

ACDMA Review Implementation
Review of Capacity Laws and Support Decision-Making - Workplan

Current as of: March 13, 2025

This workplan provides an overview of the work to address several recommendations from the [Report on the Review of the Adult Capacity and Decision-making Act](#) (“the Report”).

The relevant recommendations from the Report include:

1. Nova Scotia’s capacity laws should be reviewed to ensure that they reflect modern concepts of capacity and a commitment to greater support for persons with cognitive disabilities, to enable their equal right to decision-making autonomy as members of the community to the greatest extent possible.
2. The review should include consideration of a monitoring system, which would regularly check in with adults and their substitute decision-makers under various capacity-related legislation. The review should include consideration of aversive stimulus treatments.
26. Nova Scotia should engage with a diverse group of stakeholders to examine options for recognizing formal supported decision-making arrangements in legislation.

WORKPLAN			
KEY ACTIVITIES or MILESTONES	TIMEFRAME (MM/YY-MM/YY)	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTPUTS (SERVICES or PRODUCTS)
Develop Terms of Reference for an interdepartmental working group to address the relevant recommendations including representatives from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Department of Justice (DOJ)• Department of Community Services (DCS)• Office of the Public Trustee (PTO)	03/25	DOJ PIM	Terms of reference prepared and approved by DOJ Senior Management

WORKPLAN			
KEY ACTIVITIES or MILESTONES	TIMEFRAME (MM/YY-MM/YY)	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTPUTS (SERVICES or PRODUCTS)
Establishment of working group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership in the working group confirmed 	03/25	Senior Management	Working Group established and meeting held to review terms of reference and workplan
Engage consultant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with procurement to engage consultant 	04/25	DOJ/Working Group	Professional Services Contract with consultant
Finalize workplan with consultant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek input on additional items or information Adjust timeline as needed 	04/25	Consultant	Updated workplan to complete project
Review of current capacity legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the scope of current legislation Identify opportunities to align current legislation Opportunities to better support individuals with disabilities through legislative amendments 	04/25-07/25	Consultant	Completed review of current capacity legislation to inform the final consultant report
Jurisdiction Scan of alternative supported decision-making models <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scan of Canadian jurisdictions and comparable international jurisdictions Identify alternative supported decision-making models and conduct analysis of their feasibility in Nova Scotia Where needed, contact other jurisdictions for further discussion 	04/25-07/25	Consultant	Completed jurisdiction scan to inform and be summarized in consultant report Potential models identified and feasibility assessments
Develop engagement plans for consultation with relevant partners, individuals and organizations. Engagement must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons with disabilities Representatives and caregivers Organizations supporting persons with disabilities Relevant government offices and departments (e.g. Accessibility Directorate, Community Services, Health and Wellness, etc.) 	07/25	Consultant/Working Group	Engagement plans developed and approved

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KEY ACTIVITIES or MILESTONES	TIMEFRAME (MM/YY-MM/YY)	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTPUTS (SERVICES or PRODUCTS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations supporting other equity-deserving groups Academic and legal community Healthcare professionals 			
Conduct Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combination of in-person, virtual, and electronic submissions – sessions must be accessible Public promotion and/or advertisement should be considered 	07/25-08/25	Consultant	Engagement sessions with all interested participants and feedback received electronically
Analysis of Engagement Findings	09/25	Consultant	Initial engagement findings and preliminary recommendations
Development of draft report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft report developed Report delivered to DOJ 	10/25	Consultant	Draft consultant report
Review of Draft Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working group review of draft report Consolidated feedback provided to consultant 	11/25	Working Group	Feedback provided to consultant on draft report
Final report delivered from consultant to DOJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report finalized based on feedback received Final report to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of current capacity laws Review of jurisdiction scan Overview of alternative supported decision-making models Overview and analysis of engagement and feedback Key Findings Recommendations 	12/25	Consultant	Final consultant report