



# Disability Support Program

Bi-Weekly Staff Webinar

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# Agenda



## What is our agenda for today?

- Review of Year 2 Milestones
- Year Ahead
- Q/A

# Review of Year 2 Milestones

*Note: As these milestones have been approved, please share the good news with those interested!*



As we move into Year 3 of the Remedy, we wanted to recognize the milestones that have been met in the past year. Notable accomplishments were seen in the following areas:

## Closure & Transitions

- Finalization of Regional Closure Strategies
- No New Admissions Policy Go Live
- Closure Agreements
- Closure/Transition Guides
- Regional Closure Specialists & Community Living Facilitators Hired

## Service Evolution Fund

- Three successful rounds of proposals
- 22 organizations received approximately \$960,609 dollars

## Individualized Funding

- Policy development and initial communications

## ILS+

## New Roles & Caseload Transitions

- New roles hired and trained
- Gradual caseload transitions as capacity allows

## Regional Advisory Councils

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Rebuilding HOPE Conference

# Facility Closures & Transitions to Community

## New Closure Roles



- **Regional Closure Specialists** have been leading the implementation of closure strategies for ARCs, RRCs, and RCFs, including the signing of closure agreements.
- **Community Living Facilitators** are working to develop inclusive living opportunities for participants transitioning to community.

