



THE PREMIER
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 2T3

April 18, 2016

Mr. Marty Wexler
Chair, Disability Rights Coalition
2815 Connaught Avenue
Halifax, NS B3L 2Z9

Dear Mr. Wexler:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 17, 2016, with respect to the report released by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding Canada.

Our Government believes persons with disabilities belong in their communities and have access to meaningful employment opportunities across the Province. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities guides a number of my Government's ongoing initiatives. The Department of Community Services remains committed to enhancing opportunities for supported community-based living, and developing an employment framework for persons with disabilities.

With respect to our progress on the Roadmap document, we have previously communicated that this will take time to implement and we remain committed to meeting the outcomes provided in the Roadmap. For more information on the Disability Support Program Transformation, please see our website at: <http://novascotia.ca/coms/disabilities/index.html> or contact Mr. Joe Rudderham, Executive Director at 902-424-0930.

In addition to our commitment to the Roadmap, our government initiated work to prepare the province for the introduction of new accessibility legislation anticipated for House introduction this fall. The Minister's Advisory Panel on Accessibility prepared its report that was publically released 10 months ago. The Department of Community Services is using this report and jurisdictional research to prepare the draft legislation.

Thank you, again, for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen McNeil".

Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier of Nova Scotia

Copy to: Honourable Joanne Bernard, Minister of Community Services
Mr. Joe Rudderham, Executive Director, Disability Support Program, Community Services