

Commissioners' Opening Remarks

PUBLIC PROCEEDING

||| MASS CASUALTY
COMMISSION
COMMISSION
DES PERTES MASSIVES

FEBRUARY 22, 2022

NOW SPEAKING

The Hon. J. Michael MacDonald

COMMISSIONER – CHAIR

Focus of Opening Remarks

WHY WE ARE HERE

- **Commission's purpose and approach**
- **Who is taking part**
- **Phases of our work**
- **What to expect during public proceedings**
- **Role of the public**

Supports

GET HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

211 Nova Scotia	Call 211 to access a range of support services. Available 24/7.
Nova Scotia Provincial Crisis Line	Call 1-888-429-8167 , even if you are not in a crisis. Can connect you with services in other provinces. Available 24/7.
Kids Help Phone	Call 1-800-668-6868 or text: CONNECT to 686868 . Support for young people available 24/7.
On-site support	Mental Health Team members and wellness spaces are available at the Halifax Convention Centre and Truro community viewing site.

Visit masscasualtycommission.ca/support for more support services and resources, or contact the Commission's Mental Health Team: mary.pyche@masscasualtycommission.ca / 902-394-4883

HONOURING THEIR MEMORIES

Tom Bagley

**Kristen Beaton, who was
expecting a child at the time**

Greg and Jamie Blair

Joy and Peter Bond

Lillian Campbell

Corrie Ellison

Gina Goulet

Dawn and Frank Gulenchyn

Alanna Jenkins and Sean McLeod

Lisa McCully

Heather O'Brien

**Jolene Oliver, Aaron Tuck
and Emily Tuck**

Constable Heidi Stevenson

Joanne Thomas and John Zahl

Joey Webber

Many people affected

The mass casualty affected many different people, communities, groups and organizations.



Broad focus, restorative approach of a public inquiry

WE ARE HERE TO:

- ✓ Investigate what happened
- ✓ Understand the broader context and related issues that may have contributed
- ✓ Provide meaningful recommendations to help protect Canadians in the future
- ✓ Work in a restorative way:
 - Inclusive
 - Collaborative
 - Responsive
 - Non-adversarial
 - Forward-focused

WE ARE *NOT* HERE TO:

- ✗ Conduct a trial
- ✗ Determine guilt or assign blame
- ✗ Award damages
- ✗ Do more harm

Values

OUR COMMITMENTS

Independence

We are independent of any governments, institutions or other associations of individuals or groups.

Respect

We are performing our duties with compassion and with an unwavering commitment to a full, transparent, and independent inquiry.

Transparency

We will listen, learn, investigate, and share what has been brought to light in a final public report, with sustainable recommendations and a thorough, evidence-based record.

Foundational Documents

Foundational Documents efficiently organize and share a large volume of information collected in the Commission's independent investigation into what happened.

①

GATHER AND
ANALYZE
INFORMATION
AND EVIDENCE

②

DRAFT
FOUNDATIONAL
DOCUMENTS
TO ORGANIZE
AND SHARE
INFORMATION

③

CONSULT WITH
PARTICIPANTS
TO ENSURE
ACCURACY

④

MAKE
FOUNDATIONAL
DOCUMENTS
PUBLIC ON OUR
WEBSITE

⑤

ADDRESS ANY
ISSUES IN THE
FOUNDATIONAL
DOCUMENTS
DURING PUBLIC
PROCEEDINGS

⑥

UPDATE
FOUNDATIONAL
DOCUMENTS AS
NEEDED

NOW SPEAKING

Leanne J. Fitch (Ret. Police Chief, M.O.M.)

COMMISSIONER

Key Roles

Commissioners

Lead the Commission, fulfill its mandate and oversee public proceedings.

Commission Counsel

Lawyers who support the Commissioners, the work of the Commission and public proceedings. Not prosecutors.

Participants

The Commission has 61 Participants, including those most affected individuals, families, first responders and organizations.

Participant Counsel

Lawyers who support the Participants, conveying their recommendations, questions and submissions.

Witnesses

May be called to answer questions from the Commissioners, Commission Counsel and Participant Counsel.

