

Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial President Linda Corbett

Madam president,

I commenced my term as provincial president in Newfoundland and Labrador, effective May 28, 2023. The report of my predecessor, Judy Hodge, came to an end effective May 27, 2023 and the following represents her comments.

My main focus from January to May was preparing and planning Unity Outreach sessions across the province and planning for the provincial convention, which took place May 26-28.

In February, National President Fran Lucas came to St. John's and attended the winter executive meeting. She presented the Unity Outreach program to the provincial executive, and we, in turn, took it around the province. It was very well received, and all councils that have had the presentation provided feedback, which has been sent to national office and will eventually or has already filtered its way back to the provincial council. We are hoping that with some of the valuable information that comes back, we will be able to move forward with it as it relates to Unity Outreach. Ten out of 12 councils have now received the presentation, and the two outstanding councils will be done in the fall.

From May 26-28, we held the provincial convention—the first full weekend convention since 2019. We were delighted to get together, albeit in smaller numbers. We started Friday evening with our officers' meeting and ended Sunday morning with our post-meeting of new officers. The number of members registered for the convention was certainly down from pre-COVID days. But it was an enjoyable weekend and we received lots of good positive remarks in the evaluation sheets. I am hopeful for brighter days in Newfoundland and Labrador. I have now passed the reins over to Linda Corbett and I look forward to serving my two years as past president with Linda at the helm.

On June 21st, we held an executive meeting via Zoom with Fran Lucas to meet the newly elected members and to have a follow-up on the Unity Outreach project. Fran presented the Executive Orientation slideshow, which was very beneficial for the newest members of the executive. Unity Outreach will continue into the fall for Newfoundland and Labrador as there are still two more councils to present to.

For my part, there has been little activity since I commenced my term as president due to the summer timing. We did hold a post-meeting at the end of the provincial convention and discussed some immediate business which will commence in September—namely, the revision of the provincial handbook. At that time, we will also work on recruiting a new president-elect, as that post is currently vacant and determine our direction and subsequent strategies for both the short-term and long-term.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere hope that I can work with my other provincial counterparts and my own executive to successfully fulfil the role of president. ✚