



Provincial Commissioner's Report

Looking for a place where girls are empowered to take the lead, jump into awesome activities, and explore what matters to them? That's Girl Guides of Canada. A place where girls lead the way, seek new challenges, find their voice, discover how they can make a difference in their world, make friends while having a ton of fun, all in a safe, supportive, inclusive space. Join Girl Guides of Canada, be a part of exciting new times with Newfoundland and Labrador Council

Girls First, This program puts girls in the driver's seat of their Guiding experience. Girls First Champions and Provincial Youth Forum Members worked together for a successful Provincial Girls First Launch Party in September 2018 coinciding with the National Roll out across the country. Youth and adult members from across the Province met at Lion Max Simms Camp celebrating the opportunities of Girl Voice, Girl Led of Girl Centered programming. Newfoundland and Labrador Girls First Champions have given of their time this past year offering opportunities during the transitioning year to engage and onboard Guiders to this new program. This program has been met with excitement, challenge and opportunity giving the girl the lead role in how she wants her program to look and feel through the mentorship of Guiders as catalysts and role models.

During this past year Girl Guides of Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador Council has celebrated longevity with its Centennial Celebrations. In 1918, records and documents in our Provincial Archives show organized Guiding was alive and well in our province. From early days being a British Colony to today being a proud member of Girl Guides of Canada since Confederation in 1949, NL Council is a thriving, supportive, engaged member of GGC where Guiders are the catalysts who enable this opportunity. Guiders, Commissioners and Trefoil Guild as well as our Provincial Youth Council Members participated in this Conference where training and fun adventures were had by all. Thanks to our Trainers who give of their time ensuring our Guiders have the opportunity to engage in many timely topics. Our National guests took part in our traditional Newfoundland and Labrador welcome as they became honorary Newfoundlanders and Labradorians when they were screeched in. Girls First Champions joined in with Aryne Sheppard to bring a session to every member present introducing them to what Girls First is all about. Jill Zelmanovits, CEO joined us as well to share her presentation of Embedding the Foundation, received well by all participants.

2018 has brought a year of memories, new challenges, making allowances for different life experiences and realities while providing a safe space for all to share, learn and grow together. This past years successes have been immense, Erica Bennett, a youth member has represented us well as she joins other Youth Members across the country to form our National Youth Council. Nicole O'Brien received the Provincial Ranger of the year Award for 2018. Abby Pinsent, a Ranger in Stephenville won Youth of the Year Award in June 2018. Emilia Mercer was awarded the Girl Guides of Canada 4th Year National Scholarship, Holly Fleming was awarded our Provincial Betty Spencer Scholarship and Olivia Reid was selected to participate in the Royal Canadian Legion sponsored trip to Beaumont Hamel. So many achievements from Lady Baden Powell, Canada Cord and Chief Commissioner Awards to current day Trail Blazer Awards, our girls are high achievers making sure they are the best that they can be. Our Youth, Leading the way with girl voice, supporting Girls First while ensuring our future is bright. Recognition of Volunteer Commitment of Volunteer Commitment by District Commissioner Heather Mesher Brown as well as girl member Chloe Drosch being awarded the youth volunteer award from Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Beachy Cove District, Tuckamore Area received the Portugal Cove St. Philip's Service Group of the Year for 2018, another great community service award. Thank you to everyone for every contribution of time, mentorship, leadership from girl to adult, you are all Award Winners representing Newfoundland and Labrador Council, GGC.

