

**STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**ON**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2011**



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**Legislative  
Committees Office**

House of Assembly  
Nova Scotia

3rd Floor, Dennis Building  
1740 Granville Street  
PO Box 2630, Station M  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3N5

Honourable Gordie Gosse  
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 period from September, 2010 to August, 2011 of the Sixty-first General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Halifax, Nova Scotia  
2011





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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. Sidney Prest, MLA  
Eastern Shore

Mr. Gary Burrill, MLA  
Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley

Mr. Brian Skabar, MLA  
Cumberland North

Hon. Karen Casey, MLA  
Colchester North

Mr. Geoff MacLellan, MLA  
Glace Bay

Mr. Eddie Orrell, MLA  
Cape Breton North

Mr. Keith Bain, MLA  
Victoria-The Lakes

## **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**

During the period from September, 2010 to August, 2011 of the Sixty-first General Assembly, the committee underwent the following membership changes:

Hon. Chris d'Entremont was replaced by Mr. Keith Bain.  
Mr. Leo Glavine was replaced by Hon. Karen Casey.  
Ms. Michèle Raymond was replaced by Mr. Gary Burrill.  
Mr. Leonard Preyra was replaced by Mr. Brian Skabar.  
Mr. Maurice Smith was replaced by Mr. Sidney Prest.  
Mr. Alfie MacLeod was replaced by Mr. Eddie Orrell.

## **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 period from September, 2010 to August, 2011 of the Sixty-first General Assembly, the committee met on the following dates:

September 7, 2010  
November 2, 2010  
December 7, 2010  
January 11, 2011  
February 1, 2011  
March 8, 2011  
April 5, 2011  
May 17, 2011  
June 7, 2011

In addition to the above meetings, committee members toured the Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre in Waterville, Kings County, on October 5, 2010.

The committee agreed to hold meetings from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, instead of from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, when the House of Assembly was in session.

## **NOTICES, TRANSCRIPTS, PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **NOTICES**

Notice of committee meetings are sent to all members of the committee, caucus office staff, legislative staff and Communications Nova Scotia. The notices are also posted in Province House and on the Nova Scotia Legislature website at the following address:

<http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/calendar/>



## **TRANSCRIPTS**

Transcripts of all Community Services Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Library in Province House, the Legislative Committees Office, or on the Community Services Committee website at the following address:

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C6/](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C6/)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Witness presentations are distributed to committee members in advance of the meeting date and are placed on the Community Services Committee website after the meeting and can be viewed at the following address:

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C6/](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C6/)

## **REPORTS**

All reports of the Standing Committee on Community Services are compiled by the Legislative Committees Office and forwarded to committee members for consideration. Upon completion of the review and approval of the report, the Chair tables the report with the Speaker of the House of Assembly or with the Clerk of the House of Assembly.

Distribution of the report is as follows, to: the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Assembly; committee members; all witnesses who appeared before the committee; the Nova Scotia Legislative Library; the caucus offices; and the House of Assembly Press Gallery. This report is available to the general public upon request from the Legislative Committees Office, and is available on the Community Services Committee's website at the following address:

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/reports/community\\_services](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/reports/community_services)

## **RESEARCH MATERIAL**

Research material for the Community Services Committee is compiled by the Legislative Library in consultation with the committee clerk 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; 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**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>September 7, 2010</b> | <b>Organizational Meeting</b>   |
| <b>November 2, 2010</b>  | <b>Department of Community Services/Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia<br/>Re: Housing</b>                                   |
| <b>December 7, 2010</b>  | <b>Department of Community Services/Private Licensed Administrators Association/Non-Profit Directors Association<br/>Re: Child Care</b> |
| <b>January 11, 2011</b>  | <b>Department of Community Services<br/>Re: Child Protection and Adoption Services</b>  |
| <b>February 1, 2011</b>  | <b>Nova Scotia Association of Women's Centres</b>   |
| <b>March 8, 2011</b>     | <b>Nova Scotia School Boards Association</b>  |
| <b>April 5, 2011</b>     | <b>Department of Community Services/South Shore Family Resource Association<br/>Re: Family Resource Centres</b>                         |
| <b>April 5, 2011</b>     | <b>Dress for Success, Halifax</b>   |
| <b>May 17, 2011</b>      | <b>Community Homes Action Group</b>   |
| <b>June 7, 2011</b>      | <b>Nova Scotia Participatory Food Costing Project</b>   |



