

**February 9, 2021**

## **Notice to Potential Participants**

The forms referred to throughout this document can be found on the [Mass Casualty Commission website](#).

The Commission is mandated to provide an opportunity for appropriate participation to:

1. the victims and families of the victims of the mass casualty;
2. the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia;
3. any other person who satisfies the Commissioners that they have a substantial and direct interest in the subject matter of the Commission.

**At this stage, the Commissioners would like to learn more about the range of individuals and groups who want to be heard by the Commission and the nature of their interest in the mandate.** This information will inform our planning of the schedule of meetings, hearings, and roundtables.

Some preliminary information from you via the forms linked below will assist us. If you have some information or knowledge to share with the Commission, we would appreciate receiving your form by **March 5, 2021** to assist with our planning. We will provide more information in due course on next steps.

If **you are a member of the public** who is simply interested in following the Commission's work, **you do not need to fill out a form**. We welcome your interest and ask that you please check the Commission website regularly for information on activities that will be open to the public, such as meetings, roundtables, and hearings. If you cannot attend in person due to public health guidance or for geographic or other reasons, please know that these activities will be available online.

### **Information to Potential Participants**

The Mass Casualty Commission's mandate, set out in Orders-in-Council under the authority of the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia, is to examine the April 18 and 19, 2020 mass casualty in Nova Scotia to determine what happened, and to provide recommendations to help protect Canadians in the future. For more information on the different parts of the mandate, please see the [Mandate page](#).

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To do its work, the Commission will need to gather information and knowledge surrounding the events of April 18 and 19, as well as the history and circumstances leading up to the mass casualty. The Commission will do this in a variety of ways, including holding meetings, hearings, roundtables, and conducting research. The Commission is determined to establish the facts and has the power to receive witness testimony under oath and subject to cross-examination, summon witnesses, enforce their attendance, and require the production of documents and things the Commissioners require for a full and fair investigation.

In carrying out their work, the mandate requires the Commissioners to:

- be guided by restorative principles in order to do no further harm;
- be trauma-informed;
- be attentive to the needs of and impacts on those most directly affected and harmed; and
- give particular consideration to any persons or groups that may have been differentially impacted by the mass casualty.

The Orders-in-Council have provided an opportunity for appropriate participation to:

1. the victims and families of the victims of the mass casualty;
2. the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia;
3. any other person who satisfies the Commissioners that they have a substantial and direct interest in the subject matter of the Commission.

At this stage, the Commissioners want to know **who** would like to be heard by the Commission and **why**. This information will inform our planning of the schedule of meetings, roundtables, hearings, and other Commission activities needed to do our work, including opportunities for public engagement. This is **not** a prerequisite to participate in the Commission's work—further information on **how** to participate will be available as the Commission's schedule is confirmed. Information that you provide in the form will not be treated as evidence or become part of the evidentiary record.

**Do you want to be connected to the Commission's work in some way? If so, please review the information on the Individuals or Groups pages linked below and complete the brief form.** If you have some information or knowledge to share with the Commission, we are seeking completed forms by **March 5, 2021** to assist with our planning. We will provide more information in due course on next steps.

## **Individuals Who Want to Participate**

**Are you an individual and want to be connected to the Commission's work in some way?** Please review the information below and complete the brief form accordingly. The Commission is seeking completed forms by **March 5, 2021** to assist with its planning. We will provide more information in due course on next steps. Information that you provide in the form will not be treated as evidence or become part of the evidentiary record.

Please note that **if you are a victim or a family member of a victim and have already heard from the Commission (by way of email updates), you do not need to complete a form**; we will continue to engage with you directly. However, if you wish to fill out a form to provide us with information, you are welcomed and encouraged to do so to let us know of your interest or the information you want to share. For example, if there are any circumstances about yourself (or, if applicable, your agency) of which you would like us to be aware, or you want us to know about someone else that you think we should hear from, please feel free to fill out or forward the form.

If **you are a member of the public** who is simply interested in following the Commission's work, **you do not need to fill out a form**. We welcome your interest and ask that you please check the Commission website regularly for information on activities that will be open to the public, such as meetings, roundtables, and hearings. If you cannot attend in person due to public health guidance or for geographic or other reasons, please know that these activities will be online.