## ARC / RRC Closure Timeline

### 1-Year Closure Timeline

Quest closed by January 2026

### 2-Year Closure Timeline

Mountains & Meadows, Balsam, and Riverview closed by January 2027

### 3-Year Closure Timeline

KRRC and Breton Ability Centre closed by January 2028

## RCF Closure Timeline

### 2-Year Closure Timeline

All RCFs in the Northern region to be closed by January 2027

### 3-Year Closure Timeline

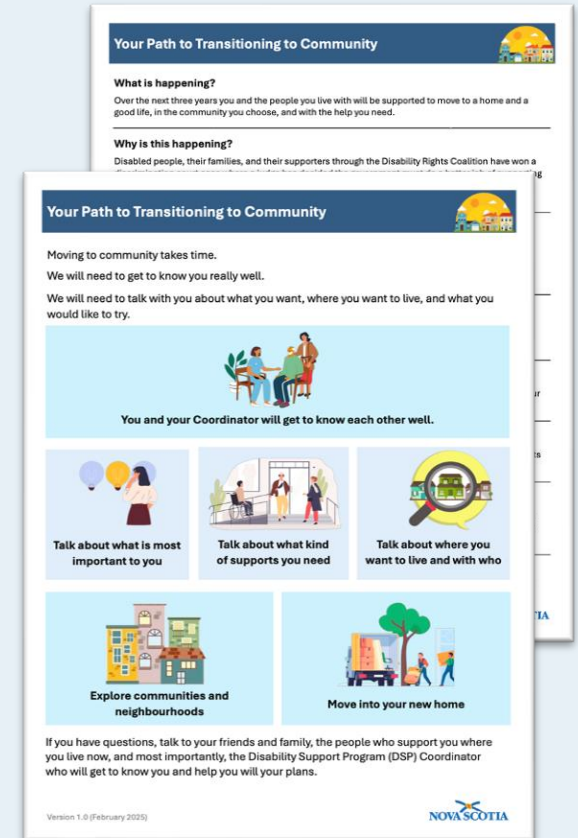
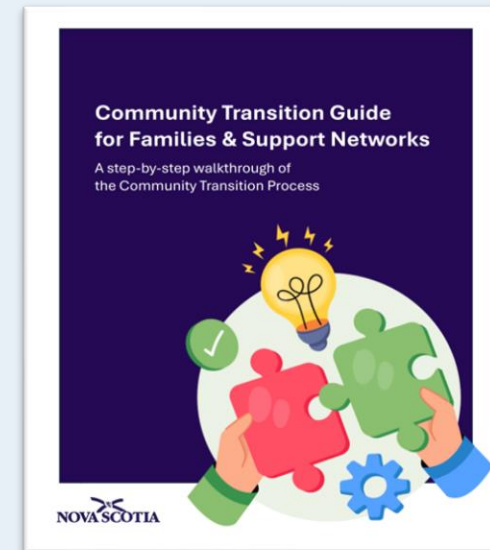
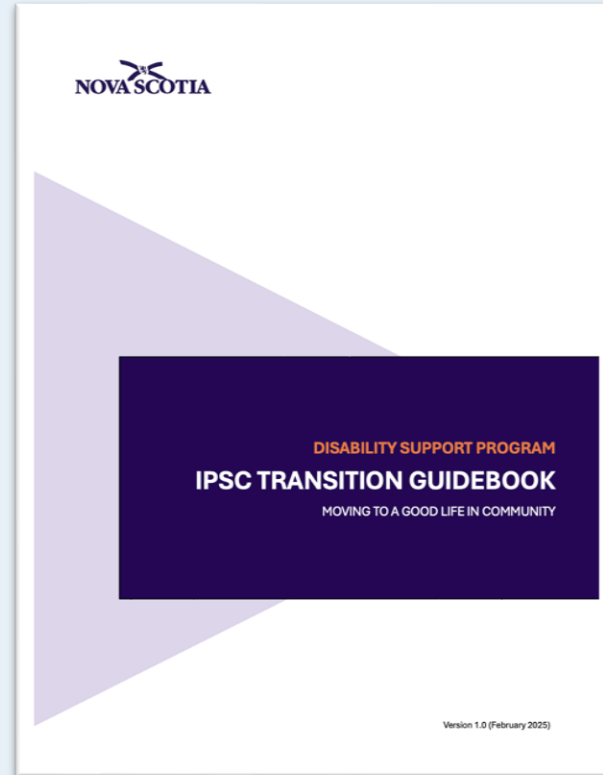
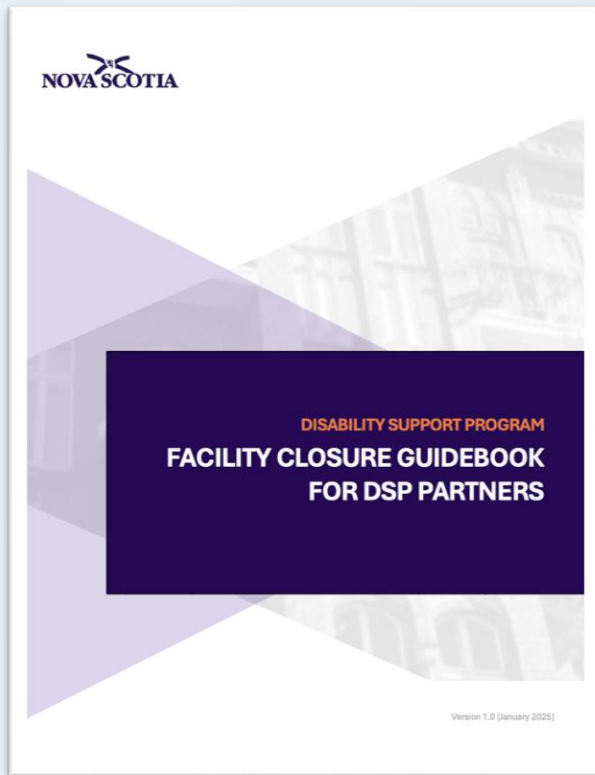
All RCFs in Eastern, Western, and Central regions to be closed by January 2028



The No New Admissions Policy went live January 1st, 2025, for RRCs, ARCs and RCFs.

# Facility Closures & Transitions to Community

These resources were developed to support facility closure and participant transitions: Facility Closure Guide for DSP Partners, IPSC Transition Guide, Community Transition Guide for Families & Support Networks, Your Path to Transitioning to Community for individuals living in institutions.



