



STANDING COMMITTEE
on
COMMUNITY SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT
2009 – 2010

First and Second Sessions of the Sixty-first General Assembly

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Honourable Charlie Parker
Speaker
House of Assembly
Province House
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Community Services, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Committee for the First and Second Sessions of the Sixty-first General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Morton, MLA, Kings North
Chair
Standing Committee on Community Services

Halifax, Nova Scotia
2010



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INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Community Services, an all-party Committee of the House of Assembly, was struck at the beginning of the First Session of the Sixty-first General Assembly. Pursuant to Rule 60(2)(d) of the *Province of Nova Scotia Rules and Forms of Procedures of the House of Assembly*:

(d) the Community Services Committee is established for the purpose of considering matters normally assigned to or within the purview of the Departments and Ministers of Business and Consumer Services and of Municipal Affairs and matters relating to the Human Rights Commission and the Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Commission.

In 1998, the Speaker, as Chairman of the Legislature's Internal Economy Board, gave the Community Services Committee written permission to also consider matters within the purview of the Department of Health and the Department of Community Services.

MEMBERSHIP

There shall be no more than nine Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to this committee. The current membership of the Standing Committee on Community Services is as follows:

Mr. Jim Morton, MLA - Chair
Kings North

Mr. Gary Ramey, MLA – Vice Chair
Lunenburg West

Mr. Leonard Preyra, MLA
Halifax Citadel-Sable Island

Ms. Michèle Raymond, MLA
Halifax Atlantic

Mr. Maurice Smith, MLA
Antigonish

Mr. Leo Glavine, MLA
Kings West

Mr. Geoff MacLellan, MLA
Glace Bay

Honourable Chris d'Entremont, MLA
Argyle

Mr. Alfie MacLeod, MLA
Cape Breton West

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

During the First and Second Sessions of the Sixty-first General Assembly, the committee underwent the following membership changes:

Mr. Trevor Zinck was replaced by Mr. Maurice Smith.
Ms. Kelly Regan was replaced by Mr. Geoff MacLellan.

PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS

The Community Services Committee traditionally meets once a month. These meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month in the Legislative Committees offices. During the First and Second Sessions of the Sixty-first General Assembly the committee met on the following dates:

October 20, 2009
November 3, 2009
January 5, 2010
February 2, 2010
March 2, 2010
April 6, 2010
May 4, 2010
June 1, 2010

NOTICES, TRANSCRIPTS AND REPORTS

NOTICES

Notices of the committee meetings are sent to all members of the committee, caucus office staff, legislative staff and the House of Assembly press gallery. The notices are also posted in Province House and on the Community Services Committee website at the following address: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/committees/schedcs.html>

TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts of all Community Services Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Library in Province House, the Legislative Committees Office, or online at the Community Services Committee website at the following address:
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/>

REPORTS

All reports of the Standing Committee on Community Services are compiled by the Legislative Committees Office and forwarded to committee members for consideration. Once the report is finalized, it is then distributed as follows:

To the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Assembly, all Members of the Legislative Assembly, all witnesses who appeared before the committee, the Legislative Library in Nova Scotia and all other provinces and territories, the caucus offices and the media. This report is also available to the general public on request from the Legislative Committees Office and is available online at the committee's website at the following address:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/COMMITTEES/cs_pubs.html

RESEARCH MATERIAL

Research material for the Community Services Committee is compiled by the Legislative Library and distributed to members by the committee clerk. Reference material is provided to members and caucus staff prior to the meeting date. A copy of this material is also made available to the witnesses appearing before the committee, to the Legislative Library in Province House and to Hansard Reporting Services.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The committee wishes to extend its gratitude to all witnesses for their time and co-operation; as well as to Ms. Kim Langille, Committee Clerk, and the staff of the Legislative Committees Office, for the coordination of committee meetings; and to Ms. Heather Ludlow, Information Services Librarian, for the organization of research for committee meetings. Others whose assistance has been invaluable to the committee are: Mr. Robert Kinsman, Editor of Hansard Reporting Services, and staff; Mr. James MacInnes, Coordinator/Director of Legislative Television and Broadcast Services, and staff; and Ms. Margaret Murphy, Legislative Librarian, and staff.

