 ½ year pandemic that carried with it direction from provincial health authorities requiring our in-person group(s) to meet only online, BC chapter activities are up and active again in 2023/24. Currently those meetings are happening bi-weekly, but with a re-energized group, and new members that promise to form the core of 7th Step BC in the years and even decades ahead. We now have in-person meetings in Abbotsford, a new logo, an identity and are working on a non-profit strategy. We have new volunteers coming online, and are making inroads to re-enter federal institutions for in-person core-group meetings.

BC is now actively involved in the national board of directors (membership & participation), as well on-going program development steered by participation in the new 7th Step strategy steering committee. Growth is steady, and the AGM is being held in Abbotsford this year. The future for 2024-25 is filled with potential for 7th Step B.C., as the national team has identified a role for regional presence on the national staff.



I am very pleased to be bringing a brief report of the past year at AB7S.

At the beginning of the 2023-24 new year I started as the new Executive Director. Over past year, we have gone through a brand refresh with a new logo and an update to our website. This refresh has been received very well by our board & staff, community stakeholders and the community in general. We have also been working hard on updating old policies and developing new policies that will carry us into the future as an organization.

Also this year we are also very excited to be celebrating the 50th anniversary of our incorporation. Our AGM this year was held on June 13, which is the actual date of our anniversary!

We have had only some minor changes in staffing this year 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, Camron Janzen

Relief Staff (CRF): Rheon Walters, Kathryn Huges, Aisha Chiakowski, Genevieve Pryce, Dana Simpson, Taly-Dawn Sayln, Taylor Moulton, Erin Bjorkstedt, Harpreet Kaur, Travis Ranger

Maintenance Worker: Jennifer McKinley

Chef: Jonathan Butt

Public Legal Education Speaker: Mitch Tilden

Office & Finance Manager: Tamara Lean

Community Services Worker: Taylor Dube

Pardon Me Program Manager: Mehmed Duska

The community's core group, as well as the Bowden and Drumheller institutions, remain strong. Drumheller currently has five members and two newcomers. We are thrilled that one of our longer serving members will be eligible for parole in July and intends to live at 7th Step's CRF upon release. Bowden currently has six members and one newcomer. One of Bowden's members has been attending the CRF for ETAs (Escorted Temporary Absences), as he has been serving for over 20 years this is a major accomplishment for him. In the community, we have four full-time members and two volunteers. We expect to have a new volunteer starting soon. Overall, we are excited to see the successes our members are making.

We have had a very busy and successful year with our Pardon Me Program. Our Case Manager, Mehmed Duska, has seen four people from start to finish through the record suspension program. As of the time of this report he has 52 active clients, and in addition 18 clients who are awaiting a Parole

Board decision. Also, at the time of writing this we are actively recruiting a Part Time Case Manager which we are hoping to have up and running in the near future.

I continue to be impressed by the passion and dedication of our amazing board at Alberta Seventh Step. They have embraced and championed the vision and commitment that we are moving towards to striving to be a best practice agency within the scope of 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 continue to be grateful and appreciative of the welcome and support that I have received since joining AB7S!

"The power for creating a better future is contained in the present moment: You create a good future by creating a good present." — Eckhart Tolle

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



SASKATCHEWAN REPORT 2024

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., 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 continue to work with Peter in finding a contact that would be willing to meet with me to introduce the program.

Along with a faithful volunteer who resides in Prince Albert, I was involved with the 7th Step Zoom Group based in Victoria, BC. for most of the year. When the time for the meeting changed I was no longer able to participate and switched to the meetings held in Ottawa/Kingston. This is a dynamic, welcoming group that is very committed to the development of 7th Step in their area. They are also interested in the history of 7th Step in Canada and ask many questions that I am always pleased to answer. It is a privilege for me to be a part of this group.

In closing I would like to add that 2024 marks my 50th year as a 7th Step member. I look forward to giving a presentation at the AGM in Abbotsford in June!

Respectfully Submitted,

Gwen Gleason-Graham – National Board Member; Non-Offender Core Group Member & Volunteer Facilitator.

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Ontario Annual Report

On March 15, 2024 a Public Forum was held in Kingston, Ontario at Queen's University, Goodwin Hall from 1:00 to 4:30 pm. The Public Form commenced with Pete Brown welcoming all those in attendance and introduced Larry Hay from the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory who gave the Land Acknowledgment. Larry Hay not only gave the Land Acknowledgement in both English and his Mohawk language, but also gave a history of the area and the purpose of Land Acknowledgments which was well received.