**Note: All guides have been uploaded to the DSP Library and can be accessed [here](#).**

# Service Evolution Fund

## Which organizations have received funding through the Service Evolution Fund?

Breton Ability Centre and New Dawn Enterprises	Colonial Services	Haley Street Day Program	NS Residential Agencies Association	Prescott Day Program	Sunset Community Inc.
Homes for Independent Living NS	Mawita'mk	MCL Supports	Liberty Lodge Inc.	Directions Council of NS	Balsam
Horizon Achievement Centre	Wolfville L'Arche Homefires Society	Musgo Rider Cooperative Ltd.	Colonial Community Services Ltd	Colchester Residential Services	ROC Society
	New Vision Care Homes Ltd.	Diverse Abilities NS	Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre	South Shore Community Service Association	

## What sort of initiatives are being funded?

- Creating strategic plans and new business models that shift to community-based supports
- Development of user-friendly websites and technology-based solutions
- Building new training modules for staff to support participant independence
- Redesigning programs, social enterprises, and resources for participants

# Service Evolution Fund

## Quotes from SEF Successful SEF Applicants:

*"We are very excited to be selected for our project **supporting choice for individuals with disabilities** in their daily lives."*

*"This funding will support and strengthen our capacity in ensuring we are equipped to **fully support participant choice and individualized funding**. It's a vital investment in our future and in the people we serve."*

*"... this will allow us to share our vision, gather insights, and work toward reimagining our services for **greater community inclusion and improved quality of life** for persons with disabilities."*

*"This new technology will allow participants to **choose who, when and how their supports are delivered**."*

# Individualized Funding

- The Individualized Funding (IF) was developed after much research and engagement.

**The IF policy was released in February 2025 and is available online via the DSP Resource Library.**

Individualized Funding was rolled out in the following ways:

- Training with new roles
- Webinars with DSP Staff, Service Providers, and Families
- Messaging shared with DSP Staff, People First, and Inclusion Nova Scotia
- Plain language IF guides for participants (soon to come)

Individualized Funding | Guide for Families

Nova Scotia Disability Support Program (DSP)

March 2025

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy requires that the Disability Support Program (DSP) shift the way it supports program participants to an Individualized Funding (IF) model, allowing persons with disabilities to make decisions about the support and services they need.



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What does this mean for me? When will my family member be able to access Individualized Funding?

The Remedy requires that several groups are prioritized for Individualized Funding. These groups include those who are currently living in institutional settings, in hospital, or on the Service Request List not receiving DSP support.

If your family member does not fall into one of these groups, it does not mean they will not receive IF. Over the next three years, all participants will gradually have access to these supports as DSP expands the capacity of the new system.

Once individuals receive their funding, they will decide how it will be managed. They can choose to work with a service provider, use the IF backbone service - a tool/service to support the management of IF, or choose to self-manage their funds.

For Direct Family Support for Children (DFSC) families, nothing is changing as this is already an individualized funding program. However, in the coming year, DSP will be developing new programs and services for children/youth.

This is the initial roll-out of Individualized Funding - more information and updates will be provided as we continue to navigate through the Remedy's implementation. Anyone with further questions can talk to their Care Coordinator, or go to: <https://www.dsp-transformation.ca>



Key Messages on Individualized Funding for DSP Staff

Purpose of Document

- This document provides consistent key messaging to DSP Staff receiving inquiries regarding individualized funding (IF). These messages will ensure participants across the province are receiving the same information about IF.
- We understand that many current DSP participants, who do not necessarily fall into one of the first priority groups to receive IF, are eager to understand and access this new method of funding supports.
- Our goal is for these messages to support DSP Staff in navigating conversations with current participants and families inquiring about IF.

About Individualized Funding

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy requires that the Disability Support Program (DSP) shift the way it supports program participants to an Individualized Funding (IF) model, allowing persons with disabilities to make decisions about the support and services they need.

