Background

The 5-year Human Rights Remedy is at a key transition point at the end of year 3 of implementation. The original Remedy Report identified a sequential series of year-by-year implementation steps and targets based on the best available information at the time. For the purposes of the Interim Settlement Agreement, the parties also recognized the final outcomes of the Remedy (Appendix D) alongside an acknowledgement that circumstances may occur during the 5-year period that are outside of the control of the province of Nova Scotia and may require changes to the specific sequence of some implementation steps.

The Year 3 reports of the Independent Monitor and Disability Rights Coalition both indicate a heightened sense of urgency to both catch up on some key Remedy targets and increase efforts to complete all targets within the 5-year period.

From an operational implementation perspective, feedback from the Disability Support Program and the Remedy Technical Report authors has identified a number of key factors that have influenced capacity to deliver the exact sequence of targets, including factors such as:

- The scale of transition of the existing care coordination and intake functions from the broader Department of Opportunities and Social Development (OSD) to the enhanced Disability Support Program, also at a time when demand on DSP continues to increase and the safety and wellbeing of people in the older DSP programs needed to be maintained as well as the development of a wide range of new roles, including classification and recruitment.
- Despite early tendering, the 2-year delay in the commercial procurement process for the new Individualised funding backbone service, which had a major knock on effect to the implementation of new planning and individual funding processes.

Further impetus has come from the External Fidelity Review of Local Area Coordination which has identified a number of key system issues that are impacting the fidelity of implementation of each of the new roles of Local Area Coordinators, Intensive planning and Support Coordinators and Eligibility Funding and Assessment Coordinators. Joint interviews conducted by Remedy authors Eddie Bartnik and Tim Stainton have identified a number of key system issues which require immediate attention in correct sequence in order to consolidate overall implementation capability and progress.

Approach

A Mid- Implementation Review is needed to evaluate progress so far in the evolving context for the Remedy and to identify priority actions needed to meet Remedy requirements and ensure smooth transition to the post Remedy period so that Remedy outcomes can be sustained.

The review will be conducted by the Department of Opportunities and Social Development (OSD) through Remedy Technical Report authors Eddie Bartnik and Tim Stainton as independent contractors. The Department will convene an advisory committee[1] made up of the Disability Rights Coalition, Inclusion Nova Scotia, service providers, self-advocates and family members to ensure their voices and perspectives about the Remedy are heard. The Advisory Committee will provide additional context to the review leads as required.

[1] See Attachment 1 for Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Scope

The Review is not about changing the Remedy, it is about supporting its successful implementation and ensuring a smooth transition to the post Remedy period. Government is fully committed to the Remedy.

The scope of the review is to be focused on the evolving context for and implementation of the Six Key Directions of the Human Rights Remedy and the targets and outcomes outlined in the 5 year plan, with consideration given to opportunity to accelerate progress where possible, while addressing the challenges that were not anticipated and any new developments. Particular reference to be given to:

- Annual reports and recommendations provided by the Monitor Dr Michael Prince
- Reports and recommendations provided by the Disability Rights Coalition
- Annual reports provided by the Disability Support Program on behalf of the province of Nova Scotia, along with work underway for Remedy required Fidelity reviews of implementation of the new roles of Local Area Coordination, Intensive Planning and Support Coordination and Eligibility, Funding and Assessment Coordination
- Progress with the Remedy Roundtable of key provincial government agencies
- Progress with the Independent evaluation of the Human Rights Remedy
- Alignment with priority DSP projects such as the DSP Leadership Operating Capacity and Sustainability Review and Day Programs Transition Plan
- Key emerging issues such as the increasing population of young people entering DSP
- Looking ahead to the point that the Outcomes are achieved in Year 5, and transitioning to ensuring the Outcomes can be sustained in Years 6-7 and beyond.

In addition to a high-level focus on key targets within each Key Direction and areas of concern to the Court Monitor and Disability Rights Coalition, some specific areas of inquiry are to include:

Key Direction 1: A new system of *Individual Planning and Support Coordination* to drive more person directed and local community-based supports

- Fidelity reviews of Implementation of the new roles of Local Area Coordinator (LAC), Intensive Planning and Support Coordinator (IPSC) and Eligibility, Assessment and Funding Coordinator (EFAC) and priority system issues required to support effective implementation. The LAC Fidelity Review has been completed and will be available from the end of October 2026. The remaining reviews will be further progressed once the priority systemic issues are addressed as part of this review.
- The progress of the transition from the previous system of care coordination and intake to the new roles of LAC, IPSC and EFAC.

