



February 27, 2025

Child and Youth Advocate Provides Update on the Review of Mental Health Services to Children and Youth

In March 2024, the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate invited young people and families who have direct experience with the mental health system here in Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as professionals and other stakeholders, to reach out to the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate to share their experiences and ideas.

To date, the Office has heard from many stakeholders and interested parties reaching out by phone, email, in-person and through the online form. Staff have also travelled throughout the province to hold meetings with individuals and groups. The interest and participation, thus far, has been exceptional and the discussions very meaningful. We hope to continue to hear from others in the coming weeks, as our information gathering will conclude by the end of March 2025. All information will be analyzed, and a final report will be prepared once the analysis has been completed.

“I am grateful to all those who have contacted our office to share their experiences with mental health services for children and youth in our province. I want to especially acknowledge those with lived experience who shared their thoughts with us. I have been humbled by the significant interest in this review and the frank and open discussion it has generated. I encourage anyone who has not yet done so, to reach out to our office in any of the ways provided to share your experiences with us.” The Child and Youth Advocate (A), Karen Gray.

At this time, the Advocate (A) would like to remind the public of the many ways individuals can share their experiences with the office.

- Email: office@ocya.nl.ca
- Telephone: (709) 753-3888/Toll Free: 1-877-753-3888
- Text: (709) 682- OCYA (6292)
- Visit us In-Person: 20 Crosbie Place, St. John's
- Online form: <https://www.childandyouthadvocate.nl.ca/mental-health-services-to-children-and-youth-feedback-form/> (The online form is anonymous and completely confidential. It does not ask for any identifying information).

Please note these important dates:

- The online form will be available until **Monday, March 31, 2025**.
- The information gathering stage through all other means will also end on **Monday, March 31, 2025**.

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