Responses to Potential Questions

- Who is currently eligible?
  - The Remedy requires that access to the new system of supports (Intensive Planning and Support Coordinators (IPSCs), Local Area Coordinators (LACs), Eligibility, Funding, and Assessment Coordinators (EFACs), new assessment, IF etc.) should prioritize:
    - Persons with disabilities who are on the Service Request List (SRL) and currently not receiving DSP support;
    - Program participants in hospitals; and,
    - Program participants currently living in institutional settings.
- What happens if my family member isn't in a prioritized group?
  - Should your family member not fall into one of the prioritized groups, it does not mean they will not receive IF.
  - Over the next three years, all program participants will gradually have access to these supports as DSP expands the capacity of the new system.
  - If your family member is enrolled with DSP, they will continue to work with their Care Coordinator until an LAC or IPSC is assigned to begin support planning with them, and a new assessment occurs.

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DSP will be developing new



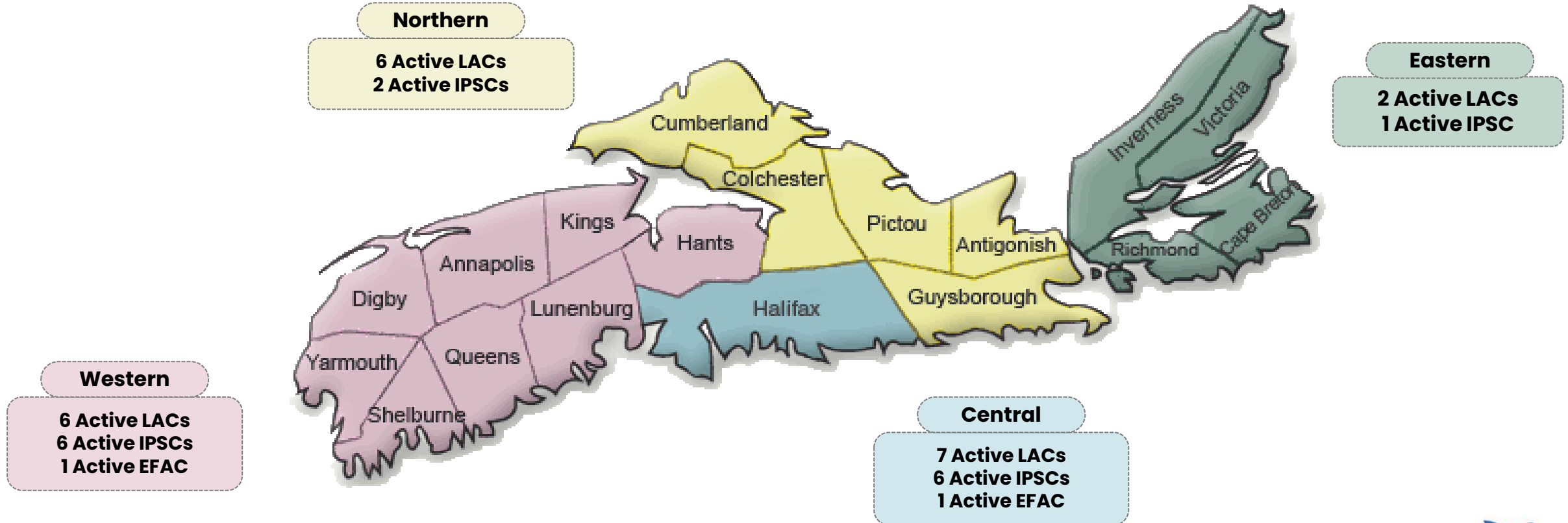
# New Roles: Positions Hired

The following roles were hired within the last year:

- 4 Regional Hub Managers
- 1 Manager of Eligibility, Funding, and Assessment
- 1 EFAC Team Lead
- 3 LAC Team Leads
- 6 IPSC Team Leads
- Multiple LACs, IPSCs, and EFACs (details on coming slide)
- 4 Regional Closure Specialists
- 4 Community Living Facilitators
- 4 DSP Connectors