**PUBLIC**

**HEARINGS**



**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**September 7, 2010**

**WITNESSES**

No witnesses were present at this meeting.

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

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

During committee business discussions, the committee agreed that in instances where follow-up information is requested from a witness, that this information, once received, reviewed and approved by the committee, would be placed on the committee's website.

**MOTIONS**

The Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Community Services was reviewed. Some minor additions and changes were suggested and agreed to by the committee. The following motion was passed in this regard:

“To adopt the annual report with the changes that have been submitted.”

**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://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C6/cs\\_2010sep07](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C6/cs_2010sep07)





## **HOUSING**

**November 2, 2010**

### **WITNESSES**

#### **Department of Community Services**

Ms. Judith Ferguson – Deputy Minister

Mr. Dan Troke – Executive Director, Employment Support, Income Assistance & Housing

Ms. Joan McKeough – Director, Cape Breton Island Housing Authority

#### **Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia**

Mr. Grant Wanzel – Acting President

Ms. Claudia Jahn – Executive Committee Member

### **MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Department of Community Services administers programs to assist low-income households, seniors and persons with disabilities to maintain, acquire and rent affordable housing. The Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia promotes and supports access to affordable housing. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview with respect to affordable housing projects and programs offered by the presenters, as well as any issues related to housing.

### **MOTIONS**

There were no motions.

### **DOCUMENTATION**

The following information was requested from the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia:

- Figures about the percentage of housing which meets the definition of affordable and how that has changed since amalgamation, and the blanket zoning as a measure date, and has the broader zoning had any impact.

The committee received a response from the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia indicating that they were unable to locate the requested information.

### **TRANSCRIPT**

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at: [http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C6/cs\\_2010nov02](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C6/cs_2010nov02)



**WITNESSES**

**Department of Community Services**

Ms. Judith Ferguson – Deputy Minister

Ms. Virginia O’Connell – Director, Early Childhood Development Services

Mr. George Savoury – Executive Director, Family and Community Supports and Child and Youth Strategy

**Private Licensed Administrators Association**

Ms. Heather Hansen-Dunbar – Chairperson, and Executive Director,  
Kids R Kids Day Care

Mr. Shane Beddow – Member and Director

**Non-Profit Directors Association**

Ms. Margo Kirk – Member, and Executive Director of University Children’s Centre

Ms. Laurie St. Amour – Member, and Executive Director of Wolfville Children’s Centre

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Department of Community Services offers child care programs and services that support families and monitors and licenses child care facilities. The Private Licensed Administrators Association connects with and advocates on behalf of private licensed child care centres in Nova Scotia on child care related issues. The Non-Profit Directors Association represents non-profit child care centres and supports the development of a comprehensive delivery system for early childhood services that are based on commonly accepted standards of quality practice. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain information from the witnesses regarding their role in child care, as well as issues relating to child care in Nova Scotia.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There were no documents requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at: [http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C6/cs\\_2010dec07](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C6/cs_2010dec07)



**CHILD PROTECTION AND ADOPTION SERVICES**

**January 11, 2011**

**WITNESSES**

**Department of Community Services**

Ms. Judith Ferguson – Deputy Minister

Mr. George Savoury – Executive Director, Family and Community Supports

Ms. Janet Nearing – Manager for Adoption Services

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Department of Community Services and community agencies provide child welfare services in Nova Scotia. Child welfare services include child protection and supports for children in care, including foster care and adoption. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of child protection and adoption services provided through the Department of Community Services.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There were no documents requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:  
[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C6/cs\\_2011jan11](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C6/cs_2011jan11)



**NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S CENTRES**

**February 1, 2011**

**WITNESSES**

**Nova Scotia Association of Women's Centres**

Ms. Lucille Harper – Executive Director, Antigonish Women's Resource Centre  
and Sexual Assault Services Association

Ms. Bernadette MacDonald – Executive Director, Tri-County Women's Centre

Ms. Jeanne Faye – Coordinator, Women's Centres Connect!

Ms. Arlene MacDonald – Executive Director, Pictou County Women's Centre

Ms. Della Longmire – Executive Director, The Women's Place Resource Centre

Ms. Joanne Jefferson – Community Relations Coordinator, Second Story Women's  
Centre

Ms. Myrene Keating Owen – Executive Director, LEA Place Women's Resource Centre

Ms. Louise Smith- Macdonald – Executive Director, Every Women's Centre

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Nova Scotia Association of Women's Centres coordinates the social advocacy of women's centres in Nova Scotia. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of the services provided by women's centres.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There were no documents requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:  
[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C6/cs\\_2011feb01](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C6/cs_2011feb01)





**WITNESSES**

**Nova Scotia School Boards Association**

Mr. Vic Fleury – President, Nova Scotia School Boards Association

Ms. Nancy Pynch-Worthylake – Superintendent, South Shore Regional School Board

Mr. Scott Milner – Director of Education Services, Chignecto-Central Regional  
School Board

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Nova Scotia School Boards Association provides services to school boards and advocates on behalf of the best interests and needs of public school students in Nova Scotia. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information with respect to improving interdepartmental delivery of services to youth and families within the school system.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There were no documents requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:  
[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C6/cs\\_2011mar08](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C6/cs_2011mar08)



**FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES**

**April 5, 2011**

**WITNESSES**

**Department of Community Services**

Mr. George Savoury – Executive Director, Family and Community Supports

Ms. Marika Lathem – Director, Family and Youth Services

Ms. Natalie Downey – Coordinator, Prevention Services

**South Shore Family Resource Association**

Ms. Debbie Smith, Executive Director

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

Family Resource Centres provide a broad range of services which are responsive to the needs of families in the individual communities they serve. The purpose of this meeting was to provide an overview of family resource centres in Nova Scotia and the services they provide.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There were no documents requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:  
[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C6/cs\\_2011apr05](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C6/cs_2011apr05)



**DRESS FOR SUCCESS**

**April 5, 2011**

**WITNESSES**

**Dress for Success, Halifax**

Ms. Brenda Saunders/Todd – President

Ms. Anna Marenick – Vice President

Ms. Wanda Kelbrat – Volunteer and Member, Professional Women’s Group

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

Dress for Success is an international volunteer organization that provides professional clothing, support and career development tools to disadvantaged women to assist them in gaining economic independence. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of the services provided by Dress for Success.

**MOTION**

There were no motions.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There were no documents requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at: [http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C6/cs\\_2011apr05](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C6/cs_2011apr05)



**COMMUNITY HOMES ACTION GROUP**

**May 17, 2011**

**WITNESSES**

**Community Homes Action Group**

Dr. Brian Hennen – Co-Chair

Ms. Wendy Lill – Co-Chair

Dr. Mary Tomlinson – Advocate for Mental Health

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Community Homes Action Group is a group of citizens, health care professionals, parents and advocates who are concerned about residential options for persons with developmental disabilities. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information regarding the need for improvements in residential options and availability for persons with developmental disabilities.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There were no documents requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at: [http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C6/cs\\_2011may17](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C6/cs_2011may17)





