



Disability Rights Coalition of Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Disability Rights are Human Rights

Web: www.disabilityrightscalitionns.ca

January 23, 2026

At the Half-Way Point in the Five-Year Human Rights Remedy, the DRC Recognizes that the Province has Implemented Significant Changes, yet is Failing to Meet Timelines and Calls on Stakeholders to Share Their Experiences

The Disability Rights Coalition is the group representing the interests of persons with disabilities in Nova Scotia's historic Human Rights case concerning the rights of persons with disabilities to live with proper supports in community. The Disability Rights Coalition is disappointed, as the Province is far behind legally binding requirements regarding transformation of the Disability Support Program.

The Nova Scotia Court of Appeal ruled in 2021 that the Province is engaged in ongoing systemic discrimination against persons with disabilities in its provision of disability supports.

After the Court of Appeal's ruling, the Province and the DRC heard from experts and jointly crafted a binding agreement which became an Order from a Human Rights Commission Board of Inquiry. That Order includes major reforms to the way in which supports and services are provided to Nova Scotians with disabilities with the goal being to end the ongoing discrimination by 2028.

By the end of the five years, all the outdated institutions in Nova Scotia will be closed, and all persons with disabilities will be provided with the supports they need to live in community. All the obligations and timelines in the Remedy were agreed-upon by the Province when it became legally binding in June 2023.

In its most recent [Interim Progress Report](#), the Province acknowledged falling behind on several critical, court-mandated-targets in the remedy. Specifically, as the [DRC's own analysis](#) makes clear:

- At what is the half-way point in the Remedy, less than 50% of the persons who are supposed to have left segregated institutions by the end of March 2026 have done so.
- Very little progress has been made in supporting young adults to move out of long-term care facilities where they were admitted due to a lack of community supports. The Report indicates that over 440 young adults with disabilities remain in nursing homes.
- 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 hiring targets for the specialized staff required for the Disability Support Program.

Changes made during the first three years of the Remedy have only begun to give Nova Scotians an idea of what is possible. True transformation won't be found in the numbers and metrics alone, but in the experiences of those affected by the Remedy. Meaningful changes to the ways in which persons with disabilities receive the supports and services they need to live a full and inclusive life require careful implementation, collaboration with providers and stakeholders, and a sustained emphasis on quality.

Existing gaps underscore the need for continued focus, sustained investment, and accountability. We invite individuals, family members and caregivers to join the DRC and share their experiences with us, or other advocacy organizations, such as Inclusion Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities, or People First Nova Scotia.

Kim Long, the Vice-Chair of the Disability Rights Coalition's Board, stated:

"While we would like to see faster progress in some areas, we recognize the steps that have been taken and the foundation that is being built. Our focus remains on continued improvement and working with the Province and stakeholders to monitor impacts and outcomes. Through sustained investment and sharpened accountability, we believe meaningful change is achievable. We are committed to working alongside the Province to help turn this momentum into the transformation that all Nova Scotians with disabilities are entitled to."

Leta Jarvis, (DRC Board Member and Spokesperson), stated:

"I am very disappointed that the Province has not reached their legal targets in the Remedy for Nova Scotians.....As someone forced to live many years of my life in institutions, I know how damaging it can be and I am very upset about all the people who may stay in institutions longer than the Province promised when we created the plan together....My brother is one of those people and has been in an institution for over 35 years.....The [Premier gave an apology](#) that meant a lot to many, but it is beginning to be questioned because of how slow it has been in getting the Remedy plan in place and working."

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