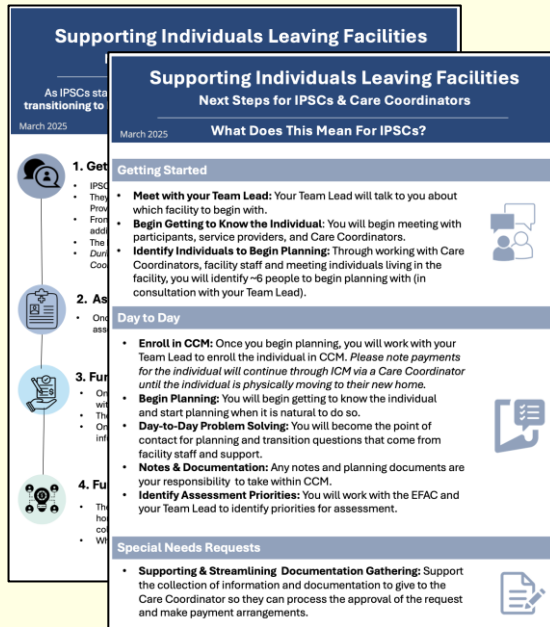
# New Roles: Active Frontline Positions

Currently there are 21 active LACs; 15 active IPSCs; and 2 active EFACs. These numbers reflect the number of staff who have started their new roles and are beginning to take on workloads. Below is a breakdown of these numbers by region.



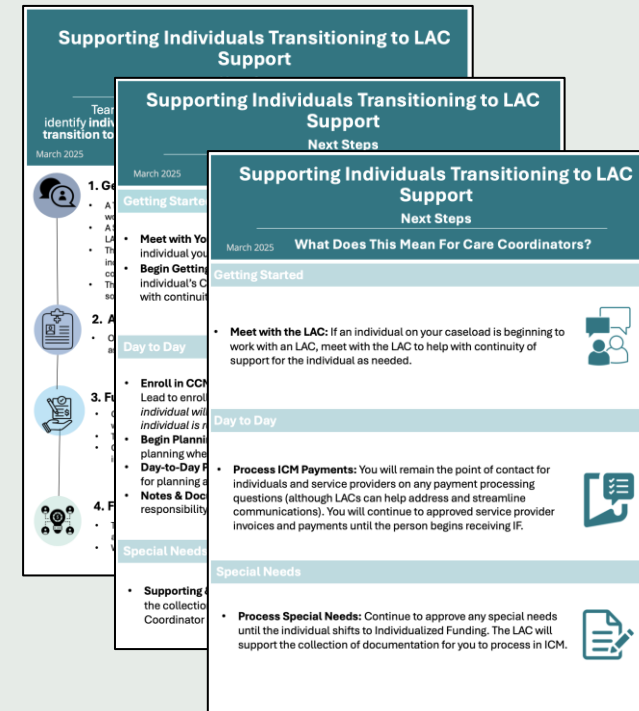
# New Roles: Caseload Transition Resources

As part of this Caseload Transition Framework, materials have been prepared to support communications staff, with a focus on clarifying roles and responsibilities during this time. In addition to these resources, two service provider documents have been prepared that can be used when having conversations with facility staff.



## Information Sheet on the Process for Individuals Leaving Institutions

This information is for IPSCS and Care Coordinators



## Information Sheet on the Process for Individuals Transitioning from CC Support to LAC Support

This information is for LACs and Care Coordinators

**These  
documents can  
be found with  
your Team Lead  
or Regional Hub  
Manager!**

# ILS+

- Independent Living Support-Plus (ILS+) was created to enhance the current ILS program and to bridge the gap between the maximum of 31 hours/week of support permitted by ILS and the 24/7 support available in a Small Option Home.
- Currently ILS+ provides up to 84 hours/week of support hours, with a focus on participants residing in an ARC/RRC/RCF, as well as TSA, in Hospital, and Small Option Home participants, to facilitate flow and a transition to community.