Pete Brown read a letter from Tammy Webster, Volunteer Coordinator, Quinte Detention Centre in Napanee, Ontario who oversees volunteers and external programs. Tammy was unable to attend the afternoon session, but did in fact meet with everyone during dinner. Tammy Webster went on to describe how instrumental the TR Booklet has become to the inmates at Quinte Detention Centre and reported that well over 100 TR Booklets have been successfully completed with each individual inmate receiving a Certificate.

Pete Brown and Sara Tessier both spoke of their lived experiences, This was followed by the volunteer speakers, Olivia Elliot and Phoebe Schneider, from the Queen's University CSC volunteer project who attend the SIU at Millhaven Institution.

Key note speaker was Dr. Nancy Lewis, Professor, Postdam University in New York State. This was followed by a panel of Tim St. Pierre, Spencer Kell, David Berry and Sandy Burkitt.

Nancy Berrigan then outlined the programs which 7 Steps offers and Pete Brown gave closing remarks, thanking all those in attendance acknowledging those from both federal and provincial institutions and all the volunteers. Pete gave special thanks to Olivia and Phoebe for all their hard work in securing the space at Goodwin Hall and for providing all the refreshments and food.

On March 18, 2024 a Public Forum was held in Ottawa at the Bronson Center from 1:00 to 4:30 pm. Opening Land Acknowledgment was given by Jennifer Trentin. Opening speaker was Pete Brown followed by lived experience speaker, Tim St. Pierre.

Volunteer speakers were Alexandre Jouhanneau and Alexis Keizer, this was followed by lived experience speakers Spencer Kell and Katie Rose. Panel consisted of Sara Tessier, Denis Le

Sieur, Laura MacInnes and Mike Warren. Nancy Berrigan spoke about 7 Steps Programs and closing remarks were given by Pete Brown.

Ontario Directors, Arnold Galet and Sandy Burkitt wish to acknowledge all the hard work put forth by Nancy Berrigan and Pete Brown in making both the Kingston and Ottawa Public Forums a success.

In addition to the Public Forums, our dedicated volunteers from the Queen's Correctional Volunteers Club continue to deliver the 7th Step Taking Responsibility Program to inmates in the Millhaven SIU and we are also grateful for their valuable assistance.



Report Group 7th Step/7ième étape Quebec 2023-2024

We had 3 online meetings in French and one in English (Zoom), with a hot seat and thus a first member of the central group. At each meeting, there were guests and members of the central group. We received a lot of support from members of other provinces, thank you. Language issues arose during the meetings. Therefore, we are considering creating bilingual groups or starting with English-speaking groups and eventually also having them in French.

There have been communications with various individuals from different backgrounds to help us with the structure and organization of the Quebec group. We have approximately 5 people interested in getting involved and 3-4 others who want to do so in about a year when they will be more available. A criminology student will translate other documents so that we have everything in both English and French. We have an appointment with the YMCA (division that provides groups for inmates and ex-inmates) to possibly offer the Taking Responsibility program. Four of us will be trained by Nancy to facilitate the Taking Responsibility program.

New board member: Valérie Préseault

Objectives for 2024-2025:

- Facilitate an online group every 2 weeks.
- Develop a website, a PowerPoint presentation, and presentation materials.
- Approach detention facilities or transition houses to offer the Taking Responsibility program.
- Receive coaching from members of other provinces.
- Contact an Indigenous healing center for inmates and ex-inmates to offer them the Taking Responsibility program.
- Receive training to facilitate the Taking Responsibility program.
- Recruit volunteers to facilitate groups and programs.

Valérie Préseault and Denis LeSieur



Rapport groupe 7th step/7ième étape Québec 2023-2024

Nous avons eu 3 meetings en français en ligne et un en anglais (zoom), avec un hot seat et donc une première membre du groupe central.

A chaque rencontre il y a eu des invités et des membres du groupe central. Nous avons eu beaucoup de soutien des membres des autres provinces merci . Il y a des enjeux pour la langue dans les meetings. Nous pensons donc faire des groupes bilingues ou débiter par des groupes anglais et éventuellement en faire aussi en français.

