

LAC Fidelity Review

Approved Project Plan Updated 22nd May 2026

Background

Remedy timeline and targets

- December 2025 Full complement of 80 LACs and 80 IPSCs operational. Independent Review commences with a focus on the Fidelity criteria.
- June 2026 Independent review complete and implementation of necessary improvements.

Planning commenced in February 2026 for the Fidelity Review of LAC and this will inform any arrangements for a Fidelity Review of IPSC and EFAC functions within the Individual Planning and Coordination Remedy stream.

The project scope, timing and implementation plan has been agreed with DSP Executive Director Maria Medioli and is set out below for wider sharing.

Project scope

Review to be based on the Nova Scotia LAC Fidelity Checklist (see attached) which forms part of the Nova Scotia LAC Practice Framework.

The Fidelity Review sits alongside the Remedy Evaluation Plan and will focus on the implementation of LAC in accordance with the evidence-based framework, rather than any evaluation of the impact of LAC which is part of the broader evaluation. Regular communication has commenced and will occur with the HRR External Evaluator to ensure the complementary nature of both processes.

Review leadership and reporting

The review will be led by external consultant Eddie Bartnik who was co-author of the HRR and co-author of the LAC Fidelity Framework.

DSP staff member Kate Lowe (Manager Training) will be the departmental project lead. External LAC experts Nick Sinclair and Ralph Broad will provide technical review of the draft report.

The Review will report to Maria Medioli (Executive Director) and Tricia Murray (Director – Regional Hubs) from the Disability Support Program DOSD.

Expected timelines for reporting:

- Update to be provided for June 2026 Court Report – due May 31 2026
- Draft report – mid August 2026
- Final report – end August 2026
- External reporting to Court Monitor and DRC – January 2027

Implementation Plan

Various information to inform the Fidelity review has been progressively collected since commencement and is available in the HRR Court reports and other documentation including training, presentations and external technical support.

A targeted period of data collection will take in the period May – July 2026 and review processes are aligned to an in person visit to Nova Scotia by Eddie Bartnik 25 May – 3rd June 2026 complemented by document review and video consultations.

Review process

To keep this process manageable (given other competing Remedy priorities at the time) but also having sufficient integrity, methodology will include a variety of data sources such as:

- Document review, court reports etc
- Interviews with key internal stakeholders (eg Maria Medioli, Tricia Murray, Laura Upton, Regional Hub Managers, LAC Team Leads, LACs and IPSCs/EFACs) and some external (eg Inclusion Nova Scotia, Disability Rights Coalition)
- Information and feedback gleaned from the week of events 25-29 May 2026 and Global Leadership Exchange international match (1-2 June 2026)
- Regional site visits including interviews with LACs, local staff, individuals and families
- Some targeted audits and data requests eg supervision, ratios, training

In terms of critical path, it has been helpful to discuss the various components and timing, including: what interviews can be held during the 25/26/27 days before the LAC events 28-29 May; what would be a reasonable approach to getting some feedback from individuals and families across the 4 regions; also how and when an audit of supervision could be undertaken.

Planned process:

- Kate Lowe (Manager Training) joins the Fidelity review team so that she builds capacity to convene similar reviews in her new role (completed)
- Eddie Bartnik does a light touch on the Fidelity review at the LAC conference 29th May 2027
- Western and Central regions be the focus for 1 day visits to meet with local staff and then individuals/families for feedback sessions in the period 25/26/27 May. Kate Lowe liaises with North and East for individual and family feedback sessions by video in late June/July. So, all 4 regions covered.
- Eddie Bartnik and Kate Lowe to scope the audit of supervision to then take place in July 2026
- Panel review and validation of draft report July/August and final report end August

As the LAC Fidelity review scope and project plan is now approved, more detailed questions and methods will be refined for interview sessions, matched to the fidelity criteria.

Scoping further fidelity reviews of IPSC and EFAC

Maria Medioli has also requested that this process also makes a start on scoping fidelity reviews of IPSC and EFAC. It is planned to build some of this into a number of the LAC process planned interview sessions in May and June where we can also ask about their experience with these other staff functions. It will also planned to scope a few additional sessions with some key people to identify key issues around IPSC and

EFAC. Further to the LAC Fidelity Review report in August, Maria Medioli has requested development of a plan for the IPSC and EFAC Fidelity reviews to be completed by the end of 2026. A meeting with Tim Stainton and key DSP leadership is scheduled for 27th May 2026 to commence scoping these additional reviews. Given the time frames, these additional reviews will need a sharp sense of priority fidelity criteria to be examined and for the process to build on the progress with the LAC Fidelity review.

Eddie Bartnik
External Consultant
LAC Fidelity Review Lead

Approved by Maria Medioli 28th April 2026 and updated 22 May 2026



Attachment: Nova Scotia LAC Fidelity Framework