Experiences through Nationally sponsored International Travel were great educational opportunities where Ranger Nicole O'Brien and Guider Cynthia Parsons participated in BC Wilderness Adventure, girl members Emily Kenny and Stephanie Budden participated in Swiss Challenge at Our Chalet in Switzerland, girl member Danielle Duffy travelled to Sydney Jamboree in Australia, girl member Taylor King and Zoe McDonald both participated in Sea Adventure at Our Cabana in Mexico. We also had groups travel as Independent Travel groups to Nova Scotia and PEI as well as Pax Lodge, Our Chalet, in addition cultural opportunities in France. These adventures allow youth and young adults to gain a stronger awareness of their own identity and culture. Provincial and Interprovincial travel allows girls to engage in events, plan meetings, sit on Provincial Council, International Selection Committees, planning committee for Provincial and Interprovincial camps as well as International Committees and workshops sharing their depth of experience and knowledge with other members of our organization. We are now in the process of working with our International Adviser and Provincial Committee to offer another Provincially sponsored Independent trip to Our Chalet for the summer of 2020.

Our own Provincial Youth Council has worked together to bring one of the most successful Youth Forum weekends together under the theme of "Who Dun it" A Spy Themed Conference kept everyone on their toes the entire weekend engaging girls to look beyond and seek their new adventure. They worked together to complete their first ever Youth Forum Service Project - Girl Empowerment as well as their first ever Youth Forum Provincial Challenge - Guiding Around the World. Leadership and vision directly from our girls.

"Be Yourself" the theme for 2018 Provincial Summer Camp, and be yourself it was with 183 girls and 57 guiders experiencing the opportunity to Be Active, Involved, Creative, Courageous, Adventurous, Resourceful and Renewed. So many skills, friendships and memories came from this event. Our Program Department is actively working to update all Provincial Challenges to the Girls First standards ensuring we maintain girl focused. In addition to our own Guiding programs girls participate in Duke of Edinburgh Program where many of our Guiders are their mentors.

Provincial Challenges continue to be a strength here in this province. All challenges are being updated to be cohesive with our Girls First Programming. Girl Led, our Rangers now are developing challenges for all branches, a vision of the future.

Social Media rules, through Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter, NL Council and its members are being liked, followed, and shared through every means possible. We are part of the leading opportunities in today's fast moving technology based world. Public Relations and Membership will certainly be strengthened by these opportunities.

Our Cookie Campaigns continue to offer the supports provided to all our members. Thank you all for continuing the door to door campaigns, cookie drive through, mall centered sale tables and every other possible event that provides the funding for every program and opportunity every girl and adult member benefits from.

This year we are continuing in a time of change as we partner with our National Strategic Priorities. Exciting times are around the corner as we prepare ourselves for the roll out of Unified Banking in our Province. We have already advertised for Unified Banking Champions and hopefully in the very short future will have Champions who will share their knowledge to assist us once the program rolls out. Countrywide optimization, efficiency and streamlining of administration is certainly a positive in supporting our Guiders with their roles.

We just recently hosted a very successful first ever Provincial STEM Event and what a resounding success it was with over 130 girls and guiders coming together for this residential event from around our province. Through our partnership with the Paul Johnson GEO Centre, where the staff provided tremendous support in supplying all facilitators for every engaging STEM workshop, our girls benefitted from current day science, technology, engineering and math opportunities. With our own Guiding volunteers and staff members organizing and leading the event the result was a resounding success being heard from all participants as they were engaged from registration right through until closing on Sunday morning. We were ever so excited to have a visit from Bethany Downer, the first scientist-astronaut candidate from Newfoundland and Labrador. Bethany engaged with and inspired our members to reach for the stars as anything is possible.

This year we are hosting an Interprovincial Camp during July 2019 where over 350 girls and guiders are coming together to celebrate DAWN - Discover Adventure Wonder Nature. Every province as well as the Yukon and Northwest Territories will be represented at this camp. An opportunity to make new friends, develop new skills and a lifetime of memories.

