



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

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



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- President - Mick Cawthorn - Alberta*
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- Member - Sandra Burkitt – Ontario
- Member - Spencer Kell – Ontario*
- Member - Iridian Grenada - British Columbia*

*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.



Presidents Annual Report 2024-2025

I'm not sure how to put everything that I would like to write into words. There have been so many changes, challenges, successes, and amazing events since the last AGM. I want to congratulate everyone for their efforts and for being an important part of the 7th Step Society.

Even with the changing of the guard, so to speak, I'm very excited to see what's coming in the next few years. I'd like to give a special thanks to George for his continued mentorship to us all and congratulate Pete on his new position.

I want to thank all our sponsors, volunteers, ex-offenders, and board members (new & old) across Canada. It is all of you that make our lived experience programs work.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Ottawa soon!

Thanks again,

Mick Cawthorn

President



Executive Director's Annual Report 2024-2025

This past fiscal year has seen some major accomplishments for us as a national organization as we continued the growth of peer support groups in various parts of the country, largely aided by the use of virtual resources and the dedication of 7th Step members/volunteers in the area. A new affiliate chapter in British Columbia was incorporated with activities in the lower mainland and with plans to expand into other areas of B.C. and the Yukon. Thanks to the support of our funding partners, North Pine Foundation and Public Safety Canada, we were able to employ National Office staff in Dartmouth, NS to organize Public Forums, Pardons Support services (along with our affiliate the Alberta 7th Step Society) and volunteer training to deliver 7th Step programs in correctional institutions.

We continued to have a presence on a national level through our participation in the National Association of Agencies Active in Criminal Justice which allows us to interface with other National Corrections and Justice organizations as well as government agencies such as the Public Safety Crime Prevention Branch and the Correctional Service of Canada. This gives us the opportunity to represent the voice of “lived experience” at the highest levels of the Criminal Justice System in Canada.

The mainstay of our program support and delivery continues to be our volunteers across Canada and that is the strength of our organization. The funding that we have received from our partners, particularly North Pine Foundation, has greatly enhanced this in the past year as it allows us to further develop volunteer resources through public education, peer support and training. Also, by primarily employing support staff with lived experience, we have created employment opportunities for people to share their wealth of talent to prevent recidivism.

On a final and personal note, I served notice to the Board of Directors that I would be stepping down as Executive Director, effective March 31st. This was no surprise of course, as I had made my intentions known some time ago and had been actively mentoring Peter Brown – National Program Manager to assume this role when he was ready. The Board accepted my recommendation to hire Peter Brown as Executive Director and he accepted the appointment, effective April 1st, 2025. I believe the organization will be well served by Pete's leadership, personal attributes and extensive lived experience in the years to come.

It has been my pleasure, privilege and honour to have served as a volunteer Executive Director for the past 23 years and to have had the opportunity to work with the many members, volunteers, partners and friends of 7th Step. I will continue my involvement with 7th Step as a member and volunteer in whatever capacity I can.

Sincerely,
George Myette
Executive Director



National Program Manager Annual Report 2024-2025

The 2024 – 2025 fiscal year has been one of connection, exposure and growth for the 7th Step Society of Canada. This has been made possible by our dedicated volunteers, staff, and funders. Thank you all for your commitment to 7th Step and our mission.

Due to our funding from NorthPine, we have been able to commit in person to round tables and meetings in Ottawa with NAACJ, Public Safety and CSC along with Public Forums, Institutional Health Fairs, Community Fairs, and the CCJA Conference in Alberta. These exposures of 7th Step and our relentless public speaking engagements by our lived experience and volunteer members has led to another year of immense growth. We have new core groups, 'Taking Responsibility' program being run in new institutions and in the community, new regional co-ordinators, and a stable National Office. Not to mention the success of the 'Pardon Me 7th Step' program.

7th Step Canada has received international recognition due to Iridian Grenada and his work with the International Corrections & Prison Association and Nancy Lewis's work with people receiving secondary education while in Riverview Correctional Facility from Potsdam University in New York state. With 7th Step receiving these types of exposure, this writer has no doubt that 7th Step Canada will be supporting Core Groups outside of the country in the near future.