WITNESSES

October 20, 2009	Organizational Meeting
November 3, 2009	Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia
November 3, 2009	Department of Community Services/Department of Labour and Workforce Development Re: Poverty Reduction Strategy
January 5, 2010	Department of Community Services Re: Child and Youth Strategy
January 5, 2010	Department of Health Promotion and Protection Re: Youth Health Centres
February 2, 2010	Department of Community Services Re: Housing/Federal Stimulus Money
March 2, 2010	Department of Community Services/Department of Labour and Workforce Development Re: Poverty Reduction Strategy (continuation)
April 6, 2010	Department of Justice Re: Maintenance Enforcement Program
May 4, 2010	Department of Community Services Re: Services for Persons with Disabilities
May 4, 2010	Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission Re: Services for Persons with Disabilities
May 4, 2010	Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre Re: Services for Persons with Disabilities
June 1, 2010	Department of Health Re: Children's Mental Health Services

PUBLIC

HEARINGS

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

October 20, 2009

WITNESSES

No witnesses are present at organizational meetings.

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The committee met to organize their agenda of potential witnesses and topics for future meetings.

The committee agreed it would meet between the hours of 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm when the House of Assembly is not in session, and between the hours of 9:00 am and 11:00 am when the House of Assembly is in session.

MOTIONS

There were no motions.

DOCUMENTATION

There were no requests for documentation.

TRANSCRIPT

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/cs_2009oct20.htm

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

November 3, 2009

WITNESSES

Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia

Mr. Don Sullivan, President

Ms. Margo Dauphinee, Executive Director

Ms. Jane Warren, Past President

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia (BIANS) requested an appearance before the committee. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the services provided by BIANS as well as providing information regarding the needs of brain injured Nova Scotians. It was indicated that there is a need for an acquired brain injury strategy to be implemented in the province.

MOTIONS

There were no motions.

DOCUMENTATION

The following information was requested and received:

- Information regarding the 30,000-40,000 people affected by brain injuries and how they fit into the continuum and where the more specific gaps in service are.

TRANSCRIPT

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/cs_2009nov03.htm

POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

November 3, 2009

WITNESSES

Department of Community Services

Ms. Judith Ferguson, Deputy Minister

Ms. Lynn Hartwell, Executive Director, Policy and Information Management

Department of Labour and Workforce Development

Ms. Margaret MacDonald, Deputy Minister

Mr. Stuart Gourley, Senior Executive Director

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

MOTIONS

There were no motions.

DOCUMENTATION

There were no requests for documentation. The witnesses were scheduled to appear before the committee at a future meeting to present details on developments to the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

TRANSCRIPT

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/cs_2009nvm03.htm

CHILD AND YOUTH STRATEGY

January 5, 2010

WITNESSES

Department of Community Services

Ms. Judith Ferguson, Deputy Minister

Mr. Robert Wright, Executive Director, Child and Youth Strategy

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of the Child and Youth Strategy.

MOTIONS

There were no motions.

DOCUMENTATION

The following information was requested and received:

- Information on the progress of the Nunn Commission recommendations.

TRANSCRIPT

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/cs_2010jan05.htm

YOUTH HEALTH CENTRES

January 5, 2010

WITNESSES

Department of Health Promotion and Protection

Mr. Duff Montgomerie, Deputy Minister

Ms. Heather Christian, Director, Healthy Development

Mr. Morris Green, Coordinator, Youth Health, Healthy Development

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of Youth Health Centres in the province.

MOTIONS

There were no motions.

DOCUMENTATION

The following information was requested and received:

- How many or what percentage of Youth Health Centres have full-time coordinators?

TRANSCRIPT

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/cs_2010jry05.htm

HOUSING/FEDERAL STIMULUS MONEY

February 2, 2010

WITNESSES

Department of Community Services

Ms. Judith Ferguson, Deputy Minister

Mr. David Ryan, Executive Director, Employment Support, Income Assistance & Housing

Mr. Gary Porter, Executive Director, Housing Authorities & Property Operations

Mr. Dan Troke, Director of Housing

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of affordable housing with a particular focus on federal stimulus funding.

MOTIONS

There were no motions.

DOCUMENTATION

The following information was requested and received:

- A breakdown of what is spent in Nova Scotia, per year, for affordable housing.