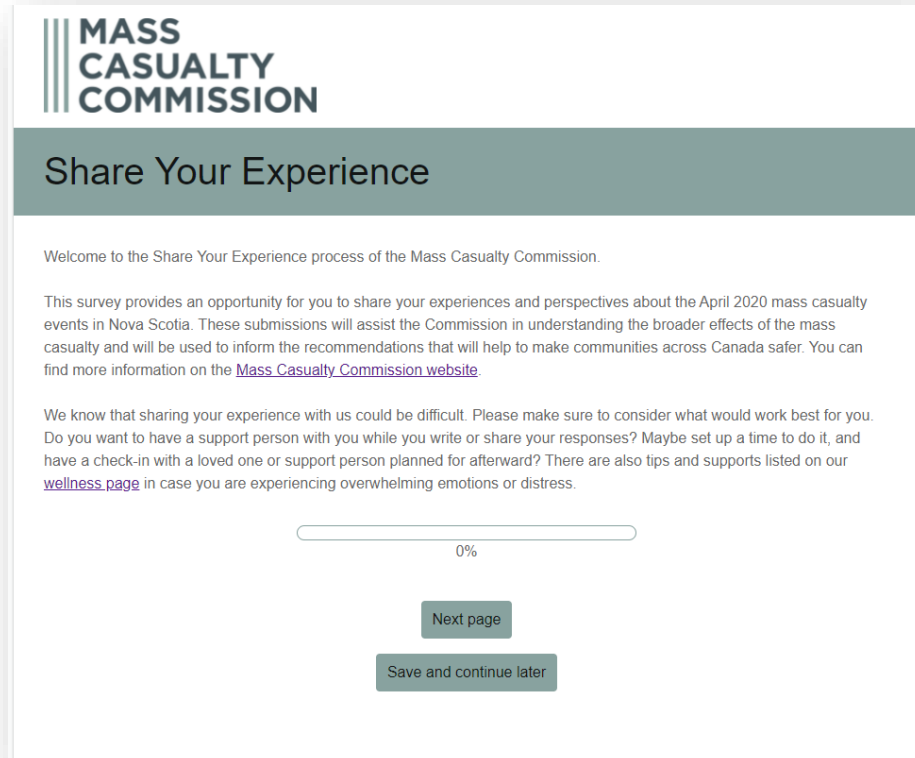
Panelists

Community representatives and experts taking part in panel discussions and roundtables as part of public proceedings.

Public Engagement & Input

YOUR ROLE

- Get in touch if you have information that can assist our investigation
- Take part in public proceedings
- Speak up through the Share Your Experience survey on the Commission website
- Reflect on what findings and recommendations you would like to see



MASS CASUALTY COMMISSION

Share Your Experience

Welcome to the Share Your Experience process of the Mass Casualty Commission.

This survey provides an opportunity for you to share your experiences and perspectives about the April 2020 mass casualty events in Nova Scotia. These submissions will assist the Commission in understanding the broader effects of the mass casualty and will be used to inform the recommendations that will help to make communities across Canada safer. You can find more information on the [Mass Casualty Commission website](#).

We know that sharing your experience with us could be difficult. Please make sure to consider what would work best for you. Do you want to have a support person with you while you write or share your responses? Maybe set up a time to do it, and have a check-in with a loved one or support person planned for afterward? There are also tips and supports listed on our [wellness page](#) in case you are experiencing overwhelming emotions or distress.

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Save and continue later

NOW SPEAKING

Dr. Kim Stanton

COMMISSIONER

Our Work

Our work involves a series of overlapping key steps:



- Understanding perspectives of those most affected, participants, first responders, service providers, community members
 - Obtaining documents, analyzing information and conducting research
 - Carrying out investigations and speaking with witnesses
 - Working with Participants to develop Foundational Documents, that organize and share an understanding of the large volumes of information gathered by the Commission
 - Holding public proceedings about gaps and information in the Foundational Documents
- Exploring the broader context including issues like firearms access, police and service-provider responses, emergency communications and intimate partner violence
 - Holding public proceedings including activities such as hearings and roundtables with Participants, experts, policy makers and others about their understanding of causes, context, circumstances
 - Sharing initial information and insights and seeking input
- Holding public proceedings including activities such as hearings and roundtables with Participants, experts, policy makers and others about their proposed recommendations
 - Creating opportunities for input from those most affected, those who will be responsible for implementing recommendations, and the public
 - Drafting the final report with Commission findings and recommendations

Public Proceedings in 2022

Winter-Spring

- **This week:** contextual panels and presentations
- **Next week and ongoing:** begin to work through Phase 1 Foundational Documents focused on what happened

Spring-Summer

- Phase 1 proceedings will continue
- Phase 2 proceedings will begin, including more Foundational Documents, Commissioned Reports and expert roundtables

Summer-Fall

- Phase 3 proceedings will begin, including final submissions from Participants and opportunities for the public to help shape findings and recommendations

What's next today

- 1pm AST: **Orientation to Commission resources**
- 2–3.30pm AST: **Panel discussion on human impacts**
- 3:30pm AST: **Closing remarks**



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