

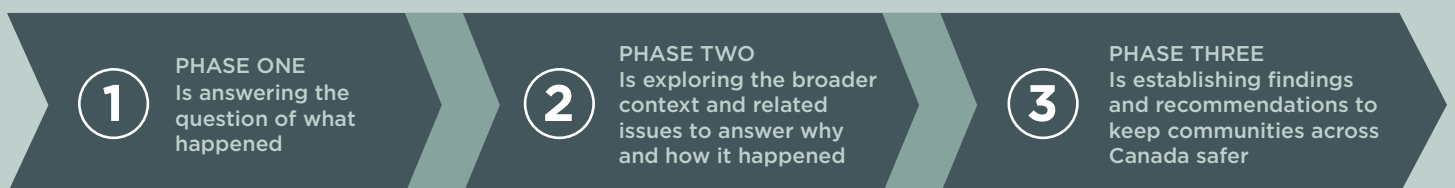
About the Mass Casualty Commission

The Mass Casualty Commission is the independent public inquiry examining the April 2020 mass casualty in Nova Scotia, working to provide meaningful recommendations to help protect Canadians in the future.

The events in April 2020 took the lives of many innocent people and left others with serious physical and emotional injuries. The scale of the loss and trauma caused fear, anger, and grief in our communities, province, and country. While many people refer to those events as the “mass shooting” or “Portapique shootings”, there were many types of harm in addition to the gun-related deaths and the impact spanned a wide geographic area of Nova Scotia. This is why we are using the term *mass casualty* in the name of this Commission.

As a public inquiry, the Commission is not a criminal trial or a civil lawsuit. Our work cannot determine whether individuals are to be found guilty of a criminal offence or whether damages should be awarded—the Commission is not a court of law. Instead, a public inquiry is concerned with broader issues, unlike criminal and civil trials, which focus on narrow issues between the parties.

The work of the Commission is organised into three key, overlapping Phases:



We are making steady progress on this work and are on track to complete the final report in November 2022.

Stay in Touch

We want you to stay updated on how you can participate and contribute to our work, and how to contact us with questions or information. Your input and involvement will play an important role in the Commission’s findings and recommendations. Together, we will make our communities safer.

- 📧 [MassCasualtyCommission.ca](https://masscasualtycommission.ca)
- 📧 Info@MassCasualtyCommission.ca
- 📞 902-407-7532 (local)
- 📞 1 833-635-2501 (toll-free)
- 📘 [Facebook.com/MassCasualtyCommission](https://www.facebook.com/MassCasualtyCommission)
- 🐦 [Twitter.com/NSMassCasualty](https://twitter.com/NSMassCasualty)

Wellness and Crisis Supports

Sometimes reading or hearing about a distressing or emotionally overwhelming experience can remind us of circumstances that are upsetting and disturbing. If you are experiencing overwhelming emotions, distress, or a mental health or addictions crisis, or are concerned about someone who is, the Provincial Mental Health Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Nova Scotia Provincial Crisis Line

📞 1-888-429-8167

The Commissioners



The Honourable J. Michael MacDonald, the Commission's Chair, served as Chief Justice of Nova Scotia until his retirement in 2019. As Chief Justice, he championed judicial outreach initiatives with Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaw and Black communities.



Leanne J. Fitch retired from 34 years in municipal policing in 2019. She served seven of those years as Chief of Police for the Fredericton Police Force. She has expertise in community safety and wellbeing, policing, and organizational change.



Dr. Kim Stanton is a lawyer at Goldblatt Partners LLP in Toronto. She has extensive experience in social justice, Indigenous and equality rights, and constitutional law, and publishes in the areas of constitutional law, transitional justice, and public inquiries.

Commission Team

The Commissioners are supported by a team of experts helping to advance different aspects of the Commission's work. The teams below are led by the Commission's Executive Director and CAO, Christine Hanson, who joined the Commission from her role as Director and CEO of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. The Commissioners and the Commission teams receive expert advice from Ronda Bessner, Senior Legal Advisor, who has played key roles in several public inquiries in Canada.

Investigations



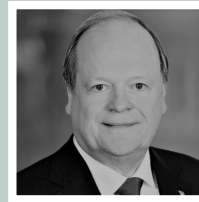
Led by **Barbara McLean**, team members include seasoned investigators and analysts focused on uncovering and compiling information, conducting site visits and witness interviews, laying the groundwork for Foundational Documents, and helping to inform the record of what happened.

Research & Policy



Led by **Dr. Emma Cunliffe**, team members include experienced legal and policy specialists focused on exploring the broader context and related issues, including relevant legislation or policies, engaging the Research Advisory Board, laying the groundwork for expert roundtables, and helping to answer questions about why and how the mass casualty took place.

Legal



Led by the **Honourable Thomas Cromwell**, team members include experienced lawyers and legal practitioners focused on providing objective advice to the Commissioners, ensuring the orderly conduct of the inquiry process, including liaising with Participants and their counsel, and helping to collect evidence.

Mental Health



Led by **Mary Pyche**, team members include specialists in mental health and wellness focused on informing the design of the Commission's work to ensure it is trauma-informed, and providing wellness advice and supports to everyone taking part in our work, including on-site support during proceedings.

Community Liaison



Led by **Maureen Wheller**, team members are specialists in community relationships who work in the affected communities to build relationships with community organizations and individuals, gather input, and help people understand more about the Commission's work.

Communications & Public Engagement



Led by **Sarah Young**, team members include specialists in communications and public engagement focused on ensuring members of the public in Nova Scotia and Canada are informed about the work of the Commission and are able to take part and provide input.