

Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Commission Public Inquiry

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An Overview & Lessons Learned for an
International Audience: Personal Reflections

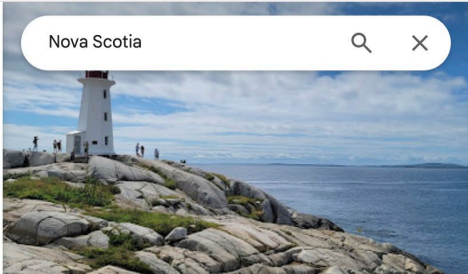
Agenda

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About me



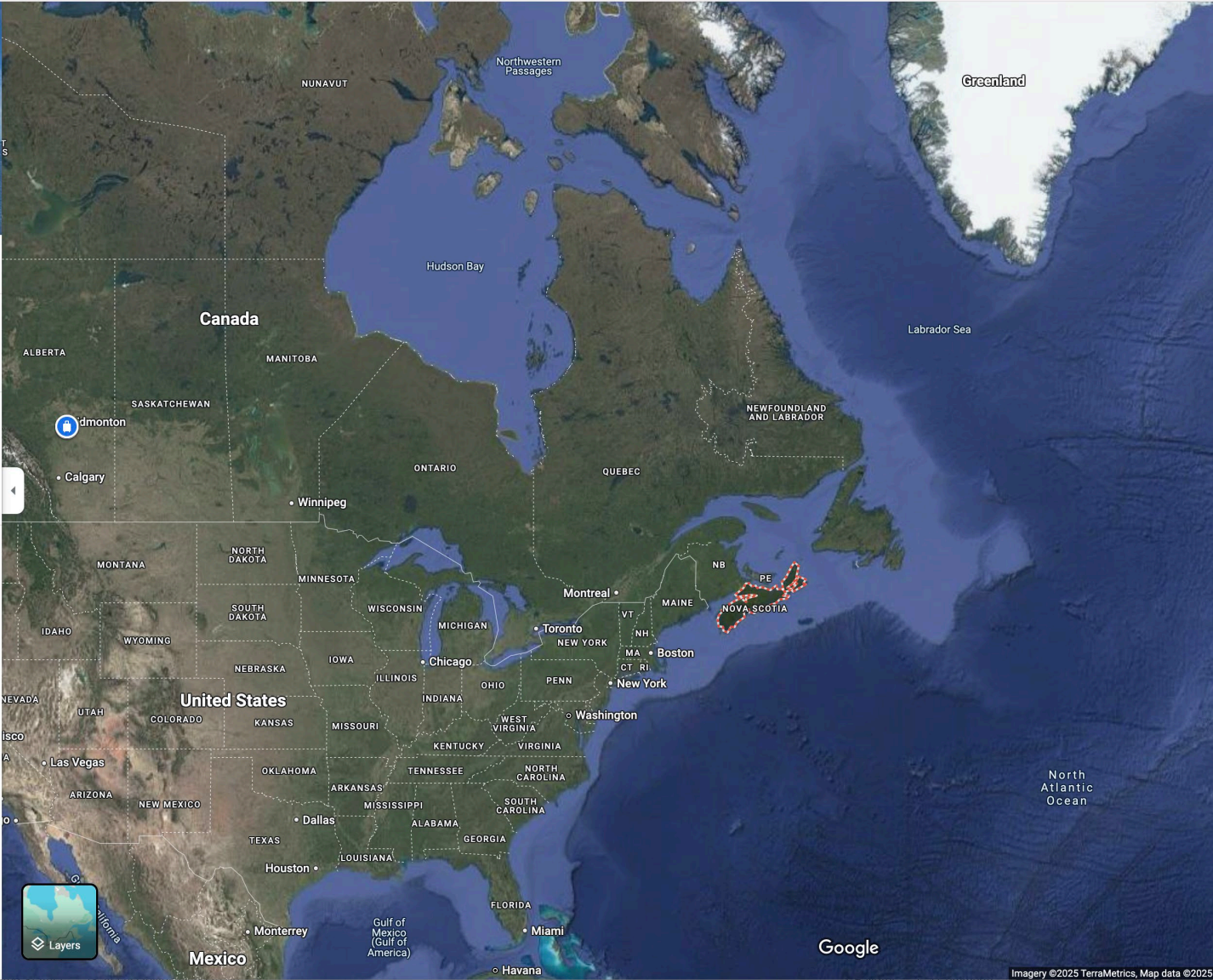
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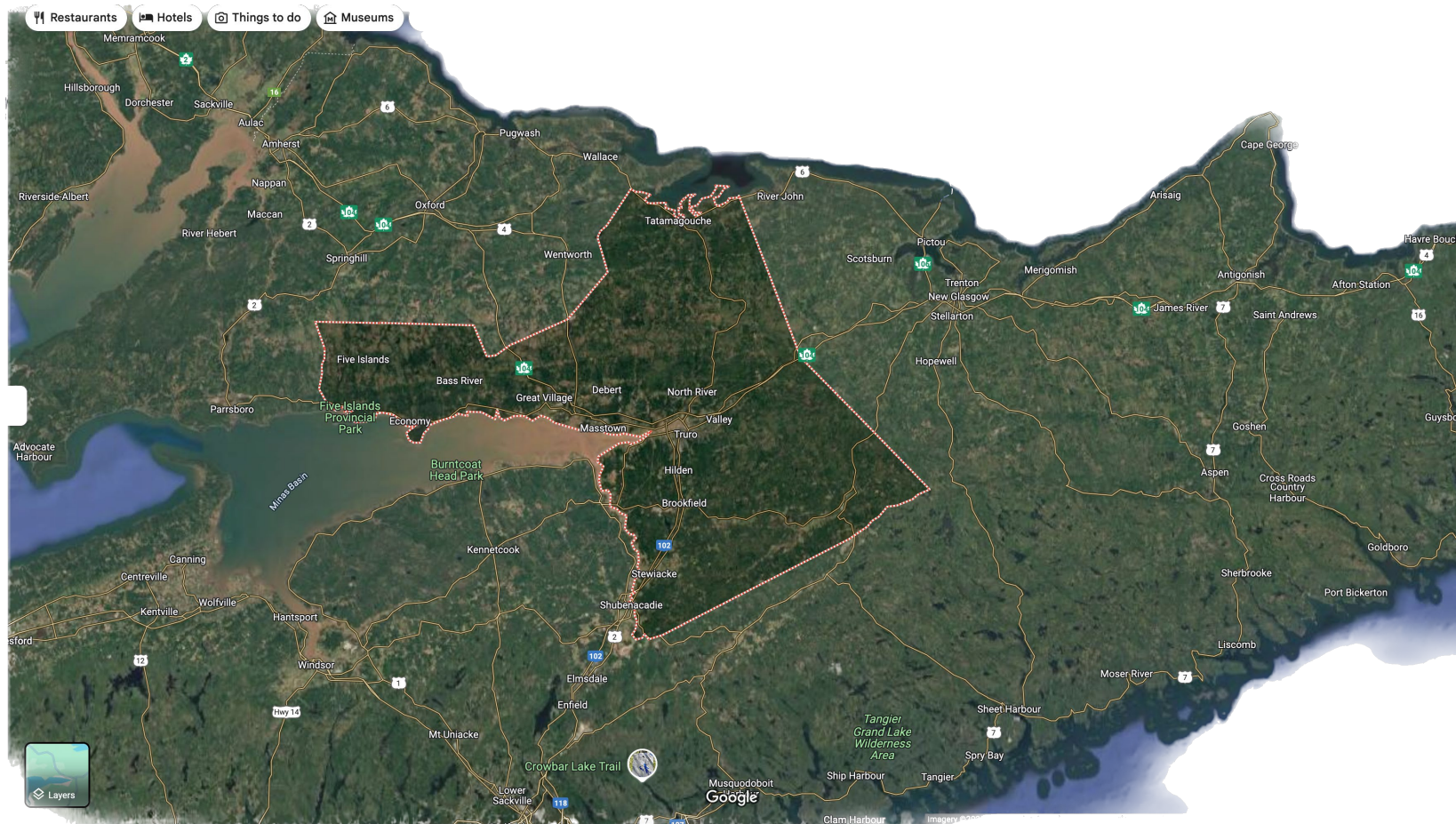
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Quick facts

Nova Scotia is a province of Canada, located on its east coast. It is one of the three Maritime provinces and most populous province in Atlantic Canad... [More](#)

Photos





MASS Murders in Canada

Mass Murders in Canada

- **2020 Nova Scotia attacks:** April 18–19, 2020, 22 people died, including the perpetrator
- **London, Ontario truck attack:** June 6, 2021, 4 people died
- **2022 Saskatchewan stabbings:** On September 4, 2022, 12 people died, including the perpetrator
- **2022 Vaughan shooting:** December 18, 2022, 6 people died, including the perpetrator

Other Mass Shootings in Canada

- 1999 OC Transpo shooting
- 2009 Calgary restaurant killings
- 2021 Faro, Yukon shootings

Historical Massacres in Canada

- Raid on Dartmouth (1751)
- Raid on Lunenburg, Nova Scotia (1756)

The Event

On April 18 and 19, 2020, a 51-year-old man “the Perpetrator” committed multiple shootings and set fires at sixteen locations in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia, killing twenty-two people and injuring three others before he was shot and killed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in the community of Enfield.