On a final note, George Myette has been a part of 7th Step for over 50 years. He retired from his volunteer Executive Director position on March 31st, 2025. George played a key role in maintaining stability for 7th Step Canada and representing lived experience across the country. His contribution to the organization has been unmatched. Moving forward, the commitment is to lead the organization to the best of this writer's ability.

National Program Manager

Pete Brown



Office Manager, Pardon Me 7th Step Report, Year Ending March 31, 2025

Our numbers as of March 31, 2025

Active Clients: 158 Applications Submitted: 71 Pardons Granted: 44

The Pardon Me project is thriving! Teamwork has been essential to this success. Our offices in Calgary and Dartmouth have exceptional Case Managers. We have conducted presentations with non-profits, employers, and community members, including Future Worx, focusing on reducing stigma and highlighting the importance of Pardons and Record Suspensions. Overall, this provides a great opportunity for us to network, share the impactful work we are doing, and receive referrals for new clients. We are effectively addressing challenges together as a team. Our efforts include creating promotional materials and engaging in valuable collaborations and networking opportunities. Brannon has been instrumental in researching and providing staff training opportunities. We participate in these training sessions as a team, and we are learning a great deal.

Performance reviews have been positive, reflecting our commitment to working with clients. We actively check in with them, as the pardon process can often involve a lengthy wait. Additionally, fines and time requirements continue to be obstacles we face. We are proud to announce that we have implemented raises for our employees which have demonstrated outstanding performance, fostering a culture of appreciation within our team.

We are thrilled about the promising opportunities that the upcoming year holds, eagerly anticipating an influx of clients seeking our assistance with pardons and record suspensions. Our dedicated team is not only strong but also passionate, fully committed to ensuring the success of the Pardon Me project. Together, we look forward to making a meaningful impact in the lives of those who seek a fresh start.

Kindest regards,

Nancy Everson-Berrigan
Program Manager
Pardon Me 7th Step



National Program/Volunteer Coordinator Annual Report 2024-2025

Nancy Everson-Berrigan, Apr.-Oct 2024

Over the past year, 7th Step Canada has achieved significant growth, expanding our reach and impact nationwide. As the National Program/Volunteer Coordinator (NPVC), I have traveled across Canada, visiting correctional facilities, engaging with wardens and program managers, and demonstrating how 7th Step fosters meaningful change. Programs like *Taking Responsibility* remain essential in fulfilling our mission.

Brannon Hooper, Oct 2024 – present

In my role, I have actively participated in Street Group meetings nationwide, building meaningful connections with members and volunteers. I have also maintained ongoing communication with Queens volunteers who facilitate our T.R. program at Millhaven in Ontario and contributed to the planning of the National AGM in Ottawa.

Through Public Forums, I have strengthened engagement with our community, revitalizing programs, and fostered deeper collaboration among members and volunteers. To enhance the quality of volunteer and facilitator training, we are updating key literature, including the *Train the Trainer* manual, and developing a comprehensive chairperson guide for Street Group meetings.

Additionally, I have worked closely with our Atlantic Regional Coordinator in New Brunswick and our Central Coordinator in Ontario on presentations and recruitment initiatives aimed at bringing in new members and volunteers. I co-facilitated the *Taking Responsibility* program alongside our Quebec representative at a treatment center on the reserve and introduced the program at the Manie Daniels Center in Ottawa, where I trained volunteers to lead sessions.

In Nova Scotia, our *Breaking Barriers* initiative continues to gain traction, promoting 7th Step programs to employers interested in supporting the reintegration of ex-offenders into the workforce. My goal is to expand these presentations nationwide.

With these ongoing efforts, I remain committed to strengthening 7th Step Canada and ensuring its long-term success.

7th Step National Program/Volunteer Coordinator

Brannon Hooper 1-587-447-9281



Treasurers Annual Report 2024-2025

As outlined in our financial statements, our funding is categorized into two streams:

- **Pardon Me Project**, supported exclusively by the *Grants and Contributions* program from Public Safety Canada.
- **National Operations**, which encompasses all other organizational activities.

