



# Disability Rights Coalition of Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Disability Rights are Human Rights

Web: [www.disabilityrightscoalitionns.ca](http://www.disabilityrightscoalitionns.ca)

January 20, 2025

## **The Disability Rights Coalition is Disappointed in the Province's Failure to Meet Human Rights Remedy Timelines**

The Disability Rights Coalition is profoundly disappointed, as the Province has fallen far behind legally-binding targets in the human rights remedy regarding the Disability Support Program. The Nova Scotia Court of Appeal ruled in 2021 that the Province is engaged in systemic discrimination against persons with disabilities in its provision of disability supports. The timelines in the human rights remedy were agreed-upon by the Province and form part of a legally binding order from a Human Rights Commission Board of Inquiry.

In its most recent [Interim Progress Report](#), released on January 15<sup>th</sup>, the Province acknowledged falling behind on several critical, court-mandated-targets in the remedy. Specifically, the Interim Progress Report demonstrated that:

- Only about two-thirds of the number of individuals who were supposed to have left segregated institutions for persons with disabilities by this point in the remedy have done so,
- Virtually no progress has been made in moving any young adults out of long-term care facilities. The Report indicates 460 young adults with disabilities remain in long-term care facilities due to a lack of supports for them to live in the community.
- The Province is significantly behind the benchmarks in the remedy for the creation of new support options for community-based living.
- The Province has fallen far behind targets for the recruitment and training of staff for the Disability Support Program.
- For the first time, the Province has made public the funding levels for persons with disabilities who will be supported under the Remedy. The DRC was not consulted about the adequacy of these funding levels and hasn't had an adequate opportunity to review them. We do point out, however, that the Province's funding levels must meet the terms of the Board of Inquiry's Order that they must amount to truly "accommodative assistance" in the sense of: "social assistance, including supports and services, that meet the different needs of persons with disabilities."

Victoria Levack, (Board Member and Spokesperson with the DRC Board) and spokesperson for the Disability Rights Coalition, stated:

“I am profoundly disappointed that, once again, the Province has failed to live up to its legal obligations to Nova Scotians. As someone who was forced to live many years of my life institutionalized, I realize how damaging it can be and I’m furious about all the people who will remain institutionalized for longer than the Province promised when we negotiated the remedy agreement.....The Premier gave a historic apology that meant a lot to many but it is beginning to ring hollow due to the apparent lack of urgency with which the Remedy is being implemented.”

Kim Long, the Vice-Chair for the Board of Directors for the Disability Rights Coalition, stated:

“The remedy remains a historic, exciting opportunity to create a world-class disability support program in Nova Scotia. We know that for the remedy to be achieved within the legally binding timeline it will take a renewed commitment from the Province. The DRC stands ready to support its efforts in turning these obligations into meaningful progress for our communities, and we call upon the Province and the Premier to wholeheartedly commit to getting the remedy back on track.”

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