



NOVA SCOTIA
Community Services
Office of the Minister

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Ms. Barb Horner
Disability Rights Coalition NS
2815 Connaught Ave
Halifax, NS B3L 2Z9

MAY 16 2019

Dear Ms. Horner:

Thank you for your letter of April 4, 2019, to the Honourable Stephen McNeil regarding your concerns on progress to date in realizing the goals of the *Roadmap for Choice, Equality and Good Lives in Inclusive Communities*. The Premier has requested that I respond to you on his behalf as Minister of Community Services.

I want to assure you that the Department of Community Services and all of government are committed to achieving the goals of the Roadmap and improving outcomes for people with disabilities so they can live more independently in the community, control their own lives, and have access to the supports they need.

We too want people who want to live in the community to be able to do so.

To that end, planning is underway to determine the human, program, financial, and systemic impacts of closing large-scale facilities in Nova Scotia. This work must be carefully planned to ensure transitions can happen safely and in a way that leads to best outcomes for participants and their families. That's why we've engaged with program participants and their families, as well as representatives of Adult Residential Centres, Regional Rehabilitation Centres, and communities to fully understand what we need to have in place as we move toward more community-based supports.

At the same time, the Department is also looking for new ways to support Nova Scotians with disabilities in community. This year, supports will be further expanded through a pilot to support youth with disabilities, aged 16-24, to access day programs as they transition out of high school and into the community. Families of children with disabilities will also be piloting new supports to better enable children with disabilities to stay in the home.

Thank you for reminding us of the urgency of this work and its impact on persons with disabilities in Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Regan".

Hon. Kelly Regan
Minister

c: Hon. Stephen McNeil (Ref # PNS-0773-J5Y4F8)