

Letter to the Premier – Kimberly Smith

“We need a renewed and robust Department of Community Services that actually helps all communities across Nova Scotia thrive”

The Honourable Tim Houston
Office of the Premier
7th Floor, One Government Place
1700 Granville Street
Halifax, NS, B3J 1X5
BY EMAIL:PREMIER@novascotia.ca

Dear Premier Houston,

I am deeply concerned with your response to the recent Nova Scotia Court of Appeal decision regarding people with disabilities, and their unjustified isolation and segregation in institutional settings. Many other people across Nova Scotia are concerned about this too. Every community needs infrastructure and services to help all people prosper together as a whole.

The Court of Appeal has ruled that for decades our Province has perpetuated a system of human rights abuses against hundreds of people with disabilities who need support services, caregiving and housing to meet their basic needs for being part of their local community life.

It is profoundly short sighted and financially wasteful to pursue another court decision telling us what we already know. We urge you to stop fighting people with disabilities in Court and drop your application to the Supreme Court of Canada. Use that money more wisely by investing it in the infrastructure and professional support every community across Nova Scotia needs right now. The longer you put off this vital task, the more expensive it will get for all Nova Scotians and the deeper in shame and poverty we will all go.

Help our communities heal and grow. We need a renewed and robust Department of Community Services that actually helps all communities across Nova Scotia thrive more. For that we must support all people to have homes in our local communities of choice. We need more housing, caregivers and developmental support workers.

Please drop your court appeal. Stop delaying the inevitable investment we must make for all our sakes. Invest more in our Department of Community Services and Housing and our province wide network of nonprofits who are ready and willing to serve our communities. Set the stage for real prosperity all over Nova Scotia.

With Deepest Respect and Hope,

Kimberly Smith (he/him) 2019 Provincial Volunteer of The Year for Kings County