We are sincerely grateful for Public Safety Canada's continued support, which has been instrumental in the growth and expansion of our organization. During the fiscal year, we continued to receive 2 core funding sources from Public Safety Canada:

- \$74,000 from a **5-year National Volunteer Organization Grant**
- Just under \$300,000 from a **4-year Pardon Me Project Grant**

In addition to grant funding, we received income from two other sources:

- **\$160** from membership fees and donations
- **\$15,361.42** in interest income (received in March 2025) from a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC). Most of this income will be deferred to the next fiscal year.

For the fiscal year, **National Operations closed with a deficit of just under \$150,000**. Expenses exceed income; however, we were able to cover operational costs by drawing from unspent unrestricted funds received in previous years. Particularly a generous **\$500,000 grant we received from NorthPine Foundation in September 2023**, which we allocated over 3 years. We deeply appreciate NorthPine Foundation's continued support, which has enabled us to grow our team and fulfill our mandate.

Pardon Me Project Grant is used exclusively to support individuals through the pardon/record suspension process. This includes salaries for case managers and associated processing fees. Further details regarding the deficit shown under the Pardon Me Project are provided in the corresponding note of our financial statements, which have been reviewed by **C&E Chartered Accountants (Calgary, Alberta)** and can be requested by emailing seventh@7step.ca.

Funding categorized under **National Operations** supports salaries for our Executive Director and National Administrative Assistant. Remaining funds are allocated to organizational priorities, including the Annual General Meeting, support for Provincial Chapters, program-related expenses, and administrative costs such as bookkeeping and audit services.

If you have any questions or would like more details, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Nicole Luis - 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, 2025, and the statements of revenues and expenses, 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, 2025, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with ASNPO.

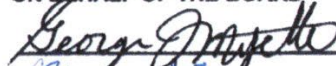

Calgary, Alberta
June 23, 2025


C&E LLP Chartered Professional Accountants

THE SEVENTH STEP SOCIETY OF CANADA
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 324,208	\$ 73,136
Term deposits (Note 4)	21,830	410,695
Interest receivable	419	10,596
Goods and services tax recoverable	3,227	13,845
Prepaid expenses and deposits	474	-
	<u>349,958</u>	<u>508,272</u>
TERM DEPOSITS (Note 4)	<u>-</u>	<u>10,599</u>
	<u>\$ 349,958</u>	<u>\$ 518,871</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 19,325	\$ 3,139
Deferred income (Note 5)	8,866	25,896
	<u>28,181</u>	<u>29,035</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>323,777</u>	<u>489,836</u>
	<u>\$ 349,958</u>	<u>\$ 518,871</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

 Director
 Director

See notes to financial statements

THE SEVENTH STEP SOCIETY OF CANADA
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
Year Ended March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
REVENUES		
Pardon Me project (Note 5)	\$ 297,675	\$ 276,495
Government funding (Note 6)	74,041	74,041
Memberships, donations and other	10,612	11,512
Donation - The Northpine Foundation	-	500,000
	<u>382,328</u>	<u>862,048</u>
EXPENSES		
Wages and employee benefits	366,198	316,092
Rent	40,090	33,431
Conferences and awards	39,382	32,161
Professional fees and honoraria	25,058	9,398
Consulting, administration, and bookkeeping	19,535	22,726
Public forums	17,805	8,435
Travel	16,817	15,086
Office supplies, equipment, and printing	9,602	601
Pardon Me Expense	7,128	-
Insurance	3,618	3,385
Memberships and dues	1,536	72
Telephone, internet and website development	1,445	1,245
Training	173	-
Volunteer development	-	4,670
	<u>548,387</u>	<u>447,302</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ (166,059)</u>	<u>\$ 414,746</u>



Provincial Reports



British Columbia Annual Report 2024-2025

Executive Summary

Since the last Annual General Meeting in June 2024, the 7th Step Society of Canada has seen significant developments in British Columbia and Yukon. Key changes include adjustments in board membership, the successful adoption of the Yellow Ribbon Run, and efforts to establish second-stage housing. While these initiatives mark substantial progress, there are challenges such as funding needs, volunteer capacity, and expanding in-person engagement.