Key Direction 5: *Individualised funding* as the basis of the transformed system with “backbone” support functions

- Key individual planning and funding process inputs to the implementation of the new IF backbone service from March 2027 and the supporting case management IT system
- Options to address any bottle necks arising from the separation of the planning and funding functions and roles
- Best location for income assistance functions and activity, including Special Needs Funding

Key Direction 6: Strengthening whole *Disability System Capacity* to enable transformation to a human rights approach

- Eligibility policy review and update, including linkages to data modelling of the population of people with disabilities to be supported, with particular reference to young people projected to enter DSP in coming years.
- The suitability of the current Disability Support Program organisational structure at provincial, regional and local levels, with reference to the DSP Leadership Operating Capacity and Sustainability Review underway
- Consideration of the proposal submitted by the Disability Rights Coalition relating to the funding support required to ensure sufficient organisational capacity as the key party to the Remedy legal proceedings.
- Key transitional issues to be addressed in order to sustain Remedy outcomes in years 5-7 and onwards.

It is important to note that this review is not about changing the goals, targets or nature of the Remedy itself which has been approved by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Board of Inquiry. Rather the review is to identify issues with the implementation to date and identify solutions to current issues and areas where the Remedy implementation could be accelerated. Further the review will consider where necessary revised timelines to ensure both a timely and safe full implementation of the remedy.

Product and reporting

Through the Deputy Minister of OSD, the review leads will provide a final report to the Minister of OSD with findings and recommendations for improvement by December 31, 2026

Engagement

The review will be expected to engage with community representatives, including Disability Support Program leadership and staff and members of the Advisory Committee. Further engagement may be required to fully inform the report, including with other government departments or contractors.

The Province recognizes that as a party to the Consent Order establishing the content of the Remedy, the participation and consultation of the Disability Rights Coalition (DRC) in this review is necessary. The Province will consult with the DRC on any specific recommendations that could impact the Remedy. Given the specific role of the Disability Rights Coalition in the Remedy process, the review will prioritize engaging with the DRC

The review team will also seek written submissions from all those effected by or involved with the Remedy (see Attachment 2)

Regular briefings will be arranged as required with the Deputy Minister and the Remedy Roundtable.

Review methodology

<u>Review team</u>

A similar methodology is planned to that used successfully in the development of the Remedy and with which people will have a level of familiarity and hopefully trust.

The Review team will be led by Remedy Technical Report authors Eddie Bartnik and Tim Stainton with secretariat support from DSP and the community sector.

Using similar roles to the Human Rights Review and Remedy:

- Eddie Bartnik will provide overall review project management, process design and final report coordination and will lead KD1 (Individual planning and Coordination), KD 3 Community based supports, KD4 Multidisciplinary supports and MH and KD 6 System capacity
- Tim Stainton will lead KD 2 Closing institutions and KD 5 IF and backbone
- Both Eddie Bartnik and Tim Stainton will contribute to all Key Directions.
- Maria Medioli will lead DSP and DOSD/Roundtable content and facilitation and will also provide existing and develop key documents, as well as source necessary data.
- Anna MacQuarrie will provide secretariate support and sector facilitation, especially Disability Rights Coalition and Inclusion Nova Scotia and support for the Advisory Committee including meeting arrangements, accessibility, papers and minutes. She will also have an important role in preparation of workshops papers and arrangements as well as the final report and plain English materials.

Process and timeline

A provisional timeline is as follows:

Week 0 will commence with announcement of the review on the 14th of October 2026 which will include the organisations to be invited to join the Advisory Committee (AC). AC invitations sent and first meeting scheduled,

Review period is from 19 October – 31 December 2026 which gives a 10-week period

Week 1(19-23/10) – Government Roundtable in-person briefing arranged for weeks 4-5, AC arrangements finalised

Week 2 (26-30/10) AC meeting 1 28/10 TBC, open Written submissions process

Week 3 (2-7/11) Document review, targeted interviews (online)

Weeks 4 and 5 (9-20/11) In person consultations 12-17 November, Government Roundtable briefing. Analysis of early submissions and consultations

Week 6 (23-27/11) AC meetings 2 and 3 where they can do verbal presentations on their written submissions. Written submissions close 26/11 (4 weeks)

Week 7 (30/11 -4/12) Analysis

Week 8 (7-11/12) Workshops as needed (online) AC meeting 4 here or following week

Week 9 (14-18/12 In person briefings, Roundtable, report writing, AC meeting 4 TBC

Week 10 Report finalisation and briefing

Approved:



Craig Beaton, Deputy Minister
October 13, 2026

Attachment 1

Mid-Implementation Review Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Purpose

The HRR Mid-Implementation Review Advisory Committee will provide input directly to the review team, as it pertains to the scope of the review, by those who regularly interact with the Human Rights Remedy. Members are not individual advisors but representatives of their relevant constituencies and will be expected to actively seek input from them to inform the review via the advisory committee.