TRANSCRIPT

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/cs_2010feb02.htm

POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY (continuation)

March 2, 2010

WITNESSES

Department of Community Services

Ms. Judith Ferguson, Deputy Minister

Ms. Brenda Murray, Director, Policy, Planning & Research

Mr. Ulrich vom Hagen, Coordinator, Poverty Reduction

Ms. Denise MacDonald-Billard, Manager, Employment Support Income Assistance

Department of Labour and Workforce Development

Ms. Margaret MacDonald, Deputy Minister

Ms. Carmelle d'Entremont, Director

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

This was a continuation of the presentation given to members on November 3, 2009, and provided further information regarding the Poverty Reduction Strategy, as well as follow-up information in areas of interest to the committee from the previous meeting.

MOTIONS

The following motion was deferred pending confirmation regarding whether the Minister of Community Services has met with the Community Coalition to End Poverty:

“THAT the committee write to the Minister of Community Services, asking her to host a meeting with the Poverty Reduction Working Group and the Community Coalition to End Poverty, for their input.”

DOCUMENTATION

No documents were requested.

TRANSCRIPT

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/cs_2010mar02.htm

MAINTENANCE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

April 6, 2010

WITNESSES

Department of Justice

Ms. Marian Tyson, Deputy Minister

Ms. Judy Crump, Director of Maintenance Enforcement

Mr. Ken Winch, Director, Court Services

Ms. Jennifer Palov, Executive Director, Legal Services

Ms. Karen Crofton, Manager of Policy and Compliance

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of the Maintenance Enforcement Program.

As a follow-up to the motion which was deferred at the March 2, 2010, meeting, the Chair reported to the committee that the Minister of Community Services has met with the Coalition to End Poverty in Nova Scotia. This information was satisfactory and no further action was taken regarding the motion.

A decision was made by the committee to post witness presentations on the committee's website.

MOTION

There were no motions.

DOCUMENTATION

The following information was requested and received:

- What is the average length of time between enforcement actions?
- What is the percentage of cold cases?
- What percentage of cases are in arrears?
- How many cases are in arrears and what is the dollar amount?
- Information on what enforcement tools are used, how often, etc.
- What is the total budget of the Maintenance Enforcement Program?
- List of Regional Coordinators.
- Information on Enrollment Kit improvements.

TRANSCRIPT

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/cs_2010apr06.htm

SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

May 4, 2010

WITNESSES

Department of Community Services

Ms. Judith Ferguson, Deputy Minister

Ms. Lorna MacPherson, Director, Services for Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Lucas Wide, Communications Officer

Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission

Ms. Anne MacRae, Executive Director

Mr. Brian Tapper, Chair

Mr. Burke MacCallum, Researcher

Mr. Craig MacKinnon, Researcher

Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre

Ms. Betty Mattson, CEO

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of the programs and services provided to persons with disabilities.

MOTIONS

The committee discussed correspondence received from the Face of Poverty Consultation. The following motion was passed by the committee:

“THAT the committee accepts the Face of Poverty Consultation correspondence as received and will revisit it at the next meeting of the committee.”

DOCUMENTATION

The following information was requested and received from the Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre:

- A staffing breakdown, which would include full-time/part-time staff, job descriptions, location of employment, etc.

The following information was requested from the Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission:

- Statistical Manuals.

TRANSCRIPT

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcripts which are available online at:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/cs_2010may04.htm

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/cs_2010maa04.htm

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/cs_2010myy04.htm

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

June 1, 2010

WITNESSES

Department of Health

Ms. Patricia Murray, Director, Children's Services

Dr. Linda Courey, Director, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Cape Breton
DHA

Ms. Susan Mercer, Senior Director, Mental Health and Addictions Program, IWK
Health Centre

Mr. Faizal Nanji, Acting Executive Director, Mental Health, Children's Services and
Addiction Treatment Branch

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain information on child and youth mental health services in Nova Scotia.

Further to the May 4, 2010, motion, the Face of Poverty Consultation correspondence was discussed by the committee. A decision was made to request witnesses to provide a copy of their presentation for distribution to committee members in advance of their appearance before the committee.

MOTIONS

There were no motions.

DOCUMENTATION

The following information was requested and received:

- How does Nova Scotia compare to other provinces with respect to children's mental health services?
- What percentage of the child and youth health budget goes to mental health? Is it more than 3.5% because 80% of mental illness exhibits itself in adolescence?

