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## All-party committee hears pleas in Grand Falls-Windsor



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### Presentations on mental health and addictions packed with emotion

**“We’re burnt out. We’re worn out. We need government to take over.”**



That was the simple, but emotional, message Botwood’s Carolyn Forsey sent to end her time in front of the All-Party Committee on Mental Health and Addictions during its stop in Grand Falls-Windsor on its provincial public consultation tour Tuesday.

Forsey was one of several individuals that presented to the four-person committee, and like many that stood before MHAs Gerry Rogers, Christopher Mitchelmore, Kevin Pollard and Tracey Perry, she told of her own personal experience.

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*Carolyn Forsey of Botwood gave an emotional presentation that included the story of her 21-year-old son, Daniel, when she addressed the All-Party Committee on Mental Health and Addictions during the committee’s stop in Grand Falls-Windsor on Tuesday.*

Her experience involves her 21-year-old autistic son, Daniel, and the struggles and challenges her family has gone through in finally getting him the proper treatment — which was eventually found in St. John’s. Even though she has documented her journey in her book “The Boy Inside,” she felt compelled to share it one

more time.

“I’ve told this story so, so many times, and time after time after time after time, it’s fallen on deaf ears,” Forsey told the committee. “My plea to you today is to please hear how we live, what we are doing, what we are going through, and please help us because you do have the power.”

That one sentence hit home for the more than 30 people that filled the auditorium at the College of The North Atlantic to make presentations to the committee, which is travelling the province in hopes of collecting information to give government guidance on how to deal with mental health and addiction issues in the province.

Rogers was instrumental in putting the all-party committee in place. Her private member’s motion in the House of Assembly calling for an all-party committee on mental health passed unanimously.

“It came about from listening. Listening with the real intent on hearing,” she told TC Media during a break in the presentations.

The committee had stops already in Happy-Valley-Goose Bay, Corner Brook and St. John’s, and more to come in the Burin area.

They are also meeting with healthcare professionals prior to the presentations and concluding with public dialogue and discussion sessions. Tonight’s session takes place 6:30-9 p.m. in Grand Falls-Windsor at the College of the North Atlantic.

Rogers said the committee is optimistic it will have collected all its information and have its report finalized by the fall to present in the House of Assembly prior to the Nov. 30 provincial election.

“We still have more work to do with some experts once we finish our public consultations, so it will be a little while yet before we are completely done,” she said. “The ideal situation would be to have everything done before the election.”

Those not able to attend the sessions but wishing to find out more about what is happening or to provide information to the committee, can visit [www.BeHeardNL.ca](http://www.BeHeardNL.ca).

Check the Advertiser online for updates on this evening’s sessions, as well as more stories in future editions.