

# DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

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**Title:** Approval of Recommended Applicant for Building Safer Communities Steering Committee Membership

**Date Prepared:** October 16, 2024

**Report To:** Special Meeting of Council

**Councillor and Role:** N/A

**Ward:** N/A

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## Decision/Direction Required:

**That Council approve the recommended applicant for membership on the Building Safer Communities Steering Committee.**

## Discussion – Background and Current Status:

On August 21, 2023, Council approved the [Terms of Reference and Selection Process](#) for the City's [Building Safer Communities \(BSC\) Steering Committee](#). Efforts were made to represent the following perspectives/expertise within the Steering Committee membership to the greatest extent possible:

- People with lived experience
- Women and girls
- Children and families
- Youth and young adults
- Newcomers
- Racialized people
- Indigenous people
- 2SLGBTQIA+
- Persons with disabilities
- Mental health and addictions
- Harm reduction
- Poverty and low income
- Social isolation
- Housing and homelessness
- Involvement with the justice system
- Employment
- Education
- Academia / research
- Seniors / older persons
- Preventing recidivism

# ST. JOHN'S

## Approval of Recommended Applicant for Building Safer Communities Steering Committee Membership

Due to the resignation of a public member earlier this year, the Steering Committee has a vacant seat and is without an Indigenous member.

A public call for expressions of interest, for an Indigenous representative was [issued](#) on April 24, 2024 to fill the vacancy, and [extended](#) until May 28, 2024. Unfortunately, there were no suitable applications at that time. An additional call for expressions of interest was [issued](#) July 23, 2024, and [extended](#) until September 1, 2024, encouraging all interested candidates to apply but with a preference for an Indigenous representative. Seven completed applications were received for consideration.

Staff ranked all applicants on the basis of expertise/experience in one or more of the required perspectives (outlined above) and the scope of diversity, passion and intersectionality they bring to the Committee. Additional weighting was given to the scores of applicants who: (1) are or have been involved in the child/youth sector; (2) have lived experience or work directly with individuals with lived experience; and (3) are Indigenous or provide support to and/or advocacy for the urban Indigenous community.

As per the selection criteria laid out in the Terms of Reference, and based on scoring results, the following individual is recommended for public membership on the BSC Steering Committee:

### **Megan Pottle**

**Coordinator of Residential and Indigiqueer Inclusion with First Light**

### **Key Considerations/Implications:**

1. Budget/Financial Implications:

N/A. The project is funded through Public Safety Canada until March 2026.

2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:

- City Council
- Public / residents
- Community-based organizations and advocates
- Provincial Government departments, agencies, and entities
- Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services
- Royal Newfoundland Constabulary
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Education / school representatives
- People with lived expertise of homelessness, sex work, and involvement with the justice system
- Urban Indigenous community
- Marginalized populations

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- City of St. John's Advisory Committees and Working Groups

3. Is this a New Plan or Strategy: No

If yes, are there recommendations or actions that require progress reporting?

If yes, how will progress be reported? (e.g.: through the strategic plan, through Cascade, annual update to Council, etc.)

4. Alignment with Strategic Directions:

A Connected City: Increase and improve opportunities for residents to connect with each other and the City.

A Connected City: Develop and deliver programs, services and public spaces that build safe, healthy and vibrant communities.

4. Alignment with Adopted Plans:

- [Healthy City Strategy](#)
- [10-Year Affordable Housing Strategy, 2019 to 2028](#)
- Envision St. John's [Municipal Plan](#) and the Envision St. John's [Development Regulations](#), Amended 2022
- City of St. John's [Accessibility Plan](#) 2024-2026
- City of St. John's [Declaration in Support of the Rights of Indigenous People](#)

6. Accessibility and Inclusion:

- The membership of the Building Safer Communities Steering Committee represents a broad range of diverse perspectives and experiences.
- Committee meetings are held in accessible locations in a hybrid format.
- Virtual meetings are conducted on accessible platforms.

5. Legal or Policy Implications: N/A

6. Privacy Implications:

As per Section 7.3 of the Terms of Reference, all Committee members are required to refrain from the use or transmission of any confidential or privileged information while serving on the BSC Steering Committee.

7. Engagement and Communications Considerations:

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Once Council provides approval, all applicants will be notified of the decision and the list of BSC Steering Committee members will be updated on the City's website

- 8. Human Resource Implications: N/A
- 9. Procurement Implications: N/A
- 10. Information Technology Implications: N/A
- 11. Other Implications: N/A

**Recommendation:**

That Council approve Megan Pottle for membership on the Building Safer Communities Steering Committee.

**Prepared by:** Michelle Smith, Building Safer Communities Coordinator

**Approved by:** Krista Gladney, Manager – Healthy City and Inclusion  
Tanya Haywood, Deputy City Manager – Community Services

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	Approval of Recommended Applicant for Building Safer Communities Steering Committee Membership.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Oct 17, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Krista Gladney - Oct 16, 2024 - 9:52 PM**

**Tanya Haywood - Oct 17, 2024 - 11:46 AM**