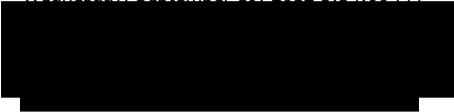


**From:** [Harvey, Brian](#)  
**To:** [Downey, Claudia](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comms Pkg for Min Johnson's interviews  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 19, 2012 3:34:00 PM  
**Attachments:** 

---

TRIM

Brian RM. Harvey  
Director, Policy & Planning - Aboriginal Affairs  
Intergovernmental & Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
(709) 729-1487 (w)  
(709) 693-1612 (c)

From: Carter, Carol Ann  
Sent: 19 September 2012 15:14  
To: Dutton, Sean; Harvey, Brian  
Cc: Gover, Aubrey  
Subject: FW: Comms Pkg for Min Johnson's interviews  
Importance: High

For our very quick review!

Carol Ann Carter

Director of Communications

Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs

Labrador Affairs

Voluntary and Non-Profit Secretariat

HYPERLINK "<mailto:carolanncarter@gov.nl.ca>"carolanncarter@gov.nl.ca

709.729.1674, 631-9505

From: Hunt, Michelle  
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 3:13 PM  
To: Power, Glenda; Howard, Jacquelyn; Collingwood, Jennifer; Hammond, Lynn; Brown, Milly; Tulk, Jennifer; Carter, Carol Ann  
Subject: Comms Pkg for Min Johnson's interviews

Michelle Hunt, BPR, BBA

Director of Communications

Department of Child, Youth and Family Services

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

709-729-5148, 709-725-1593

HYPERLINK "<mailto:MichelleHunt@gov.nl.ca>"MichelleHunt@gov.nl.ca

**STATS****Total Number of Children/Youth in OPP's** (as of July 31)

Number of children in OPP's: 39  
Number of Youth in OPP's: 4  
Total: 43

**Total Number of Children from Labrador in Treatment Facilities (OPP's)**

Innu Zone: 22  
Other: 2  
Total: 24

**Mushuau Innu Children In-care** (as of August 31)

Mushuau Innu children in-care: 36

Of these 36 children, 21 < 10 years of age (sniffing not an issue)

Of these 21 children:

12 are placed at Natuashish,  
4 placed at Sheshatshiu  
2 placed at HVGB/NWR  
2 placed in St. John's  
1 placed OPP

15 children are 11 -18 years of age

Of these 15 children:

11 are placed in OPP treatment foster homes or treatment programs (sniffing is a significant issue for 7 of these children)  
4 are placed at Sheshatshiu ( sniffing is not an issue)

**Mushuau Innu children on PIPs and in Natuashish**

Mushuau Innu children are on PIPs and in Natuashish: 76

13 would be identified as having an issue with sniffing solvents

Of the 13

9 were previously in treatment programs and or in-care because of their sniffing behavior, but were returned to parents within last few months

**Notes:**

Since month end and to date, we have opened/reopened pips on 27 children because of reported sniffing behaviors (10 of the 27 are children who were on the August PIP list )

14 of these 27 children, we received first hand witnessed reports of their sniffing

13 of the 27 children were assumed to have been sniffing, these were the youngest children ranging in age 5-13, but they were not witnessed to have been sniffing, all reported by one other child to a teacher, but not seen to have been sniffing.

Of the 27 children where sniffing has been reported and we have done CPRs:

- 4 were placed in OPP treatment foster homes or treatment programs
- 2 have moved out of Natuashish with guardians
- 1 is to be placed OPP this Friday
- 1 is out of Natuashish receiving medical treatment for sniffing related burns

We continue to be very concerned about 5 of the remaining 19 children on PIPS who remain in Natuashish, one is in HVGB, aged 12-15, who are known to have been sniffing recently. We have met with their parents/guardians over the last couple of weeks trying to create safety plans and we expect at least 2 more will be placed out of province.

We also have 5 supervision orders at Natuashish, none of which involve sniffing behavior.

No youth on YS agreements.

There are 9 youth also reported to us, some repeatedly, as sniffing.

Of these 9 older youth:

- 4 were in-care
- 2 were on ys agreements which closed some months back

**Key Messages****Natuashish - gas sniffing****September 19, 2012****• Extent of Problem:**

- The problem is no more extensive today than it was a year ago.
- That being said it is a very serious issue and very concerning for the children involved, their parents and this community.
- Solutions are not easy or short term both from the perspective of the individuals requiring treatment and for the community generally.
- It can't be solved by individuals or one agency .....CYFS and health services (under both LGRHA and the Band) continue to work together on identifying and implementing solutions.

**• What is CYFS's role:**

- If parents are taking the necessary steps to ensure the safety and well-being of their child/youth, then there is no reason for CYFS to become involved.
- If parents are unable to ensure their child's safety, and there could be any number of reasons for this, such as the severity of the child's behaviour, as is the case in some situations in Natuashish, CYFS works with these parents to help keep their children safe.