Approach

The HRR Mid-Implementation Review Advisory Committee will meet as required by the review team to provide feedback and input, The Committee will be convened at the beginning of the review and will be concluded once the review has submitted their report. The Committee will meet virtually, and participation may extend outside of business hours. The frequency and duration of meetings will be negotiated with the Advisory Committee at the first meeting.

The timeframe for the Committee will be from October to December 2026, with meetings approximately once per month for 2-3 hours at a time. Final scheduling will be confirmed by the review team with the Advisory Committee. It is planned that the Advisory Committee members will be required to liaise with their own network provide a written submission to the review and also a verbal presentation to a scheduled meeting.

The review team will be responsible for reaching out to the Advisory Committee and will not be seeking input exclusively from the Advisory Committee. The review team will consult with the Advisory Committee and workshop key directions; however, the final report will be at the sole discretion of the review team.

Confidentiality

Members of the Advisory Committee will be expected to maintain confidentiality regarding discussions occurring at Advisory Committee meetings to support safe, honest, and candid conversations.

Recognition

In recognition of the participation required to support the work of the Advisory Committee, self-advocates and family members on the Committee will be eligible for an honorarium.

Membership

Membership to include:

- Disability Rights Coalition
- Inclusion Nova Scotia
- Service Provider representatives
- People First Nova Scotia
- Autism Nova Scotia
- Regional Advisory Forums (x4), including first voice representation sought from psychosocial and physical disability.

Specific consultations to include First Nations, African Nova Scotians and francophone key organisations.

Contact for the Advisory Committee

Anna MacQuarrie
remedyreview@novascotia.ca

Attachment 2

Written Submissions

The review team welcomes written submissions from all those effected by or involved with the Remedy. We urge potential contributors to submit collective documents wherever possible rather than as a single individual. Those providing submissions are asked to use the provided template wherever possible. It is not required that you respond to each area or question. If you are unable to submit via written submission or would like a plain language version of this submission template, please contact remedyreview@novascotia.ca for any assistance needed.

It is important to note that this review is not about changing the goals, targets or nature of the remedy itself which has been approved by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Board of Inquiry. Rather the review is to identify issues with the implementation to date and identify solutions to current issues and areas where the remedy implementation could be accelerated. Further the review will consider where necessary revised timelines to ensure both a timely and safe full implementation of the remedy.

Public submissions should be limited to 1000 words and use the provided template and process. Separate advice will be provided to the Advisory Committee regarding the process for their submissions to the review.

All submissions will be kept confidential within the review team. Please feel free to submit anonymously if you prefer.

Submission Template

Who am I ?

Name (optional):

Contact details (optional):

I am:

A person with a disability receiving or potentially receiving DSP supports yes/no

A Family/personal network member of someone receiving or potentially receiving DSP supports yes/no

A community based paid service/support provider yes/no

A member of a community based advocacy organization Yes/no

An employee of DSP or other relevant Gov't entity yes/no

Other (please specify _____

I live in the following region:

East

Western

Northern

Central

The review team may wish to quote some parts of your submission in its report if you agree:

I agree/do not agree to having my submission cited in the final report.

SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO 1000 WORDS

We would like you to organize your submission in line with the Remedies six key directions:

Key Direction 1: Individual Planning and Support Coordination

Key Direction 2: Closing Institutions

Key Direction 3: Community-Based Supports and Services

Key Direction 4: Multidisciplinary and Clinical Supports

Key Direction 5: Individualized Funding

Key Direction 6: Disability System Capacity

(For more detail on each of the key directions see the full Remedy report here chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://novascotia.ca/coms/disabilities/human-rights-remedy-dsp-final-report.pdf)

For each Key Direction you wish to comment on please indicate:

1. What do you feel is working well ?
2. What do you feel has not been working well ?
3. Are there some challenges that were not anticipated?
4. What can be done to improve the implementation of this key direction and accelerate progress?

We also invite you to provide any additional comments regarding the implementation of the Remedy to date.

Please send your submissions to: remedyreview@novascotia.ca

Submissions need to be submitted by the 26th November 2026 and early submissions will be very much appreciated.

Thank you for your input into the remedy review.