

Long-term Care Sector

Key messages

- We recognize the difficulties in the sector. We are working on an interim solution to some of the funding problems.
- I am working with the minister of Health to solve these problems. The ministerial committee has been meeting to develop a strategic plan.
- We want to develop a continuum of care to improve services to clients and reduce confusion. Clients will have a single point of access for the entire system.

Background

- 1) moratorium on development of new homes reduces access to clients*
- 2) funding freeze causing operational problems, including strike threats*
- 3) nurses making allegations of poor quality of care*
- 4) government blamed for lack of action*

Continuing care covers a wide variety of clients of all ages including the mentally and physically disabled, emotionally disturbed children, clients with chronic alcohol/drug problems, transients, and families in crisis. Services are provided by the departments of Community Services and Health, in conjunction with a patchwork of government agencies, private and non-profit facilities and agencies.

There has been a moratorium on new spaces in the community based option system for two fiscal years while the system has been under review. There is considerable pent up demand for services.

The sector is facing significant cost pressures. Aside from additional costs from things like CPP, occupational health and safety, and increases in fuel cost/electricity, all are facing pressure from unions. The Department of Health has provided some increase to nursing homes and homes for the aged. Community Services gave a two per cent increase to licensed facilities in November.

A recent report from the Nurses Union of Nova Scotia outlined some practical issues about working conditions in homes. There is a widespread perception of poor working conditions in the homes. The industry groups have been unsatisfied with the response from government to date.

Community Based Options - Moratorium

Small Options Review

Key Messages

- We have completed a review of all existing Small Option homes. A report of the findings will be released soon.
 - A moratorium on the development of new small options is still in effect pending the completion of this review process.
 - Interim Standards are in place pending the completion of the review process.
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Background

The Department took over financial responsibility for Community Based Options in 1995. A moratorium placed on new development of Small Option homes throughout the province to allow for a full review of existing small option settings.

The Department introduced "Interim Standards, Community Based Options" in November, 1996, to provide potential and existing service providers with standards on which to base their respective operations.

We have conducted individual program/client assessments of all existing small option settings. We have compiled resident/home information. A report will make recommendations on what is needed in future.

A vast majority of service providers appear to be receptive to suggestions and are quite anxious to bring their operations up to standard. There is a recognized need to provide ongoing consultation and case management to assist these operations.

Further decisions are needed on a new framework for the continuum of Long Term Care and services.

BILL NO. 129

(as introduced)



*1st Session, 60th General Assembly
Nova Scotia
55 Elizabeth II, 2007*

Private Member's Bill

Small Options Homes Moratorium Termination Act

Trevor Zinck
Dartmouth North

First Reading: January 8, 2007

Second Reading:

Third Reading:



An Act Respecting a Moratorium on Approvals of Small Options Homes

WHEREAS the Government has imposed a moratorium on the approval of new small options homes;

AND WHEREAS interim standards for small options homes have been established since 1996;


AND WHEREAS it is in the interest of persons in need of supervised housing in Nova Scotia that beds be available in small options homes;

THEREFORE be it enacted by the Governor and Assembly as follows:

1 This Act may be cited as the Small Options Homes Moratorium Termination Act.

2 In this Act,

(a) "person in need of supervised housing" includes an individual with a long-term physical or intellectual challenge, developmental delay, brain injury or long-term mental illness who requires some supervision and support in order to live independently within the individual's community;

(b) "small options home" means any home where persons in need of supervised housing may receive supervisory care or personal care that would be a residential care facility within the meaning of the Homes for Special Care Act but for the reason that care is provided to fewer than four persons. 

3 Subject to Section 5, the Minister of Community Services shall ensure that the moratorium on approval of small options homes that is in place is terminated no later than April 1, 2007.

4 After the moratorium on approval of small options homes is terminated in accordance with Section 3, the Minister of Community Services shall consider any proposals or applications respecting small options homes on their merits on the basis of the interim standards produced by the Department of Community Services and tabled in the Assembly by the Minister of Community Services on November 26, 1996, until such time as permanent standards are established, at which time the Minister shall consider proposals or applications on the basis of those standards.

5 The moneys required for the purpose of this Act shall be paid out of moneys appropriated for that purpose by the Legislature.



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