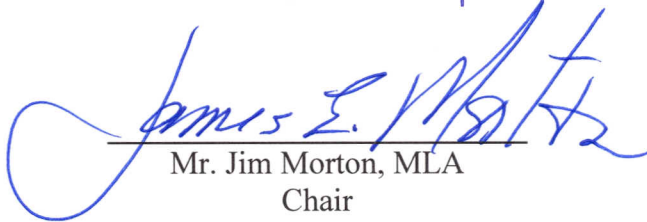
TRANSCRIPT

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/cs/cs_2010jun01.htm

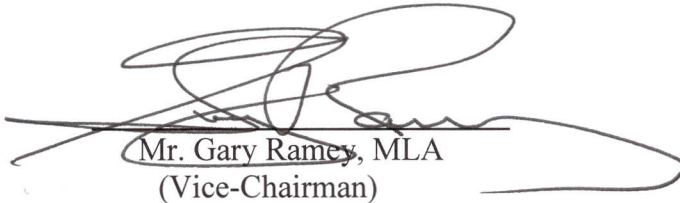
**STATEMENT
OF
SUBMISSION**

STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION

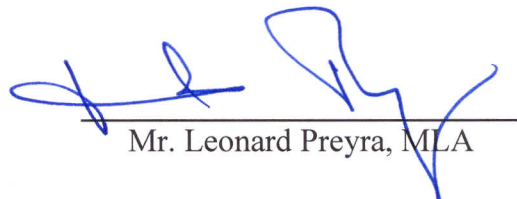
All of which is respectfully submitted to the
House of Assembly this 7th day of September, 2010


Mr. Jim Morton, MLA
Chair

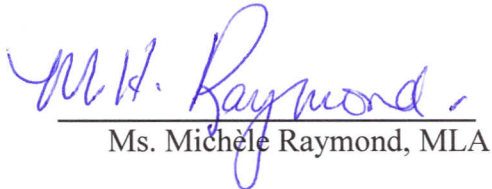
I concur


Mr. Gary Ramey, MLA
(Vice-Chairman)

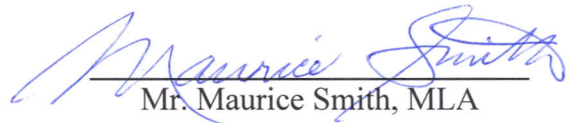
I concur


Mr. Leonard Preyra, MLA

I concur


Ms. Michèle Raymond, MLA

I concur


Mr. Maurice Smith, MLA

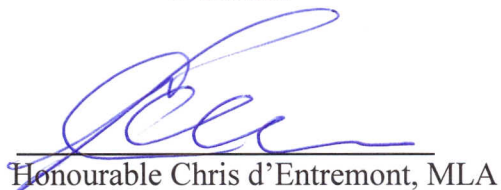
I concur


Mr. Leo Glavine, MLA

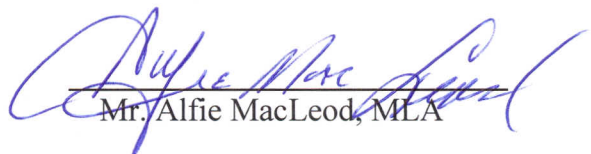
I concur


Mr. Geoff MacLellan, MLA

I concur


Honourable Chris d'Entremont, MLA

I concur


Mr. Alfie MacLeod, MLA

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

The following is a list of documents and information requested and received by the Standing Committee on Community Services:

Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia - November 3, 2009

- Information regarding the 30,000-40,000 people affected by brain injuries and how they fit into the continuum and where the more specific gaps are.

Department of Community Services - Child and Youth Strategy - January 5, 2010

- Information on the progress of the Nunn Commission recommendations.

Department of Health Promotion and Protection - Youth Health Centres - January 5, 2010

- The number of Youth Health Centres that have full-time coordinators.

Department of Community Services - Housing/Federal Stimulus Money - February 2, 2010

- Information on funding for affordable housing in Nova Scotia.

Department of Justice - Maintenance Enforcement Program - April 6, 2010

- The average length of time between enforcement actions.
- The percentage of cold cases.
- The percentage of cases that are in arrears.
- The number of cases that are in arrears and the amount.
- Information on what enforcement tools are used, how often, etc.
- The total budget of the Maintenance Enforcement Program.
- List of Regional Coordinators.
- Information on Enrollment Kit improvements.

Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre - Services for Persons with Disabilities - May 4, 2010

- Staffing breakdown.

APPENDIX (continued)

Department of Health - Children's Mental Health Services - June 1, 2010

- Information on how Nova Scotia compares to other provinces with respect to children's mental health services.
- Information on the percentage of the child and youth health budget that goes toward mental health.

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