

DISABILITY RIGHTS COALITION OF NOVA SCOTIA

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MEDIA ADVISORY: April 3, 2019

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Open letter to Premier McNeil: Damaging human rights crisis must stop

Two disability rights groups are hosting a panel presentation to address the human rights crisis affecting people with disabilities in Nova Scotia as a result of the Province's chronic failure to fulfill its obligations to provide supports and services in the community. At the same time, the [Disability Rights Coalition](#) will release an open letter to the Premier signed by individuals and organisations representing thousands of Nova Scotians, calling for the government to take immediate action to meet its human rights obligations.

This action comes in the wake of a recent Human Rights [Board of Inquiry decision](#) that found the Province's needless institutionalization of persons with disabilities who are eligible for homes in the community, and years long wait times for basic services, was harmful and discriminatory. This recent decision mirrors [the 2005 findings by the UN Human Rights Committee](#) regarding the human rights obligations of the Canadian and Nova Scotia governments:

"The Committee is concerned about information that, in some provinces and territories, people with mental disabilities or illness remain in detention because of the insufficient provision of community-based supportive housing"

Nova Scotia is at a critical turning point: for hundreds of people with disabilities who have no choice but to live in remote, segregated, outdated institutions, this government must act to address what is a widespread and mounting human rights violation.

The Panel will call on the Premier to deliver on his 2013 promise and his human rights obligations by immediately announcing a legislated, multi year funding commitment to increase community capacity and close institutions.

Who: The Disability Rights Coalition of Nova Scotia in collaboration with [No More Warehousing: The Nova Scotia Association for Inclusive Homes and Support](#)

What: Media event put on by the [Disability Rights Coalition of Nova Scotia](#) in Collaboration with [No More Warehousing](#). Members of all political parties have been invited to participate.

Where: At the Nova Scotia Legislature (Main Floor Foyer, Hollis St. Entrance)

When: Thursday, April 4th at 10:30 am

Why: Open letter to Premier McNeil: Damaging human rights crisis must stop