To everyone I have met during my travels, by email or phone throughout this province and everyone I have worked with, every member of Newfoundland and Labrador Council, you are my inspiration as I witness your vision, laughter commitment and passion but most of all your dedication to being the Mentor for our Girls, I offer my sincerest thanks and respect. You have given us our strong foundation to continue into the future. To every girl and woman who is striving to provide and support the infinite possibilities of tomorrow, thank you all for your passion and commitment to a world full of opportunity and positive influence as you continue to carry on the legacy of Guiding in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Thank you all for enabling "Everything She Wants to Be", supporting the Vision "A better world, by girls" and our Mission "To be a catalyst for girls empowering girls"



Margot Walsh
Provincial Commissioner



Camping – June Mayo, Camping Adviser

The major highlight for the camping committee was Camp “Be Yourself”. This camp had 183 girls and 57 guiders in attendance. The programming, out trip to Terra Nova for golfing, Parks Canada presentation, games, outdoor cooking, and finale kept all who attended engaged and enthusiastic. The girls and guiders worked together to ensure that a good time was had by all. The camping committee also continued to post on the Facebook camping page. Camping ideas were posted. Some ideas included video demonstrations, Parks Canada promotions, cooking ideas and highlights.

Girls First Champions – Karleena Squires, Tricia Murrin, Georgina Laine, Samantha Noseworthy, Pam Burke, Leah Stone and Deidra Howlett

As a Girls First Champion, we attended the conference in Ottawa in April 2018 to learn about Girls First and to get some insight on how to present the sessions. The first provincial session was given at end of June/early July to get it started. The sessions came fast and hard at first. A lot of Guiders were ready to take it in early September. Province then hosted a Girls First Launch Party at Lion Max Simms which coincided with the National Launch of Girls First and many of the Girls First Champions attend and supported a successful event. Sessions were done through Adobe Connect as well as Face to Face Sessions throughout the province in addition to the Provincial Centennial Celebrations Conference sessions with other Guiders in the province.

Con Ba Su Area – Commissioner, Georgina Laine

2018 was another busy year for Con Ba Su Area Guiding. Guider training efforts went well in 2018. Safe Guide Trainings were held for in person sessions as well as some on webinars. ConBaSu Hut had a successful year. We had steady bookings for camps and few repair/maintenance issues. Sparks and Brownie units received Lego kits and they were a huge hit. The girls enjoyed building whatever they wanted with the pieces. Participating in the International Day of the Girl is another activity that a few Districts have done. Also it looks like STEM is big this year with making slime and other science type activities.

Eastern Bays Area – Commissioner, Sheri Higdon

The area is working hard to develop a connection in our area by planning a few leader events. The following are just a few of the many activities hosted throughout the Area. a new multi-branch unit was opened in Clode Sound for Sparks Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders. We welcomed new leaders and many new girls to all units, including two exchange students from Brazil as Rangers. During Thinking Week units took part in a Snow Night. We had a campfire with hot chocolate and roasted wieners. Visit to the Search and Rescue Building. 30th Birthday Party for the Sparks. Communities Against Violence Visit. Shoreline Cleanup, Valentine Cards for Soldiers overseas, Prepared meal for RCMP and Firefighters and participating in Remembrance Day Events, Santa Claus Parades, Nevaeh’s Act’s of Kindness Challenge to name a few.

Program – Teresa Dominie, Program Adviser

- Actively working to update all Provincial Challenges to the Girls First standards
- Beaumont Hamel, Geocaching, and NL Heritage now have program connections linked to Girls First.
- The requirements of the NL Heritage Challenge have been reduced for all branches.
- Working with Provincial HQ to update the Program page on the Provincial website
- Keeping the Facebook page as a resource for guiders to share activities, ask and answer questions, seek advice, and share information
- Initiated a challenge for Rangers to create challenges for all branches.

Ocean’s Edge Area – Commissioner, Lisa Engram

Our four Districts have been busy working with their units transitioning to Girls First. The units have been active with exciting programming like Tree Planting, Baking for RMH, Self Defence, STEM activities like MUN Med 3D and Woodworking. The Districts have been equally busy creating leadership opportunities for the girls.

Marconi District – Had their Pathfinders and Rangers help lead their District wide Halloween Party Food Drive, Breakfast with Santa Food Drive and Thinking Day event. Also had one girl (Nicole O’Brien) and Guider (Cynthia Parsons) attend the BC Adventure last summer.