Il y a eu des communications avec diverses personnes issues de différents milieux afin de nous aider dans la structure et l'organisation du groupe du Québec. Nous avons environ 5 personnes intéressées à s'impliquer et 3-4 autres qui veulent le faire dans 1 an environ lorsqu'ils seront plus disponibles. Une étudiante en criminologie va traduire les autres documents afin de tout avoir en anglais et en français. Nous avons un rv avec le YMCA (division qui donne des groupes à des détenus et ex-détenus) pour possiblement offrir le programme prendre ses responsabilités. Nous serons 4 à être formés par Nancy pour animer le programme prendre ses responsabilités.

Nouvelle membre pour le CA : Valérie Préseault

Objectifs visés pour 2024-2025 :

- animer un groupe en ligne aux 2 semaines,
- monter un site web et un power point et pochette de présentation,
- approcher des établissements de détention ou maisons de transition pour offrir le programme prendre ses responsabilités.
- Être coaché par des membres de d'autres provinces
- Relancer un centre de guérison autochtone pour détenus et ex-détenus pour leur offrir de donner le programme prendre ses responsabilités.
- Recevoir la formation pour animer le programme prendre ses responsabilités.
- Recruter des bénévoles pour animer les groupes et programmes.

Valérie Préseault et Denis LeSieur



7th Step
Society of New Brunswick
Think Realistically

Yearly Report from 7th Step New Brunswick 2023-2024

2023 was a busy year for NB 7th Step. Meetings and presentations were set up with the upper Management teams within Provincial Corrections as well as Provincial Probation. The T.R. Program continued in the NB Women's Correctional Center and is still going strong. Core Group member Jaime Wiebe was added as facilitator for the T.R. program at the Women's Facility. A Public Forum was held in November 2023 which garnered some interest in that community. Membership growth was slow but steady last year.

A Brief snapshot for 2024:

-Community Street Group Meetings began in January 2024 – still going strong with membership growing.

-Interest in Renous Max Institution SIU having T.R program is underway and will begin within the next month.

-Dorchester Penitentiary was willing to send out a Core Group Member to our community meetings in Moncton (escorted) as part of reintegration program.

-Talks have been opening up some potential opportunities with multiple NB provincial / community and Federal Agencies with regard to 7th Step gaining some recognition for the work it is doing in our Province. The word is out there!

Respectfully Submitted

Tammy



PEI Annual Report 2023-2024 for 7th Step Canada

INTRODUCTION

The Prince Edward Island 7th Step Society has been working for a number of years to create, maintain, and build a presence in this province. It has made a few attempts over a 20-year period. 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 2003 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.

2023-2024 ACTIVITIES

In the past year, the numbers of active PEI members has reduced to only a few. Unfortunately, we have not been able to capitalize on the success and the influx of enthusiastic and skilled support from our national and provincial 7th Step members attending the 2022 National 7th Step Society of Canada AGM, held in Charlottetown.

On the bright side, the PEI 7th Step Society meetings continue on (usually) a bi-weekly basis, thanks greatly to our non-PEI members who continue to support this small, but warm-hearted group.

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.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in lost members in the PEI 7th Step group; however, the switch to Zoom meetings throughout the country has also allowed PEI to continue, even in a small way. If it was not for the folks outside the province who attend the meetings, we do not feel the PEI group would be functioning at this time.

It is true that many groups have experienced highs and lows, and success comes from consistent involvement, sometimes from only a few members. PEI has also not capitalized on the introduction of the Taking Responsibility program into the provincial jail that has been so successful in other provinces.

At this time, we continue to learn and meet and listen. In this community – so important to all who connect to 7th Step – its mission and steps and focus on integrity and inclusion – there is a voice for everyone. And that voice continues to be important in PEI.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Lund and Susan Hornby

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

7th Step Society of Nova Scotia

Report for National



Throughout the year we have been able to expand and grow further within our community.

Programming

Street Group/Peer Support

Our Halifax Street Group continues to grow with around 15-20 people per meeting with the average ratio of ex-offenders-volunteers being 2-1. Our Valley Group holds meetings every 2nd week and is continuing to grow and is doing well!