Current Landscape in British Columbia

1. **Board Membership Changes:** We've experienced two board member resignations, including the Treasurer. This highlights the urgent need for funding to hire permanent staff for administrative tasks, bookkeeping, and office management.
2. **Operational Challenges:** In-person meetings remain limited to online formats with word-of-mouth promotion. Expanding our reach into institutions is constrained by the reliance on volunteer board members, who are already stretched thin.
3. **Funding Needs:** To move forward, we need dedicated funding to establish a staffed office, which will enable us to professionalize operations and extend our impact.

Yellow Ribbon Run: A Major Milestone

The Yellow Ribbon Run, originally from Singapore, has been successfully introduced in British Columbia under the exclusive brand of the 7th Step Society. This initiative focuses on community reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals, symbolized by participants wearing yellow shirts and referencing the 'Tie a Yellow Ribbon' theme. This campaign has positioned the 7th Step Society as a leader in reintegration efforts across Canada.

Second-Stage Housing and Community Reintegration

We are in discussions with local organizations to establish second-stage housing in Abbotsford. Second-stage housing provides stable accommodation for individuals transitioning from halfway houses or completing their sentences, which is crucial for reducing recidivism and supporting successful reintegration. Studies highlight the importance of second-stage housing in reducing recidivism long term (2-5 year and supporting reintegration. According to research, stable housing significantly increases the chances of successful reintegration into society, providing a foundation for employment, community involvement, and personal stability.

Community adoption of reintegration programs is equally critical. Programs that foster community support and acceptance improve the social reintegration process, reduce stigma, and facilitate a more supportive environment for returning citizens.

Conclusion

In summary, while the 7th Step Society has made remarkable strides in BC & Yukon, there is a pressing need for funding, staffing, and enhanced community engagement. Leveraging the success of the Yellow Ribbon Run and establishing second-stage housing will be pivotal in our continued mission to support justice-involved individuals in British Columbia and Yukon

Presented by:

Iridian Grenada



Alberta Annual Report 2024-2025

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 Annual Report 2024-2025

There has been no in person activity in Saskatchewan in the last fiscal year. The focus is on attending 7th Step meetings via Zoom in other parts of the country.

I am an active participant in the Ottawa/Kingston 7th Step group. This continues to be 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 which I am happy to provide. In February 2025 I attended the Edmonton Public Forum and was one of the presenters, giving some of the history of the 7th Step operations in that community in years past. As of May 2025, a 7th Step group was formed, and I have been attending those meetings on a bi-weekly basis.

As always, I remain open to support taking the TR Program into institutions and facilitating the formation of community groups in this province.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Ontario Annual Report 2024-2025

1. Millhaven SIU – contact person Social Program Officer Alex Lazette
 - 7 Step Program currently running in SIU on Tuesday evenings – sessions are 2 hrs with each individual client
 - No issues filling the client slots to meet with the volunteers
 - Recently a lot of the clients that were in the SIU have transition out of the SIU – hvr staff are encouraging the clients presently in the SIU to attend the 7 Step program
2. Napanee Detention Centre still handing out the TR Booklet and issues Certificates of Completion. Napanee is currently housing 80 per cent females – there is a new build which has been approved to incorporate an additional 60 clients – new build will include new program rooms – new Indigenous grounds – a whole new wing
3. Kemptville – New Build to be known as Eastern Ontario Correctional Complex will house 235 co-ed clients – it will also incorporate Mental Health staff.
4. Victoria Raymond is a teacher at Roy McMurty Youth Facility who reached out to Darlene Lund – I spoke with Victoria and she believes that the 7 Step Program would be beneficial to the clients at this facility – however she is with the Board of Education and the Ministry would have to be approached regarding 7 Steps – Spencer and Victoria will be speaking together in the very near future.

Mannie Daniels Center (MDC)

Executive Director, Spencer Kell, reports that a TR program has been started and facilitated by Brannon (7th Step) and Malachi (student volunteer) and that they are halfway through the program. Street Group is going okay but would like to see newer members attend and participate.

