

CONFIDENTIAL

**Residential Community Homes vs Small Option Homes**

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**Issue:** The Department is not opening any new three-bed small option homes.

**Government Action:**

- The Department is committed to increasing residential program capacity through new 4 - 8-bed licensed community homes.
- The model of Community Homes to support 4 - 8 individuals allows the department to increase the number of placements while ensuring the quality and sustainability of Services for Persons with Disabilities (SPD) supports.
- Government provides a full range of programs and services that meet the varied and individual needs of Nova Scotians with disabilities. We will continue to work with our partners in the sector and members of the disability community to build on our existing services.

**Key Facts:**

- The Department has expanded the Independent Living and Alternate Family Support Programs, adding 30 new spaces this past year.
- DCS has licensed 177 existing three-bed small options homes in February, 2012.

**Cautionary Note:**

- The Disability Rights Coalition requested that the government call an immediate halt to any plans for new construction or major remodeling of "residential institutions" pending the development of a comprehensive provincial disability strategy. For some advocates, community homes would fall under the category of "residential institutions".
- Advocates for the disabled argue the founded abuse cases under the *Protection for Persons in Care Act* show larger institutions for persons with intellectual disabilities are more prone to abuse than smaller homes. However, departmental records show that abuse occurs in all types of facilities.

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Contact: Ms. Judy LaPierre, 221-1594 (cell), 424-6296 (office)  
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Judy Labuere

SPD - Final - Residential V. Small Options