Please read the information below to determine if and how you should respond:

Are you a victim or a family member of a victim with whom we have not been in contact?

If so, you may wish to provide us with your contact information in the form and tell us your connection to the April 2020 mass casualty, so we can provide you with further information on how you can engage with the Commission's work.

Please note that **if you are a victim or a family member of a victim and have already heard from the Commission through email updates, you do not need to complete a form**; we will continue to engage with you directly. However, if you wish to fill out a form to provide us with information, you are welcomed and encouraged to do so. For example, if there are any circumstances about yourself (or, if applicable, your agency) of which you would like us to be aware, or you want us to know about someone else that you think we should hear from, please feel free to fill out or forward the form.

Were you otherwise **directly affected** by, and/or involved in, the mass casualty of April 2020, or have some other **personal connection** to it?

If so, you may have information or knowledge that would assist the Commission in piecing together what happened, or you might wish to provide some information to the Commission. Please provide us with your contact information in the form and an outline of the way in which you were directly affected or connected so that we can provide you with further information on how you can engage with the Commission's work.

Do you feel that you have a **substantial and direct interest in the subject matter** of the Commission's mandate and wish to participate in its work?

If so, please provide us with your contact information in the form and a detailed description of the way in which you have a substantial and direct interest in the subject matter of the Commission so that we can provide you with further information on how you can engage with the Commission's work.

Are you a **researcher and/or person with specialized knowledge and/or expertise** in an area of the Commission's mandate and would like to contribute to the Commission's research and policy work?

Please provide us with your contact information in the form and a detailed description of the research you would like to share and its relevance to a specific area of the Commission mandate.

Do you have a **suggestion for someone else** from whom the Commission might want to hear?

If so, you are welcomed and encouraged to forward the Notice.

If you fit in more than one category, or you are not sure which one fits, please complete just one form and tell us that information in your form. **Please do not fill out multiple forms.**

If you need help filling out a form, please contact the Commission at [participation@masscasualtycommission.ca](mailto:participation@masscasualtycommission.ca) for assistance.

### **Groups Who Want to Participate**

**Are you a government agency, civil society organization, community-based organization, institution, association, or similar entity?** Do you want to be connected to the Commission's work in some way? Please review the information below and complete the form accordingly.

If you have some information or knowledge to share with the Commission, we are seeking completed forms by **March 5, 2021** to assist with our planning. We will provide more information in due course on next steps. Information that you provide in the form will not be treated as evidence or become part of the evidentiary record.

Were you **directly involved** in the events surrounding or related to April 18–19, 2020, and have a direct interest, information, or knowledge to share with the Commission?

If yes, please provide us with your contact information in the form and an outline of the way in which you were directly involved or connected so that we can provide you with further information on how you can engage with the Commission's work.

Although **not directly involved** in the events of April 2020, do you have a **substantial and direct interest in the subject matter** of the Commission and wish to participate in some aspect of the Commission's work?

If yes, provide us with your contact information in the form and an outline of the way in which you are connected so we can provide you with further information on how you can engage with the Commission's work.

Do you have **specialized knowledge and/or expertise** in an area of the Commission's mandate and wish to contribute to the Commission's research and policy work?

Please provide us with your contact information in the form and a description of the knowledge/expertise/research you would like to share and its relevance to a specific area of the Commission mandate so we can provide you with further information on how you can engage with the Commission's work.

Do you have a **suggestion of another group, government agency, institution, or other entity** from whom the Commission might want to hear?

If so, you are welcomed and encouraged to forward the Notice.

If you fit in more than one category, or you are not sure which one fits, please complete just one form and tell us that information in your form. **Please do not fill out multiple forms.**

### **Participation Enquiries**

Please see relevant pages in the [Participation section of the Mass Casualty Commission website](#) for information about the Notice to Potential Participants.

Should you have further enquiries please contact us at [participation@masscasualtycommission.ca](mailto:participation@masscasualtycommission.ca).