**NOVA SCOTIA PARTICIPATORY FOOD COSTING PROJECT**

**June 7, 2011**

**WITNESSES**

**Nova Scotia Participatory Food Costing Project**

Dr. Patricia Williams, PhD, PDt – Canada Research Chair in Food Security and Policy Change; Director of Participatory Action Research and Training Centre on Food Security, Mount Saint Vincent University

Ms. Karen Leblanc – Program Coordinator, Maggie’s Place Family Resource Centre, Amherst

Ms. Debbie Smith – Executive Director, South Shore Family Support Centre

Ms. Lynn Langille – Health Disparities Coordinator, Healthy Communities, Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness

Ms. Cynthia Watt – Project Coordinator, Nova Scotia Participatory Food Costing Project

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Nova Scotia Participatory Food Costing Project conducts research regarding the cost and affordability of a basic nutritious diet in Nova Scotia. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain an overview of the Nova Scotia Participatory Food Costing Project.

During the committee business portion of the meeting, the committee discussed its fall agenda and approved witnesses to be scheduled beginning in September, 2011.

**MOTIONS**

There were no motions.

**DOCUMENTATION**

There were no documents requested.

**TRANSCRIPT**

Full details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at: [http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C6/cs\\_2011jun07](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C6/cs_2011jun07)



**STATEMENT**

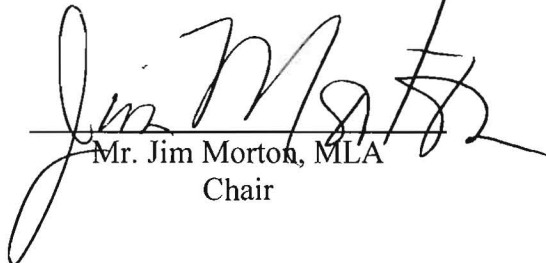
**OF**

**SUBMISSION**



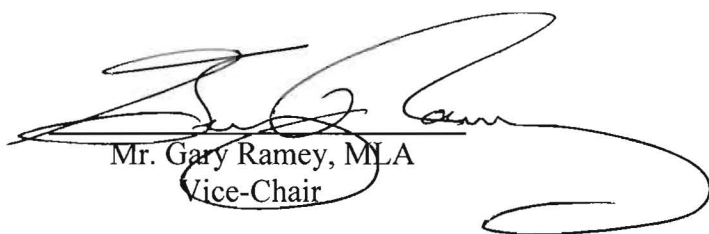
**STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION**

All of which is respectfully submitted to the  
House of Assembly this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011


  
Mr. Jim Morton, MLA  
Chair

**I concur**


**I concur**

  
Mr. Gary Ramey, MLA  
Vice-Chair

**I concur**

  
Mr. Brian Skabar, MLA

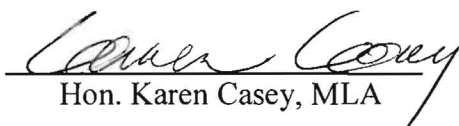
**I concur**

  
Mr. Gary Burrill, MLA

**I concur**

  
Mr. Sidney Prest, MLA

**I concur**

  
Hon. Karen Casey, MLA

**I concur**

  
Ms. Kelly Regan, MLA

**I concur**

  
Mr. Eddie Orrell, MLA

  
Mr. Keith Bain, MLA



# APPENDIX





## **APPENDIX – MOTIONS**

The following is a list of motions of the Standing Committee on Community Services:

### **Organizational Meeting – September 7, 2010**

To adopt the annual report with the changes that have been submitted.



**Legislative Committees Office  
3rd Floor, Dennis Building  
1740 Granville Street  
PO Box 2630, Station "M"  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3P7**

**Telephone: (902) 424-4432 or Toll Free 1-888-388-6489**

**Fax: (902) 424-0513**

**E-Mail: [legcomm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:legcomm@gov.ns.ca)**

**Website:**

**[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/standing\\_committees/community\\_services](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/standing_committees/community_services)**