Presented by:

Sandy Burkitt

Ontario Director

Spencer Kell

Ontario Director



Quebec Annual Report 2024-2025

Over the past year, 7 Steps Québec has grown significantly. We hosted approximately six Zoom meetings and had an information table at the Cabaret de la Seconde Chance, where we shared details about the 7 Steps program. We plan to return there this fall.

We've also reached out to several organizations to introduce them to our work and are currently awaiting responses. One of the highlights of the year was delivering the Taking Responsibility program twice at a healing lodge, where we connected with new participants, including a few former inmates who have since joined us.

We're expecting even more growth this year. Our Facebook page has also seen a steady increase in followers and engagement.

Au cours de la dernière année, 7 Steps Québec a connu une belle croissance. Nous avons organisé environ six rencontres sur Zoom et tenu un kiosque d'information au Cabaret de la Seconde Chance, où nous avons présenté notre programme. Nous prévoyons y retourner cet automne.

Nous avons approché plusieurs organisations pour leur faire connaître 7 Steps et attendons actuellement leurs réponses. L'un des moments forts de l'année a été la présentation du programme Prendre mes responsabilités à deux reprises dans un pavillon de ressourcement, ce qui nous a permis de recruter de nouveaux participants, dont quelques ex-détenus.

Nous nous attendons à encore plus d'expansion cette année. Notre page Facebook a également connu une belle croissance en termes d'abonnés et d'engagement.

Denis Le Sieur - Quebec



New Brunswick Annual Report 2024-2025

New Brunswick has seen growth and has put 7th Step Society on the minds and tongues of the Justice System and the Greater Communities in the Province.

7th Step has grown its Moncton Street Group which started just over one year ago from 4 to 11 active members, we unfortunately lost two over the course of the year which would have given us 13 great people in our group. Our group is close, and we are strategically planning fundraisers in the community to raise awareness of 7th Step. Myles has taken over the facilitation responsibilities since the new year. He has been facilitating the meetings as of late and has assumed the role of 7th Step Peer Co-Ordinator for Atlantic Region. I will continue to support online as long as I can.

We, alongside our 7th Step Members from Nova Scotia, Quebec and NFLD have completed 3 presentations at various Community Colleges around the province as well as a presentation to all of the CSC POs in Moncton this fall. The latter which has brought us an invitation to present at Dorchester Penitentiary in the new year. Contacts were graciously given for U de M, but this will only be pursued in the new year as we can only do so much in a season!

We have been facilitating the T.R. program at Atlantic Institution in the SIU and it is eagerly embraced by the Warden and Deputy's as well as the PO's that have a case load in that Institution. We were invited to attend their Health Fair in the fall. Nancy and Pete did attend and were very successful in educating staff and population about 7th Step!

Hats off to Nicole Luis who is bringing awareness of 7th Step in the Capital City for us! We appreciate you, Nicole! She is facilitating a street group in that city weekly with folks from New York USA and is steady as she goes! Nicole has held presentations online and at the university for 7th Step over the last year.

We continue to facilitate the Taking Responsibility Program at The New Brunswick Women's Correctional Center. After a short break we are back underway and are currently in the midst of a TR program. The TR program has become one of the core programs at NBWCC and has almost 100% interest from the Women who reside there...the wait list is a long one.

We have a stable online core group that meets bi-weekly for the NB meetings. We are hoping that attendance goes up a bit in the new year!

Plans are being made for more presentations around the province in the new year, as well as some fund-raising activities. Myles and Violet from the Moncton Group along with Nicole for support just completed a presentation for IDT which further promotes 7th Step Society in NB. Through our efforts in promoting 7th Step here in NB, we have gained a number of volunteers and had individuals with lived experience as well as potential volunteers interested in what we are doing and attending meetings both online and in the cities of Moncton and Fredericton.

Thank you to everyone for supporting us in our efforts over this past year! None of it would have been possible without you! We are looking forward to our next chapter....2025. We are better together!

