

# Letter to the Premier -- Judy Van Amerongen

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To: The Honorable Tim Houston  
Premier of Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Houston,

It is with deep sadness that I hear of your intention to challenge the Supreme Court decision of discrimination against persons with disabilities.

I am a proud parent of a son with autism who needs support for most aspects of his life. My son's name is Lee Van Amerongen and despite his disability he has his own small business called Lee's Shop located in our own community of Canning.

Because of the opportunities he has been given, Lee has made good strides in his personal development, gives back to his community in many ways and has purpose in his day. Most of his accomplishments have been possible with the support of Dept. of Community Services. For that we are grateful.

I have been a strong advocate since my son was born and am a founding member of two organizations that support individuals with intellectual disabilities, Community Assoc. of People for Real Enterprise and Light 4 Learning Society (most of the members have intellectual disabilities).

Nova Scotia is the only province in Canada to still have large institutions to house people with disabilities. This is not something to be proud of.

If our own government does not respect and value people with disabilities how can we expect the average citizen, who has not had the opportunity to connect with someone with a disability, see the value of inclusive communities.

I am asking you to not challenge the Supreme Court ruling on discrimination against persons with disabilities and ensure their rights are guaranteed by law.

Kind regards,

Judy Van Amerongen