

BRIEFING NOTE
Department of Community Services

Development of Residential Community Homes vs Small Option Homes

KEY MESSAGE:

- **The Department of Community Services continues to invest in the long-term health, safety and well-being of Nova Scotians with disabilities in order to provide them with a full range of supports and services.**
- **A Services for Persons with Disabilities Strategy has been developed to ensure that the appropriate supports and living environments are provided and available to persons with disabilities. The plan is to build Community Homes, serving four to eight people in a licensed home setting.**
- **All new Community Homes supported under the Services for Persons with Disabilities Program will require a provincial license and will therefore be accountable to meet proper standards of care.**

CURRENT SITUATION:

- Under the provincial strategy, SPD will not increase program capacity by opening new unlicensed Small Option Homes. Rather, the program will use a Request For Proposal approach to establish new 4 to 8-bed licensed Community Homes.
- The Request For Proposal process provides a fair and equitable method of application for all interested parties to express interest in SPD service provision. Proposals will be evaluated on their own merit against selected criteria. A competitive bidding process ensures the best available services for Nova Scotians.
- Also, where possible, three-person Small Option Homes will be converted and licensed to accommodate and support a fourth individual with a disability.

BACKGROUND:

- In June 2008, the department released its review of residential services. Based on this report, a provincial strategy was developed to address capacity and quality issues within the current continuum of care and support system.
- The province is responsible for the administrative and financial responsibilities of all residential settings serving persons with disabilities.

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