**• What is CYFS doing:**

- In terms of gas sniffing in the community of Natuashish, CYFS understands this is very serious issue and our staff are already going out on every referral that is related to gas sniffing and assesses it accordingly.
- As result of assessments, CYFS could assist parents to keep their children safe by:
  - providing supports to parents such as identifying ways they can keep their child safe (e.g. seeking out the children in the night-time) or working out a safety plan with family members who can assist them in monitoring the child to prevent them from gas sniffing.
  - if a parent is unable to keep their child safe, and the reality is some of these children are beyond parental control at this point, then in order to ensure the overall safety of the child CYFS can remove the child from the home:
    - the child may then be placed in foster care, the majority of whom are in the community, as the foster parents have a different relationship with the child and may have different skills which can assist in keeping the child safe; or,
    - depending on the severity of an individual case, CYFS may need to send the child (who is our in-care) out-of-province for treatment
    - For example Wood's Homes (Calgary, Alberta) – accredited community owned and operated children's mental health centre. Provide 34 programs and services for at-risk children, youth and their families. Key services include residential treatment, foster care, family stabilization, a homeless

shelter, a counseling center and a youth transition program. It includes a short aftercare component within the community.

- CYFS is also developing its own specialized foster care program as part of our continuum of care strategy announced in Budget 2012 which will provide similar services to some of those we currently referring out of province.

- **What is being done to address the broader issue:**

- CYFS is working with health officials from both LGRHA and the Health Commission under the Band to identify how we can support the community and parents in addressing this issue.
- CYFS is prepared to bring someone from the Woods Centre or some other treatment facility into the community to provide additional supports based on their expertise. The idea is for Woods staff to be in the community for 2-3 week period to deliver a parenting skills program to all parents in the community and not just to parents with children in care.
- We have already had discussions on this with the Health Commission. *[This has been in the works for 2 weeks and proposing CYFS fund]*
- CYFS also started a Steering Committee and Working Group including First Nation representation to work jointly on improving how CYFS services will be delivered within Innu communities. A MOU, for how we will work together, is being drafted for consideration of all parties.

- **What are the Health Services or Options for Treatment:**

- Mental Health Addiction Services under Labrador-Grenfell Health will have a Mental Health Counselor starting in the community on October 1.
- See KM HCS.

- **Data on CYFS Statistics Attached**

## **Mental Health Investments**

### **Key Messages**

**Spetember, 2012**

- Our government is aware of the profound effect that mental health issues have on individuals, families and our communities.
- We are making significant investments in mental health services in the province to ensure individuals have access to these services when and where needed.
- In fact, over the past three years **our government has invested nearly \$30 million in mental health and addictions services** throughout the province.
- These significant investments are evidence of our strong commitment to tackle the serious and complex issues surrounding mental health and addictions.
- The Provincial Government, through the regional health authorities, provides several specialized treatment services for children, youth and adults who require mental health services.
- There are **27 sites across the provinces that offer mental health counseling services** where people can get the help they need. In addition there are approximately 20 case managers in rural areas of the province who provide specialized mental health services and support to individuals.
- We are also moving forward with development of an innovative, cutting-edge way to deliver mental health services to individuals in rural areas of the province, especially youth. Budget 2011 provided \$1 million to develop an interactive e-mental health service, enhance tele-mental health services in rural areas of the province and a public awareness campaign to enhance education and decrease stigma.

### **Mental Health and Addictions Specific Programming – Natuashish, Labrador**

- Our government has focused on **a collaborative approach to providing mental health and addictions services to children and young adults in Natuashish.**
- We know there is a need for mental health and addictions supports and services in Natuashish and other rural communities in Labrador, and **we**

**have worked tirelessly with our partners, including Child, Youth and Family Services and Labrador-Grenfell Health to ensure we have supports in place for families who need them.**

- We have established **a team of health professionals in Natuashish to provide services to children and youth with mental health and addictions issues.** This team is comprised of:
  - clinicians from mental health and addictions in Labrador Grenfell Health;
  - a social worker from CYFS;
  - a psychologist from Health Canada; and,
  - community based mental health and addictions workers hired through the local band council.
- In addition to the positions funded through Health Canada, Health Canada has responsibility for the Innu Healing Strategy and funding is channeled through the Band Council. They frequently use Woods Home, a treatment facility in Alberta, for out-of-province treatment.
- Working collaboratively together, this team conducts integrated assessments on children and youth in the community.
- The team has been completing integrated assessments on the children and youth who are sniffing. These youth have been sniffing propane which is more dangerous than gas.
- The mental health and addictions worker works closely with the CYFS worker and others to complete these assessments.
- Our understanding from our team on the ground in Natuashish is that there are four youth who have been sent out of the province for treatment and another who is leaving today for treatment. While the number of children sniffing has been reported in the media to be about 40, any number of young people participating in this dangerous activity is too many.
- We are working with our counterparts in Labrador to ensure supports are in place for these children and their families.
- In Budget 2011 Labrador Grenfell Health was given a permanent mental health and addictions social worker position for Natuashish. This position was filled, later vacated and as of October 1, 2012 will be permanently filled again.