Kindest Regards,

Tammy on behalf of Everyone who participates and volunteers to make lives better for everyone!



PEI Annual Report 2024-2025

In 2024-2025 PEI 7th Step has been down to two members, with one member only available virtually. Thus, it has been a challenge to be motivated to continue with meetings and recruitment.

However, after some reprieve there is some recent interest to regain some momentum this summer with some new energy from a new member.

We will submit an update once we have a more succinct plan of action.

We have submitted ideas for PEI's 7th Step logo, and we await with anticipation an exceptional final product.

Although PEI is not as active as we once were, we appreciate the continued support from all other 7th step members and groups.

Additionally, we continue to have hope that PEI can and will be revitalized.

Until then, we value the work, and we have the upmost respect for all the effort each of you have contributed to support us.

Sincerely,
Susan and Darlene



Nova Scotia Annual Report 2024-2025

This year, the 7th Step Society of Nova Scotia made significant strides in expanding our team and strengthening our programming. We welcomed a Youth Assistant to lead the development of a new Youth Program, which is currently in its early stages. Additionally, we provided Peer Support Training to the John Howard Society and are now refining it into a continuous model, ensuring long-term engagement and flexibility. We have two weekly street group meetings in Nova Scotia, one in Halifax and one in the Valley. Our Core Group membership continues to grow.

Our outreach efforts continued to grow as one of our Core Group Members began providing peer support and facilitating the Taking Responsibility Program at Nova Institution for Women in Truro. We also engaged with diverse audiences through numerous school presentations, reaching students across high schools, universities, and colleges. Our presentations extended to John Howard Society's Berma Place, HRM police recruits, Future Works Nova Scotia, Parole Offices, the Department of Justice, and the Wellness Court. We have an ongoing monthly commitment to Crosby House, a treatment center in the Valley, to share our stories and about 7th Step.

Collaboration remains central to our mission. We partnered with Future Works Nova Scotia to host the "Breaking Barriers" event, showcasing how 7th Step can support individuals facing challenges. Additionally, we participated in service provider meetings and attended the Wellness Expo, where we connected with other organizations to strengthen community relationships and knowledge.

Supporting young professionals, we organized a headshot event, providing high-quality photographs for resumes, LinkedIn profiles, and other career platforms. Prioritizing wellness, we hosted a Self-Care Day open to both members and the public, offering opportunities for connection, reflection, and mental well-being through various activities and resources.

We are proud to have partnered with Geo NS to supply computers and internet access, and cell phones with a monthly plan to members facing financial barriers, bridging the digital divide and ensuring continued connectivity and engagement.

Looking ahead, we are in the early stages of producing a documentary that will amplify the voices, impact, and legacy of 7th Step's work in Nova Scotia. We are also grateful for the support of two law students assisting with grant writing to secure funding and sustain the growth of our programs.

Through these initiatives, we remain committed to rehabilitation, empowerment, and fostering lasting change in our community.

Presented by Nicole Luis



Newfoundland Annual Report 2024-2025

St John's – Unfortunately once again this past year we have had a on again off again with staffing issues at HMP. Leaving us unable to complete a session with those in group our group. Our group dynamics changes due to inmates being sent to a different facility or placed in another program or being released.

We had applied for the National Seed funding once again this year to help us with our expenses ie, Insurance, supplies etc.

We have 7, 7 Step volunteers at the moment in St John's area and 2 outside St. John's

On a brighter side HMP have a new group of trained Guards which I believe will be starting in a week or so. So, with this said we hope our Taking Responsibility will start and finish smoothly over the summer weeks and moving forward.

Donna Gardiner – St. John's Facilitator & Director

7 Step Whitbourne - Whitbourne Youth Center has been having a productive year. We are preparing to start a new Taking Responsibility session soon. 7 Step is low key but still alive in Whitbourne.

Scott MacDonald – Director

7 Step Grand Falls / Windsor – 7th Step activity in Central NL has been primarily as a support for the 7 Step Society of NL. I continue to interact socially with a couple of former 7 Step members.

John MacPherson

7th Step Newfoundland is looking forward to a more active and engaged 2025-2026!