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**ISSUE:** Transformation of Services for Persons with Disabilities (SPD) Program

- *We are committed to the roadmap developed by the Joint Government Community Advisory Committee on SPD Transformation and the call for greater choice and flexibility.*
- *The current service delivery model for residential services for persons with disabilities is not keeping pace with service requests and pressures.*
- *We will continue working closely with the disability community members, the service sector and staff in order to transform SPD.*
- *While the process is already underway, it is expected that some changes will take up to a decade.*

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Date Nov. 18. 2013

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## **Transformation of the Services for Persons with Disabilities (SPD) Program**

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**Issue:** The disability community, advocacy, families, individuals with disabilities and the SPD sector are frustrated by the outdated model of services, and will looking for evidence of the Government's commitment to transform the current SPD system.

### **Current Situation:**

- Over the past year, the departments of Health and Wellness and Community Services have been working on an initiative, Continuing Care/Services for Persons with Disabilities (CC/SPD), to create a harmonized, accessible and person-focused system, with more focus on home/ family-based programs and greater supports in the community.
- Aligned with this broader CC/SPD initiative, Community Services, with the assistance of the Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion in Society (IRIS), established an advisory committee of government and community organizations, to develop a "roadmap" to refocus and improve the services and supports provided to persons with disabilities.
- DCS is working with the Department of Health and Wellness on the first three transformation initiatives:
  - Create a single entry point for programs and services from various departments;
  - Launch a demonstration project to help families develop their own community-based housing solutions; and,
  - Develop new legislation that will replace the outdated Homes for Special Care Act and provide more modern, people-first supports for those who need continuing care.
- The department is also developing a 10 year plan to transform the SPD Program, to offer people with disabilities greater self-direction, and choice, using a person-directed approach.
- Detailed program planning and financial analysis is underway, with the support of Stylus Consulting and IRIS.

**Background:**

- In August 2013, the Joint Government Community Advisory Committee on SPD Transformation developed a roadmap to provide greater choice and flexibility. The committee recommended a person-directed approach be put in place so that case plans are developed with each person, and take into consideration her/his needs and preferences.
  - The current service delivery model for residential services for persons with disabilities is not keeping pace with service requests and pressures.
    - There is a waitlist with approximately 1,035 individuals who are either waiting for a service, are requesting a different service, or have been assessed as requiring a different service.
    - The budget for the SPD program is approximately \$265 M, with the majority of spending going to labour costs. Additional funding into existing facility base care will not greatly improve outcomes for people with disabilities.
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