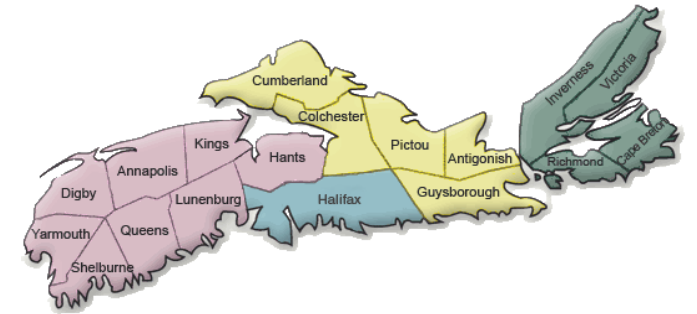


## How many participants have access to ILS+?

- To date, 30 participants have been offered ILS plus and 27 have accepted.
- More offers will be made once IPSCs identify participants who would be a fit.

# Regional Advisory Councils

- There are **four (4) Regional Advisory Councils** in total – 1 in each region of the province.
- The goal of these councils is to create an environment where **local voices can share thoughts and help with problem solving** related to the Human Rights Remedy in Nova Scotia.
- The members were announced at the DSP Rebuilding HOPE Conference on March 29<sup>th</sup>.



## What do the Regional Advisory Councils do?

- Give advice to government on decisions affecting their communities.
- Share information with their communities.
- Help communities work together to better support people with disabilities.
- Help create services that are missing or improve services that aren't working well.
- Review applications for innovation funding.

# Regional Advisory Councils



## Eastern Regional Council Members

Debra MacLean	Chelsie MacLeod MacNeil
Chelsea MacPhee	Brittni Bailey
Lois Landry	Katelyn Marchand
Jolene Clair	Carol Anna MacDonald
Kim Bates Cusack	(Helen) Louise Gillis
Mason Rudderham	Mary Agnes Paul-Elliot
Jarod Jenkins	Vicki Patterson
Stephanie Myette	Harman Singh

## Central Regional Council Members

Krystyna McIntosh	Hamza Munawar
Brent DeYoung	Milo Ewing
Jamus Dorey	Faith Scattolon
Simon Snyder	Jessie Greenough
Patrick Flewelling	Tim Vassallo
Kaylie-Anne Adamski	Joanne Bernard
Melissa Myers	Linnea Sinclair
Tova Sherman	Sydney Henry

## Northern Regional Council Members

Gabreyel (Youth)	Rae Gunn
TJ Smith	Sheri Scott
Charles Mcconville	Melissa Higgins
Ivan Willis (Youth)	Tiffany Taylor
Leta Jarvis (Senior)	Debbie Cavers
Edith MacKay (Senior)	Shannon MacLellan
Crystal Maclean	Angela Vlasic
Nancy Chueng (Senior)	Keith Appleton (Senior)

## Western Regional Council Members

John Cox	Brandy Jarvis
Suzanne Belliveau	Connor Campbell
Alyssa Tuner	Morgan Heron
Brenda Francis-Jarvis	Debbie Austin
Lora Church	Holly Rogers
Jeff Moore	Donnie MacLean
Catherine Collins	Donna Muise
Natasha Vaughan	Peter Hanson

# What's to come?

As we continue to make progress in transforming disability support in Nova Scotia, there are several upcoming projects to look forward to. Below are some that are continuing into Year 3.



## Home Share Implementation

A program description has been approved and applications for Coordinating Organizations has gone out. Applications for Coordinating Organizations close on May 16th.



## Urgent Staff Support

Focus groups were recently held with service providers across the province. In the coming months, service requirements and an approach to provider recruitment will be drafted.



## The School Leavers Program

Work is ongoing with the Department of Education as the project team continues to design, determine access, and plan for the optimal roll-out of the School Leavers Program.



## Continuous Improvement

The structure for the Continuous Improvement Project was recently finalized. While engagements aren't scheduled until the Fall, submissions to the feedback loop can be made via the DSP Library.

Additional projects will be added to this list in the coming months, and updates will be provided as they become active.

**Q/A**



**Thank you!**