- In the meantime, in order to continue to provide mental health and addictions services to the community, Labrador-Grenfell Health hired a social worker who is well known to the community (Vivien O'Brien), who is providing extensive support to Natuashish and travels to the community two weeks a month to offer mental health and addictions services.
- While the mental health and addictions team can only treat individuals and families that request assistance, all referrals they receive are seen immediately, thus access is not a problem. Access to both in-province and out-of-province treatment is available.
- In addition, the province is participating in *Mapping the Way*, a mobile multidisciplinary clinical mental wellness team that will travel regularly between Sheshatshiu, Hopedale, Nain and Natuashish.
- The oversight for this team is provided by Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority; Nunatsiavut Government's Health and Social Development Department; Mushuau Innu Health Commission; Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation's Social and Health Department; and the Labrador Health Secretariat of Health Canada.
- The team was formed to provide a longer term response to ongoing high levels of social distress in these communities and to enhance mental well being. As a full partner in this team, the Innu are to prepare their communities, and provide housing for the team. This team has been to Natuashish several times however their regular visits will be established in the coming weeks when housing arrangements are finalized.
- Labrador-Grenfell Health is waiting to hear from the community on what they want as a response. There is a possible community meeting today or tomorrow. It is anticipated the community may request that Woods Home staff come in to the community; or another possibility is a recommendation for children and youth to go to Border Beacon, a traditional healing lodge outside the community.

## **Health and Community Services Mental Health and Addictions Services**

There are a number of child and youth mental health and addictions services operated by the four regional health authorities available throughout the province.

Services provided under **Eastern Health** include:

- Janeway Child Psychiatry Unit which provides psychiatric inpatient and day treatment to children and youth up to age 18;
- Provincial outpatient child psychiatry clinics that are overseen by six child psychiatrists, and social work and nursing staff;
- The Janeway Family Center which provides a combination of individual, family and group services for children, youth and their families;
- Adolescent House which is part of Janeway Family Center and provides individual, family and group interventions for adolescents up to 20 years of age;
- The Rowan Center which provides assessment, individual/group counseling, on site school, leisure activities, life skills, family support counseling and psychiatric consultation for youth with problematic substance use;
- Youth services mental health counselors; and,
- Adolescent Addiction Counselors;
- In addition, in rural eastern communities, teams of social workers, psychologists and/or nurses are located in 8 sites located in Bonavista; Clarendville; Burin (with satellite clinics in Grand Bank, St. Bernard's and St. Lawrence); Placentia; Whitbourne; Bay Roberts; Harbour Grace (with satellite clinics in Heart's Delight and Old Perlican); and Holyrood (with a satellite in St. Mary's). These teams provide mental health and addiction services to individuals, couples, families, groups and communities, spanning all age groups.

Services provided under **Western Health** include:

- Psychiatry Outpatient Clinics
- Blomidon Place which provides mental health services for children, youth and families by social workers and psychologists
- Community based mental health and addiction counselors providing counseling to all ages, including children. These are located in Stephenville; Deer lake; Burgeo; Port aux Basques; Norris Point/Cow Head; and Port Saunders

Services provided under **Central Health** include:

- Children may be admitted to the pediatric service at the Central Newfoundland Regional Health Center in Grand Falls-Windsor. Support is provided from the adult psychiatry unit with psychiatry, social work or psychology services as required;

- Psychiatry Outpatient Clinics
- Mental health clinicians dedicated to children mental health services are located in Grand Falls-Windsor;
- Community based mental health and addiction counselors in seven sites provide mental health services to all ages, including children. These are located in New-Wes Valley; Gander; Lewisporte; St. Alban's; Springdale; Twillingate; and Grand Falls-Windsor

Services provided under **Labrador-Grenfell Health** include:

- Mental health clinicians provide assessment and counseling services to individuals of all ages and their families. These positions are located in seven sites: Happy Valley-Goose Bay; Labrador City - Wabush ; St. Anthony ; Roddickton; Forteau; Port Hope Simpson; and Churchill Falls
- Budget 2011 provided funding for five Mental Health and Addiction Counseling positions to Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik and Natuashish.

In addition to these services, children and youth may be referred for **out-of-province treatment** for mental health and/or addiction reasons.

There are also 20 **youth outreach workers** placed in communities throughout the province. These staff work in communities and engage with youth in an effort to prevent problematic substance use and reach out to youth at risk.

At this time, the next tenders for the **youth treatment centres** in Grand Falls-Windsor (youth with addictions) and Paradise (youth with complex mental health needs) are expected to be announced before the end of this month. Until the tenders have been issued, bids evaluated and then the contracts awarded it is too early in the process to determine an anticipated completion date. These centres will offer a specialized type of treatment that is currently not available to the youth of the province experiencing addictions issues and complex mental health needs.