Goulds District – Had a very successful Breakfast with Santa community event and developed the amazing Nevaeh’s Acts of Kindness challenge.

Witless Bay District – Had a Winter Skating party with Hat/mitt drive, a successful Easter Bunny breakfast and had an amazing Thinking Day event where the Pathfinders and Rangers read to the younger girls.

Shamrock District – In addition to fun activities like Sleepover at Lester’s Farm, these girls and guiders are very engaged in their community with Remembrance Day and Christmas Parades. Emily Kenny from Fermeuse-Renews attended the nationally sponsored Swiss Adventure and Robyn Kenny will be attending the Journey through London this upcoming summer.

Special Events Adviser- Judy Shannahan

Girl Guides Works Miracles:

Keeping the tradition of Girl Guides supporting the children of our Province eight (8) events were held and raised \$4387.49.

Chief Commissioner’s Gold Award:

One June 5, Her Honour presented nine (9) Rangers with the Chief Commissioner’s Gold Award and six (6) Rangers were presented with the Commonwealth Award

Canada Cord Award:

On June 9 the Provincial Commissioner presented 17 Pathfinders with their Canada Cord.

Lady Baden Power Award:

The Provincial Commissioner presented 50 Guides with the Lady Baden Powell Award on June 9th. The presentation and reception were held at the Cochrane Centre.

The Lieutenant Governor’s Garden Party:

Over 65 Girls and Guiders attended the first Lieutenant Governor’s Garden Party for Her Honour Judy Foote in July. A newly designed GGC crest was given to each Member for their service.

Christmas at Government House:

The tradition continued this year of our girls making tree decorations for ‘The Girl Guide Tree’ at Government House on November 28th. It was a spectacular, festive evening with singing, storytelling by the very special Santa himself, cookies and milk and even a picture taken with Her Honour, Santa and our Provincial Commissioner as Her Honour gave each girl a special keepsake of the evening.

Girl Guides at the Growlers Hockey Game:

What a great night of participation to watch the Growlers on March 30th. Over 1800 tickets were sold to our Girls and families.

Youth Council Adviser- Amy Tuck

The Youth Forum had a busy year as they got more involved on social media to bring exposure to Girl Guiding among the older youth who will make up our new young adult members. In the Fall the Youth Forum took part in the new Girls First Program Launch held at Max Simms camp. They continued to promote the 2018 Youth Forum Service Project and 2018 Youth Forum Challenge, and they developed a new service project and challenge for 2019. Finally they spent a lot of time planning a hugely successful 2019 Youth Conference with a very popular theme of “Who Done It”?

The 2019 Youth Conference was one of the best to date! The girls were so passionate about planning a “murder mystery” themed weekend and it was incredibly well received.

Trefoil Guilds – Gloria Learning, Trefoil Guilds Adviser

- We have a total of 21 Trefoil Guilds around our province who carry out various activities of fun, fellowship and support to many.
- Trefoil Guild members have supported Guiding by attending Provincial and Area events, the Trefoil Guild & Link Christmas Party, selling Girl Guide Cookies, helping Girl Guides sew breast cancer pillows, supplying some kitchen supplies for ConBaSu hut and items for the Beaver Hut, campfire with Pathfinders and Rangers.
- The Trefoil Guilds have also supported other groups such as The Gathering Place and Kirby House by collecting clothing and toiletries and attending Alzheimer’s coffee.

Property Compliance Member – Stephanie Walsh

- Priority for Properties at this time is management of the pending development of a new Girl Guide campsite at Pinchgut Lake.
- The campsite will be operated by Long Range Trails Area, but will be open to rent by units across the province. The target opening date will be summer 2020.
- Once the camp is developed, information on booking will be sent out via the Signal.

