



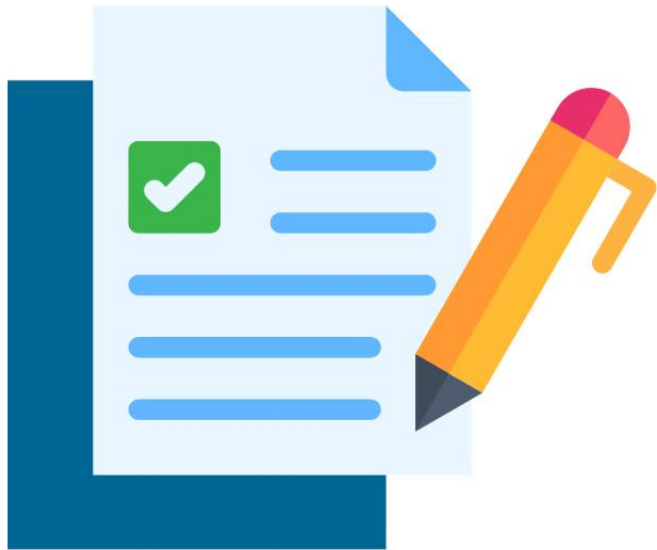
# Disability Support Program, DOSD Human Rights Remedy

Access Awareness Week

June 10, 2026



# Agenda



## What is our agenda for today?

- 1. DSP Participants Overview**
- 2. Human Rights Remedy Overview**
- 3. Updates by Key Direction**
- 4. Q/A, Thank You, & Closing**

# ***DSP Participants: Overview***

# Overview | DSP Participants

**6,443**

**DSP participants**



Living in DSP facilities

**593** participants



**60%**

Male



**40%**

Female



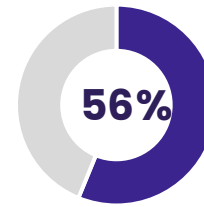
**1,842 participants (29%)**

**Over 55 years old**

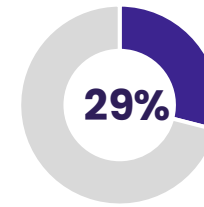
**43 years old**

**Average age**

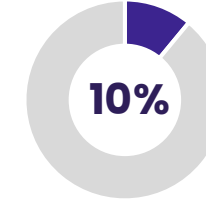
## Primary Diagnosis breakdown\*\*\*:



Intellectual  
Disability



Long Term  
Mental Illness



Physical  
Disability

\*\*\*The remaining 5% of participants have a different primary diagnosis than the three groups listed above.

**Over 35%** of DSP participants **have a secondary diagnosis**, with the majority being long-term mental illness and physical disabilities.

# ***Human Rights Remedy Overview***

# Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy

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There is systemic discrimination in Nova Scotia against persons with disabilities in the provision of social assistance. (NS Court of Appeal Decision on October 6, 2021 )

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The finding of systemic discrimination applies to the Provincial government of Nova Scotia as a whole.

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Disability Support Program and Disability Rights Coalition worked together to create a human rights remedy. Appointed independent reviewers Eddie Bartnik and Dr Tim Stainton. Remedy to be compliant with UNCRPD.

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The Remedy has been agreed by all parties and will address how people with disabilities access social assistance and supports and services to live in the community.

# Four Grounds of Discrimination

1

**Unnecessary  
Institutionalization**

3

**Denial of Community of  
Choice**

2

**Right to Assistance Denied**

4

**Delays in Assistance**

# How the Remedy was developed



## What was the remedy process and who was involved?

- The Disability Rights Coalition and the Province of Nova Scotia jointly selected and engaged Eddie Bartnik and Dr. Tim Stainton to recommend a remedy to address the discrimination
- They met with over 140 individuals, conducted site visits, hosted two community forums and completed an extensive document review.



## What was the outcome of the process?

- 5-year plan to “Remedy” the discrimination: *Human Rights Review and Remedy for the Findings of Systemic Discrimination Against Nova Scotians with Disabilities.*



## What are the implications of the remedy process?

- The Remedy is legal binding, requiring regular reporting on progress to the Human Rights Board of Inquiry
- Collective, inclusive leadership of the parties and the process changed dynamics and relationships and formed the basis for on-going collaboration

# Remedy Outcomes – Enablers for a Good Life



# Human Rights Remedy - 6 Key Directions

## Key Direction #1

**Individualized Planning and Support Coordination & Regional Hubs:** A new system of individualized planning and support coordination to drive more person directed planning with a focus on community-based services.

## Key Direction #2

**Closing ALL Institutions:** A defined timeline and increased supports to facilitate the closure of ARCs, RRCs, RCFs, Group Homes and emergency resources in communities.

## Key Direction #3

**Community-Based Supports and Services:** A new, broader system of community-based supports and services that will facilitate a home and life in the local community.

## Key Direction #4

**Multidisciplinary Supports:** Province wide multidisciplinary support program with regional hubs including clinical and mental health supports.

## Key Direction #5

**Individualized Funding:** Individualized funding for all DSP participants.

## Key Direction #6

**Strengthening Disability Capacity:** Strengthening the whole Disability System's capacity to enable transformation to a human rights approach.

