



Disability Rights Coalition of Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Disability Rights are Human Rights

Web: www.disabilityrightscoalitionns.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Building on Progress with Rightful Urgency

DRC welcomes Year Three Monitor's Report and supports recommendations for the next stage of the Human Rights Remedy.

Halifax, NS – August 6, 2026 – The Disability Rights Coalition (DRC) welcomes the release of the Expert Monitor's [Third Annual Report](#) on Nova Scotia's Human Rights Remedy and stands behind the Monitor's recommendations.

The Report provides an independent assessment of the Province's progress during Year Three of the court-ordered Human Rights Remedy and identifies the priorities requiring immediate attention over the remaining two years of implementation.

In choosing the title *Matters of Rightful Urgency*, Expert Monitor Dr. Michael Prince concludes that while important progress has been made, compliance has been too slow and too many foundational elements of the Remedy remain incomplete. He writes that "*matters have now reached a state of rightful urgency*" and that the Province must now act with focused determination to ensure people with disabilities receive the accommodative assistance they require in communities of their choice.

With less than two years remaining in the five-year implementation timeline, the DRC shares the Expert Monitor's view that the Human Rights Remedy has reached a critical stage.

The DRC also recognizes the significant commitment the Province has made to implementing the Remedy. Public servants, disability organizations, service providers, self-advocates, families, and community partners are working every day to build a more inclusive Nova Scotia. More people with disabilities are living in homes of their own choosing, individualized approaches are taking shape, and collaboration between the Province and the DRC continues to grow. These are meaningful achievements that the Expert Monitor also recognizes.

"The Expert [Monitor's Report](#) rightly recognizes the progress that has been made while reminding us that we must now act with urgency," said DRC Vice-Chair Kim Long. "We appreciate the strong collaboration we have with the Executive Director and senior leadership of the Disability Support Program, and their commitment to transforming disability supports and ending systemic discrimination. We look forward to continuing to work together - and across government - to ensure the Human Rights Remedy is about more than meeting requirements. It must create real opportunities for people with disabilities to live good lives in their communities."

Getting the Remedy Back on Track

The DRC believes the Expert Monitor's Report and Recommendations provide a practical roadmap for the next two years of implementation.

Remedy Roundtable

The Expert Monitor concludes that achieving the Human Rights Remedy requires greater determination and cooperation across provincial government departments and agencies. The DRC believes the Remedy Roundtable is central to achieving that goal. The Human Rights Remedy cannot be successfully implemented by the Disability Support Program alone, nor can responsibility for this transformation rest with one person, one branch, or one department. Achieving the vision of the Remedy requires leadership and shared responsibility across government.

The Remedy Roundtable is more than a governance structure—it is the safeguard of the Human Rights Remedy. By bringing departments together, it helps ensure the spirit and intent of the Remedy become embedded in government policy, decision-making, and public services. The Remedy is more than a checklist; it is an opportunity to transform how Nova Scotia supports persons with disabilities. The Roundtable helps ensure that transformation endures long after the formal implementation period has ended.

Hiring

The Remedy cannot succeed without the people needed to deliver it.

The Expert Monitor identifies staffing as one of the foundations of successful implementation. Recruiting Intensive Planning and Support Coordinators (IPSCs) and Local Area Coordinators (LACs) is critical because so many other Remedy commitments depend on these positions being filled. Without sufficient staffing, individualized planning is delayed, transitions from institutions are delayed, and people continue waiting for the supports they need and to which they are legally entitled.

Hiring the right people, in the right numbers, is fundamental to achieving the Human Rights Remedy.

Building the Foundation for Better Supports

Strong leadership and capacity must be matched by strong policy. The DRC looks forward to continued collaboration with the Province on developing a modern, rights-based Eligibility Policy and establishing practical solutions that reduce wait times, improve transparency, and ensure people receive supports without unnecessary delay.

By focusing on these priorities, the Province has an opportunity to build on the progress already achieved, accelerate implementation, and ensure the Human Rights Remedy delivers the lasting transformation envisioned by the Court and the Board of Inquiry.

Kim Long, DRC Vice-Chair:

"As a parent, I know every delay matters. Families have waited a long time for change, and we know what waiting feels like. This report reminds us that urgency isn't about rushing—it's about recognizing that people have already waited too long. At the same time, we've seen lives change because of the Human Rights Remedy. We welcome the Monitor's recommendations and look forward to working with the Province to build on that progress."

Leta Jarvis, DRC Director:

"I got my chance to move into the community. My brother is still waiting for his. I want him to have the same chance I had—to have a home, make choices, and live a good life. That's why this work matters so much."

The DRC remains committed to working collaboratively with the Province, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, persons with disabilities, families, service providers, and community partners to ensure the Human Rights Remedy is implemented with the urgency, quality, and care it deserves.

The next two years present an opportunity to build on the progress already achieved. By working together with urgency, Nova Scotia can fulfill not only the legal requirements of the Human Rights Remedy, but also its promise of inclusion, dignity, choice, and belonging for persons with disabilities.

Background: The Remedy and the DRC

The Disability Rights Coalition (DRC) represents persons with disabilities in Nova Scotia's landmark human rights case addressing systemic discrimination in disability supports.

In 2021, the [Court of Appeal confirmed](#) that Nova Scotia's disability support system resulted in ongoing systemic discrimination. The Province and the DRC subsequently developed a comprehensive Remedy, which became a binding Order of a Board of Inquiry of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.

The Remedy requires the Province to end systemic discrimination by April 2028, close outdated institutions, and ensure people with disabilities have legally protected access to individualized, community-based supports. These obligations became legally binding in June 2023 and were publicly affirmed in [the Premier's apology](#) later that year.

The DRC remains committed to collaboration, transparency, and accountability, and to ensuring the Province fulfills both the letter and spirit of the court-ordered Remedy.

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