



**CHOICE, EQUALITY
and GOOD LIVES
in
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES**

**(A Roadmap for Transforming the Nova
Scotia Services to Persons with
Disabilities Program)**

“Roadmap for Transformation”

This new plan was put together by government and community advocacy groups, including People First Nova Scotia, to improve the supports for people with disabilities in Nova Scotia. This document used the “United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” as a basis for its work. This plain language version was created by People First Nova Scotia

Three goals of this new plan:

1. **Self Direction, Choice and Control**
2. **Updated Supports and Services**
3. **Inclusive and Accessible Community System**

(Examples used in this document are meant to represent an individual person's possible barriers to supports needed and not all individuals who are experiencing barriers)

1. Self Direction, Choice and Control

Needs:

Person Directed planning - a shared, active, person focused and directed, ongoing process that gives direction and decisions about a person's life now and in the future. It is directed by the person and is based on his/her beliefs, hopes, goals, strengths and needs for supports.

Example: Today: SPD decides who your roommates will be

In the Future: You make your own plan about who lives with you

Individual Personal Disability and Family Supports are any goods, services or changes to the life situation that helps persons with disabilities remove barriers in their daily activities and support full participation in their communities.

Example: Today: Services not available to help you join activities

In the Future: Have access to transportation that allows you to join activities in your community

1. Self Direction, Choice and Control

Individual Funding process is a way for government money to flow to persons with disabilities and their families so they can buy supports for their social and health needs.

Example- Today: money is sent to your service provider for your care

In the Future: money is sent to you/your family and you pay for services

Equal Recognition of Legal Capacity and Supported Decision Making -

Legal capacity is the ability to make legal decisions and the right to create, change or end legal relationships. Supported Decision Making is the right to have a person of their own choosing assist with making legal decisions (**Article 12 -United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**)

Example: Today: someone makes decisions for you around money/contracts

In the Future: You, with help of others you choose, will make decisions about your life

2. Updated Supports and Services

Needs:

- **Decreased use of Institutions** – Communities across Canada and around the world are updating their Disability support systems by replacing large institutions with family and community based options. A new system of supports and services must respect the rights, dignity, needs and wishes of each individual and their families.

Example- Today: you are given only option of living in an Institution

In the Future: you choose your own home in your community

- **Change Community Based Residential Service System** – Change current system to one that would realize the shared vision of individuals, families, the disability community, service providers and the government for supported living in the community for all people with disabilities.

Example- Today: You live in a home that does meet your needs outside your community

In the Future: You choose community you live in and your home

- **Increased Access to Competitive Employment** – This means that people with disabilities are employed and get paid wages equal to their non-disabled co-workers, and have the supports in place to be successful.

Example- Today: no opportunities for real work with real pay

In the Future: opportunities for training, education & work

Needs:

Equal Access to Housing- Nova Scotia has the highest proportion of people with disabilities in the country (20%), and 1,100 people with disabilities currently living in large institutions. A big challenge in creating opportunities for supported living in the community is to address housing needs.

There must be an investment in people rather than buildings – available housing options that are accessible, affordable and individual, with proper supports.

Example: **Today: no choice but live in a group home**

In the Future: Choices about where you live and how home set up

All inclusive Community Based Networks of Specialized supports –

People with disabilities who have complex health and behavioural support needs have very limited options for living in the community.

Need a community based system of specialized care services that can be provided to individuals in their own home

**Example: Today: no access to your community because of behaviour
In the Future: behaviour supports and trained staff to help so you
can be a part of your community**

Available disability specific and regular community services-
provincial and regional services provide health services for all in their community, and develop a more effective and responsive set of services and efficiently manage scarce resources in health care.

**Example: Today: cannot live in community because of medical needs
In the Future: local clinic supporting your complex medical needs
as you live in your apt. in your community**

Transformation Recommendations:

Goal # 1. Self Direction, Choice and Control

Recommendation #1:

Create person-directed planning as a way for persons with disabilities and families to plan services throughout the person's life

Recommendation #2:

Create a Disability Supports Program that replaces the current SPD program (adults, children and independent living programs).

Transformation Recommendations

Goal # 1. Self Direction, Choice and Control

Recommendation #3:

Create individual funding through the Disability Supports Program

Recommendation #4:

Create a legal outline to protect and promote the right to legal capacity and supported decision making

Transformation Recommendations

Goal #2. Updated Supports and Services

Recommendation #5:

Make a promise & phase out, over ten years, use of institutions & develop community based living options

Recommendation #6:

Change roles of current residential service agencies from providing place- based services to delivering more individual supported living plans with client/family input

Recommendation #7 :

Create an “employment focussed” plan for current service providers that run day programs & employment services.

Transformation Recommendations

Goal #3. Inclusive & Accessible Community systems

Recommendation #8:

Make sure people with disabilities have access to full range of affordable, accessible housing & appropriate supports.

Recommendation # 9:

Have service providers who deliver special health and social support services –on a 24/7 basis to individual and family needs in their own homes and communities

Recommendation #10:

Create provincial and regional level plans to organize government, disabled & non disabled systems in developing community access for social & economic inclusion