

# Letter to the Premier – Shelley LeBlanc

**“Disabled people should not have to fight the system to live in their home communities.”**

---

January 2, 2022  
The Honourable Tim Houston  
Office of the Premier  
1700 Granville st  
Halifax, NS B3J-1X5  
Email PREMIER@novascotia.ca

Dear Premier Houston,

I am deeply concerned with your recent response to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeals decision regarding people with disabilities and their unjust discriminatory treatment.

The Court of Appeals found that the Province of Nova Scotia perpetrated systemwide, decades long human rights abuses against people with disabilities. These people need support and services in their community. My sister Brenda Seaton is one of these Nova Scotians. She has Cerebral Palsy.

Brenda has strong ties to the Annapolis Valley. Five generations of her family have called the Annapolis Valley home. Brenda has been on the Department of Community Services (DCS), Disabilities Support Program (DSP) since 2004 when she permanently moved to Nova Scotia. She has been waiting for a permanent small options home for 17 years. Brenda is 57 years old with very complexed needs and is in need of total care. Since her arrival to Nova Scotia, Brenda has been cared for by her mother (presently 81 years old) and extended family. Brenda's need for another place to call home became critical in early Summer 2021 when a number of issues became overwhelming.

Brenda requires 24/7 care. She is nonverbal and depends on her family and those who know her well to communicate. Brenda was placed in a temporary service arrangement in her community and is presently close to family. Shortly thereafter, DCS informed us that they had a placement for Brenda. The problem for us was that it was 3 hours away from her home, family and community.

Starting in August DCS has put enormous pressure on our family to have Brenda uplifted from her community. This pressure has left our family emotionally and mentally strained. The pressure to move Brenda was paused only after the relevant NS Court of Appeals decision of Oct 6th and receiving a letter from a lawyer who represents the Disability Rights Coalition urging them to cease and desist.

Disabled people should not have to fight the system to live in their home communities. The practice of uprooting disabled people from their families and communities needs to stop.

I urge you to stop fighting people with disabilities in court. Please reconsider and revoke your application to the Supreme Court Of Canada. We do not need another higher court to tell us what we already know. THE DISCRIMINATION IS REAL.

DSP needs to end the discriminatory treatment of our most vulnerable and marginalized population.

Our culture is measured by how well we treat our most vulnerable. NS is failing.

Let's do better.

Sincerely,  
Shelley LeBlanc  
7129 Brooklyn Street  
Brooklyn Corner (Kentville),NS  
B4N 3V7.

cc : Karla MacFarlane Minister of Community Services  
DCSMIN@novascotia.ca

Disability Rights Coalition  
disabilityrightsns@gmail.com