We have hired 2 Peer Support Workers, Dominic Thomas and Brannon Hooper. Both have had a large presence in the community passing around pamphlets, flyers, and bookmarks with the help of some of our volunteers. Dominic graduated from the Dartmouth Wellness Court (DWC) and was asked to join the committee as a positive mentor to provide peer support.

We have done several presentations within the community – approximately 2 Junior Highs, 4 High Schools, 2 Post Secondary and 3 Community Organizations.

Taking Responsibility Program

Since January 2023 we've provided Peer Support to the women at the New Brunswick Women's Correctional Centre / NB Youth Centre (Miramichi, NB). Our hope for the upcoming year is to provide Peer Support and to facilitate programs in Correctional Facilities throughout Nova Scotia.

Peer Support Program

We successfully facilitated the Peer Support Program in-person at Overlook, training 7 Peer Support Staff. Overlook is the first harm reduction focused housing project in NS. Our team has proven to be flexible and open-minded by revising our Peer Support Training Program to accommodate those at Overlook. We also successfully facilitated the Peer Support Program at Glooscap First Nations and are hoping to connect with other Indigenous communities in the area.

Stabilization Centre

We're continuing to work towards starting a Stabilization Centre in Halifax. We signed a contract with the City to develop a policy manual for the Stabilization Centre.

Partnered Organizations

GEO NS

We have partnered with GEO (Getting Everyone Online) NS. GEO's dedicated to ensuring everyone has what they need for *digital inclusion*: Internet Access, Devices, and Digital Skills. Dominic, Brannon and Nancy have started to take training sessions available through GEO. Upon completion of the training, the goal is to be able to start completing applications for our core group members. We have five devices w/headsets and five internet accesses available. GEO also has given Dominic a much-needed Chromebook.

Mental Health Commission of Canada

Our Executive Director Steven Deveau is a board member and sits on many different sub committees including the National Action Plan Development Advisory Committee where he continues to promote our organization through word of mouth by also through their articles.

NSCJA

Throughout the year we have worked with the NSCJA and collaborated on their HRM Drug Consultations. This was done by having multiple core group members participate on the panel discussions in the community as well as gathering student volunteers (core group members) to assist with note taking at these community info sessions. One of these events was hosted and facilitated by Steven Deveau, our Executive Director.



7 Step Annual Report for Newfoundland and Labrador

2024

St John's - This past year we have had a couple of hiccups re being unable to go inside HMP due to staff shortages again, but as late it has been better. We had three inmates receive their certificate from NL 7 Step TR program in mid April 2024. Just this past week April 26th we have started a new group consisting of seven inmates. This is our 10 year with HMP not counting the time before. We have a new group of trained volunteers. Seven to be exact giving us a total of 10 volunteers in St. John's area. They are all well informed from their university studies in Criminology, Psychology, Sociology and some with Police studies. They all bring interest and knowledge and some experienced in the criminal justice system. We all look forward to the continuance of each step!

We had applied for the National Seed funding and kindly had received \$ 1750.00. We were able with this funding to purchase insurance for NL 7 Step, print materials needed, pay for travel cost and supplies for St. Johns and Grand Falls area 7 Step.

We are hoping to have a community information booth at our local Farmers market in the next few months after Adrienne returns from her sabbatical over in Europe. We still have a few NL 7 Step long sleeved t shirts available we will try to sell at the information table.

One of our new volunteers would like to do her honours research on the 7 Step group / program.

Donna Gardiner – St. John's Facilitator & Director

7 Step Whitbourne - Whitbourne has been having a productive year. We are ready to offer Taking Responsibility program at the institution. They currently do not have enough residents to start a 7 Step core group. We have two staff members/volunteers who are trained and ready to start Taking responsibility program as well as possibility starting a core group inside the institution. It is a slow process getting started but all is going well. As always we hope to be able to show more improvement for the coming year.

Scott MacDonald – Director

7 Step Grand Falls / Windsor – 7th Step activity in Central NL, over the winter Taking Responsibility and 7 Step Personal Workbook program was completed at Bishops Falls CC (BFCC)with a number of follow up meetings. Staff at BFCC were co-operative and a group this fall is likely, provided there is sufficient in the population. The college program that was a good source of volunteers is no longer being offered. Identifying volunteers in Central NL will be a goal for next year.

John MacPherson - Director

7th Step Newfoundland is looking forward to a more active and engaged 2024-2025!