



**Legislative
Committees Office**
House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3P7
Telephone: (902) 424-4432
Fax: (902) 424-0513

November 24, 2016

Honourable Joanne Bernard
Minister
Department of Community Services
PO Box 696
Halifax, NS B3J 2T7

Dear Minister Bernard:

As a follow-up to the October 14, 2016 letter, on October 4, 2016 the Standing Committee on Community Services met with the Community Action on Homes Group.

The group provided the committee with an update on the report entitled “Choice, Equality and Good Lives for Inclusive Communities: A Roadmap for Transforming the Nova Scotia Services to Persons with Disabilities Program”.

As a result of this meeting, the Standing Committee on Community Services put forth the following motion:

“To write to the Department requesting them to provide in detail an update on the government’s transformation of services for Nova Scotians with disabilities and how the department is going to meet the timelines set out in the Roadmap”.

As of November 24, 2016, the Standing Committee on Community Services has not received a response to the above motion.

Please forward your response as soon as conveniently possible.

Thank you,

Darsene Henry for

Patricia Arab, MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Community Services



Rec'd Jan 24/17

Community Services · Services communautaires
Office of the Minister · Bureau du ministre

PO Box 696, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2T7 • C.P. 696, Halifax (Nouvelle-Écosse) Canada, B3J 2T7 • www.gov.ns.ca

JAN 18 2017

Patricia Arab, M.L.A.
Chair
Standing Committee on Community Services
Legislative Committees Office
PO Box 2630, Station M
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7

Dear Ms. Arab: *Patricia*

Thank you for your letter of November 24, 2016, requesting an update on the Government's transformation of services for Nova Scotians with disabilities, and how the Department is going to meet the timelines set out in the Roadmap.

The Disability Support Program (DSP) is nearing the end of the design phase of Transformation, which is in support of, and in alignment with, the 2013 Roadmap recommendations. In the Fall of 2016, the DSP staff travelled the Province discussing with participants, families, service providers, and communities the draft detailed design of the new DSP Adult Service Array, which highlighted the programs, policies, individualized funding and person-directed planning approach for the future of the DSP. We anticipate presenting and seeking approval from Government on the new DSP Adult Service Array in Winter 2016, at which time a timeline for implementation can be shared more broadly.

Although the DSP has been busy with the draft design of the new DSP Service Array, the Department has also been able to make significant progress. Notable examples of demonstrated progress include:

- Implementation of a moratorium on permanent client placements in larger facilities, effective July 1, 2016;
- Development and implementation of a new individualized funding program called The Flex Independent Program;
- Awarded \$3M in provincial funding to:
 - Support 25 participants transitioning out of larger facilities. As of January 4, 2017:
 - 8 participants have moved out of larger residential settings, and 3 participants have moved from smaller settings to more individualized settings; and
 - Another 20 participants have been identified and approved to move: 15 are from larger residential settings, and 5 from smaller settings.
 - Support 7 Flex Independent placements;

- Funding has been committed for the development of social enterprise capacity at Adult Service Centres across the Province. This investment will allow our Adult Service Centres to grow their social enterprises and support more individuals to contribute to their communities; and
 - Funding has also been committed to 12 Adult Service Centres to expand employment supports to persons with disabilities.
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- Held first voice meetings with over 130 DSP participants across the Province with plans to create more opportunities for participants and their families to be heard;
 - Implementation of administrative and enhanced technology improvements to improve the communication and information that Care Coordinators and service providers use to support participants;
 - Launched the development of a new DSP Placement and Waitlist Policy, with an expected completion date of March 31, 2017;
 - Implementing 2 additional adult protection beds across the Province;
 - Implementing a new complex case process between the Department of Community Services, Department of Health and Wellness, and Mental Health and Addictions to achieve more timely case decisions. Training for Department of Community Services and Nova Scotia Health Authority staff will be finalized by February 15, 2017;
 - Launched a collaborative working group between the Departments of Health and Wellness and Community Services to improve service delivery and access to supports across Departments by providing clarity to Departmental staff on roles and responsibilities for common clients;
 - Launched a quarterly "DSP Connection Newsletter" to keep participants, families, service providers and members of the community better informed on the progress and work of DSP Transformation; and
 - Delivery of two DSP Roadshows province-wide (fall 2015 and 2016) to update and inform Disability First Voice members, Disability Support Program staff, and service providers on the progress of DSP Transformation.

We look forward to sharing additional information on the anticipated timelines for implementation of the new DSP Service Array in winter/spring 2017 (as more information becomes available to us).

Thank you, again, for your letter.

Respectfully,



Hon. Joanne Bernard, BA, MA
Minister