Trefoil Central Area – Commissioner, Melanie Moores

Trefoil Central has been very busy over the last year. We have 5 new units that opened this year, a multi-branch unit in Carmanville, a Spark unit, a Brownie unit and a Guide unit in Harbour Breton, and a second Guide unit in Grand Falls-Windsor. And it looks like more units will be opening for the upcoming season! Girl Guides is strong in Trefoil Central.. Here are some of the exciting things we did over the past year.

- **Be Yourself, Provincial Camp, Camp Nor’West**
- **Girls First Launch Party, Lion Max Simms Camp**
- Trefoil Central was excited to help host the NL Girls First launch party at Lions Max Simms Camp
- **Trefoil Central annual Winter Camp, Lion Max Simms Camp**
- **NL Special Olympics**

Tuckamore Area – Commissioner, Catherine Barry

- This past guiding year we kicked off with a campfire at the Village Mall to welcome out new year as well as a girls first launch.
- Each of the districts have been busy implementing and launching the girls first program.
- Making Valentines for Veterans
- Christmas ornaments for Government house
- Learning American sign languageThe girls have participated in Nevaeh’s acts of kindness challenge
- The guides gave out hot chocolate at Bowring park at Christmas time
- Girls and Guiders are preparing for our Interprovincial Camp DAWN 2019
- And of course lots of sleepovers
- Communities service project for Naomi House
- Bridging camp for Pathfinders and guides

Cookie Report–Provincial Cookie Adviser, Cheryl Drover

Area	Mint 2018	Classic 2019
Con Ba Su	1518	1601
Eastern Bays	1140	1399
Long range Trails	1048	1102
Northern Mosaic	759	664
Oceans Edge	1364	1261
Trefoil Central	1233	1203
Tuckamore	2414	2070
Province	150	150
	9626	9480

International – Elizabeth Porter, International Adviser

We developed 4 main activities: Provincial International Facebook page, Where in the World contests, World Without a Passport Challenge, Provincially Sponsored International Trip. Provincial Council approved a Provincially Sponsored Independent trip to Our Chalet for 2020, exciting times ahead as we begin the application process for Responsible Guiders and then girls for this trip.

Risk and Compliance – Officer Kay Graham

Highlights of the past year

- Defining the role of the Provincial Risk and Compliance Coordinators (PRCC).
- A checklist for the use of the PRCC to assist with decision making at the provincial level.
- Updating the Risk Register
- A review of the incident reporting form

Member Services – Coordinator Deborah Smith

TRAINING –Barbara Reid Training Adviser

- Held our annual Trainers’ Weekend at Terra Nova Cottages
- Worked together as a team to prepare for and deliver sessions at Centennial Conference in Gander
- Provided webinar and face to face Safe Guide and Financial Management sessions along with other enrichment sessions

Membership – Deidra Howlett, Membership Adviser

- Link and Trefoil Holiday Social: Fifty Link and Trefoil members from Ocean’s Edge, ConBaSu, and Tuckamore gathered together at provincial headquarters to celebrate the holidays with food, fun, and friends. They also did a good deed along the way and donated to Heavenly Creatures.
- Regatta Day: Regatta Day was a huge success for visibility and promotion with hundreds of people visiting the booth and receiving information.
- Arts Nights: Over the last year members have tried their hands at paint nights under the direction of Krista Skanes-Burt and Julie Holloway, Stamp Art with S&J’s Stampin’ up, and Glass Etching with Tricia Murrin.
- Social Media Seminar: Adult members gathered at The Rooms to learn more about the world of social media.
- Membership launched a Youth Navigator program with some introductory YouTube videos with current YN Abbey Garrett.

PR/Communication – Ashley Mercer, PR/Communications Adviser

This past year PR has been a part of several events this year! We did a provincial proclamation to celebrate the 100 years of Guiding with members in attendance. PR has also attended the 1st of many expos starting with the downhome expo where we had several units selling cookies and showing what guiding is all about! As the year winds down we still have the Kids Expo and Regatta still ahead so be on the lookout for us at the events! It has been a wonderful year and I have enjoyed my time in the position!