# Key Direction #1 – Individualized Planning and Support & Regional Hubs

**Individualized Planning and Support Coordination & Regional Hubs:** A new system of planning and support coordination to drive more person directed planning focused on community-based services.

- Local Area Coordinators (LAC), Eligibility and Assessment Coordinators (EFAC), and Intensive Planning and Support Coordination (IPSC) teams
- Peer Support Planning Service
- A new Connector role supporting the non-DSP eligible persons with disabilities who are now able to access support from LACs
- Regional Hub Model – a collection of regional based supports to support persons with disabilities to live in community

## **How will this enable the good things in life?**

- ✓ Building the missing local community support system, one community at a time
- ✓ Opportunities to collaborate and leverage existing community-based programs and services
- ✓ Ratios to allow change and more powerful design to enable greater choice and control and capacity building
- ✓ Getting to know people well over time, one person at a time

## Key Direction #2 – Closing Institutions

### What is changing?

A defined 5-year timeline and supports for province wide closure of ARC/RRC/RCFs and Group Homes and Developmental Residences, including:

- A “no new admissions” policy effective 01 January 2025
- Regional based closure teams supported by a province wide plan
- Crisis prevention and community response program to avoid future institutional placements
- New role of Community Living Facilitator to identify assets in local communities

### How will this enable the good things in life?

- ✓ Persons with disabilities moving back to their community of choice to their families, homes and friends
- ✓ Change from assess and place (“fit in”) in a program/service to more personalised support in local communities where supports and services are built around each person
- ✓ Challenging unconscious bias (some people can’t be included in community), devaluation and loss of rights (safer in institutional settings)
- ✓ Supported by all six key directions and development of new pathways

## Key Direction #3 – Community Based Supports and Services

### What is changing:?

New community service strategies that enhance individual funding, choice and control, create new local community pathways, drive bespoke solutions:

- New Programs such as: Home Share Option , Individualized Funding, and a Post-School Options program
- Collapsing artificial boundaries between ILS & Small Options Homes and filling in the gap
- A much less siloed and prescriptive approach

### How will this enable the good things in life?

- ✓ Investing and working alongside communities to ensure programs are responsive to local needs, including rural communities
- ✓ Opportunities to feel a sense of belonging, relationships based on mutual respect
- ✓ Building capacity and self sufficiency versus “providing services”
- ✓ Disrupting the establish pathway to devaluation

## Key Direction #4 – Multidisciplinary Supports

### What is changing?

- DSP to lead Allied Health related supports and work with partners in the health sector
- Regional Allied Health Community Hub with multidisciplinary supports and expansion of mental health services
- Reviews and changes to existing mental health programs (i.e. Community Transition program, community mental health teams, etc.) to support a broader reach of services

### How will this enable the good things in life?

- ✓ Expanded reach and scale of support for persons with disabilities as they transition to community so that they do not need to leave their community to access supports

## Key Direction #5 – Individualized Funding

### What is changing?

Individualized funding is: i) unique to the individual's disability related support needs, ii) attached to the individual (portable), iii) self directed

Progressive transition towards individualized funding as the basis for **all DSP Programs**, supported by:

- A centralized eligibility, funding determination, administration and management
- Administrative Backbone service to support participants in managing their funding and supports
- Training and support for supported decision-making and Coaches and Peer Support

Individualized Funding can be used to access disability related supports for things like: the activities of daily living, community life, continuing education

### How will this enable the good things in life?

- ✓ Greater choice, flexibility and control to create bespoke solutions for a good life in community

# Individualized Funding | What does this mean?

DSP is moving away from a **fixed menu of programs** to a flexible approach to supporting **participants to live a good life in community**. Participants will receive **Individualized Funding (IF)** and decide how best to use it, and whether they will manage it themselves or ask others (i.e., family, support network, provider) to help them.

**In future, participants will make choices like:**



## Who do I choose to live with?

- On my own
- With friends/ family
- In a home with other DSP participants
- With a community member who is paid to provide support (Home Sharing)



## Where do I choose to live?

- In a home I own
- In a home I rent
- In someone else's home
- In a home owned by a Service Provider organization



## How do I choose to manage my IF?

- Self-manage
- Ask a Service Provider to manage my IF
- Combination of both



## What supports do I need and how I choose to receive them?

- Supports will visit (these can be paid supports, a friend, or a neighbour)
- People will live with me (these can be paid supports, a friend, or a neighbour)
- Supports will be provided outside of my home (day programming, employment, community inclusion)

## Key Direction #6 – Strengthening Disability System Capacity

### What is changing?

Strengthening the Disability System's capacity to enable transformation aligned with a human rights complaint approach:

- Intergovernmental leadership and structures
- Regional Advisory Councils
- Disability workforce plan
- Strategies to support innovation, partnerships and transition of service providers to new model (Service Evolution Fund)
- Cultural Change and Communication Initiatives
- Remedy website
  - [Home page | Nova Scotia Transforming Support](#)

### How will this enable the good things in life?

- ✓ A voice in the affairs of one's community
- ✓ Opportunities to participate

**Questions?**