

FAQ — Families & Support Networks *May 2024*

Remedy Overview

- The *Human Rights Remedy* is a 5-year, legally binding requirement to end the systemic discrimination people with disabilities experience in realizing their right to live in community. The Remedy requires the province to report publicly on its progress.
- As part of the Remedy, Nova Scotia must close all residential settings of more than four beds over a five-year period. This will involve supporting individuals to transition to smaller, more independent living arrangements.
- The province of Nova Scotia is committed to working with participants, families, service providers and their staff to make this happen in a way that improves quality of life and the range of choices for persons with disabilities.

How will the closure strategy and community transitions impact my family member or friend?

- Any residential setting for persons with disabilities with more than four beds will be required to close or decrease the number of beds to four, over five years.
- This does not mean the end of organizations who currently support your loved one. We are required to close institutional settings not the organizations who operate them.
- All ARC/RRC organizations currently offer non-institution-based support models such as Independent Living Supports (ILS) and Small Option Homes.
- There are new opportunities and resources for ARC/RRC organizations to further develop and expand their offerings of community-based supports and continue to support your loved one if that is their choice.
- Transition planning with participants will begin in Fall 2024 when all the required resources are in place.
- Community transitions currently in progress will continue.

How will people to find housing?

- We recognize the current housing challenges in Nova Scotia. Coordinated efforts by government and partners are underway to expand housing options for persons with disabilities.
- The Remedy gives people more options and control over where and with whom they live. Whether urban or rural, the Remedy has the necessary elements to support individuals to build a life where they choose including:
 - Enhancing planning support delivered by Intensive Planning Support Coordinators (IPSC) and Local Area Coordinators (LAC) who are anchored in, and knowledgeable about, their local communities and can help find and create housing options.

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- Removing the traditional “menu” approach that has forced individuals to select from pre-determined housing options (e.g. Small Option Home, Group Home, RCF, etc.) so individuals will be able to access more “typical” housing arrangements.
- Revisiting restrictive regulations and building code requirements that have traditionally limited access to houses that aren’t specifically designed around disability support.
- Introducing approaches like home sharing that have worked well elsewhere.
- Providing Individualized Funding (IF), which gives people more choice and control in their lives by assigning funding to the individual rather than to a bed or a service provider.

What if some people don’t want to leave the institution?

- Even positive changes can be scary. A thoughtful, intentional, and well-resourced planning process will help lessen the anxiety about change and moving. An Intense Planning and Support Coordinator (IPSC) will work with each person to develop a unique plan that works for them. Each IPSC will provide support to approximately 20 people, allowing for meaningful and impactful relationship-building.
- This may feel overwhelming. Some people have lived in the same place for decades. It may be all they know. It may be what you were told was best for them. By law, institutions in Nova Scotia must be closed in the next 5 years. People have the right to choose where and with whom they live and how they want to spend their days and evenings.

What measures and safeguards will be in place in community to monitor safety and prevent abuse?

- Safety for individuals, families, and communities is a priority. Decades of research and experience have shown that it is connections and relationships that keep people safe.
- Enhanced staffing ratios will better enable support staff to proactively monitor and ensure safety standards and protocols are being followed. Clear accountability processes and more flexible responses increase safety.
- Development safeguarding framework is underway. Key safeguards will include a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities for all parties and clear accountability measures. Additionally, through enhanced planning, there will be more capacity for oversight and ongoing engagement. This could include site visits, check-ins, accessibility modifications, etc.