Introduction to the Mass Casualty Commission

The Mass Casualty Commission was established to investigate the tragic mass casualty event that occurred in Nova Scotia, Canada, in April 2020. The inquiry seeks to provide accountability, examine law enforcement responses, and offer recommendations to improve public safety.



Objectives of the Inquiry

1. Understand the circumstances surrounding the tragedy
2. Evaluate law enforcement and emergency responses
3. Assess the impact on victims, families, and communities
4. Identify policy and legislative changes to prevent future incidents
5. Provide recommendations for public safety improvements

Key Findings of the Commission

- Delays and miscommunications in law enforcement response
- Gaps in public alert systems and crisis communication
- Challenges in firearm regulation and access
- The role of gender-based violence as a precursor to mass violence
- Need for enhanced support for victims and communities

International Relevance of the Inquiry

- Lessons for law enforcement and emergency response worldwide
- Strategies for improving crisis communication and public alerts
- Policies on gun control and prevention of mass violence
- The role of public inquiries in enhancing accountability and transparency
- Addressing gender-based violence as a global concern

Global Trends in Gender Based Violence

- 1 in 3 women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.
- COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated domestic violence cases due to lockdowns.
- Gender inequality, economic dependency, and weak legal frameworks fuel GBV.
- Efforts by UN Women, WHO, and NGOs focus on prevention, intervention, and legal reforms.

GBV in Canada: A National Perspective

- Nearly 44% of women in Canada experience intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime.
- Indigenous women are disproportionately affected, experiencing higher rates of violence.
- GBV costs the Canadian economy an estimated \$7.4 billion annually.
- Federal policies such as the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence aim to address the crisis.



GBV in Nova Scotia

- Nova Scotia has one of the highest rates of intimate partner violence in Canada.
- The Mass Casualty Commission linked gender-based violence to broader societal risks.
- Rural communities face barriers to accessing support and services.
- Organizations like the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women advocate for stronger protections.

Challenges in Combating GBV

- Underreporting due to fear, stigma, and lack of trust in law enforcement.
- Inconsistent legal protections and gaps in enforcement.
- Insufficient funding for shelters, crisis centers, and support services.
- Need for education and cultural shifts to challenge gender norms.

Solutions and Policy Recommendations

- Strengthening legal frameworks and ensuring strict enforcement.
- Expanding funding for shelters and support services, particularly in rural areas.
- Implementing comprehensive education programs on consent and healthy relationships.
- Enhancing law enforcement training and victim-centered approaches.
- Promoting international collaboration and sharing of best practices.

Recommendations & Policy Implications

- Strengthening law enforcement coordination and training
- Enhancing public alert systems for crisis situations
- Stricter firearm control policies and background checks
- Addressing root causes of violence, including domestic abuse
- Ensuring long-term mental health and community support

Call to Action

The Mass Casualty Commission's findings have broad implications for global public safety policies. Governments and organizations worldwide can leverage these insights to strengthen emergency responses, enhance gun control measures, and address gender-based violence. International collaboration is crucial to prevent similar tragedies and ensure effective crisis management.

Call to Action

- Gender-based violence is a global crisis requiring urgent action.
- Canada and Nova Scotia face significant challenges but also have opportunities for reform.
- Collaboration between governments, communities, and advocacy groups is essential.
- Everyone has a role to play in preventing and addressing GBV.

CONCLUSION

Nova Scotia commits to working collaboratively with government, policing and community partners to achieve the systemic, operational and legislative changes outlined in

Turning the Tide Together: Final Report of the Mass Casualty Commission (MCC).

The report was released in March 2023. Since then, the Government of Nova Scotia has focused on 4 main areas:

Community safety and well-being, including Victim Services for those impacted

Grief, bereavement and wellness resources, including new and enhanced supports for local communities

Policing operations, including launching a comprehensive review of the policing structure in Nova Scotia

Gender-based violence prevention, including a renewed awareness campaign

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Thank you



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