



## NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

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The Nova Scotia Association for Community Living (NSACL) would like to applaud Minister of Community Services, Kelly Regan, for her recent announcement of plans to close Harbourside Lodge in Yarmouth, allowing all current residents to move from an institutional setting to more natural, inclusive residences in community.

The Department of Community Services, Disability Support Program has committed to a process of transformation that will improve outcomes for Nova Scotians with disabilities. The closure of Harbourside Lodge is one significant step toward this transformation. In order to honour the wishes of the twenty-seven residents, and to ensure that they are provided with appropriate housing and supports when Harbourside Lodge is closed, Minister Regan estimates that it will take between 12 and 18 months to complete this process.

NSACL recognizes that the task of ensuring all residents are provided with appropriate homes and the required supports cannot be accomplished overnight. We appreciate that the necessary time and effort are being invested to work with residents and their families to meet their needs and wishes.

We would like to congratulate Minister Regan, and all of the staff at the Department of Community Services, Disability Support Program, who have worked hard toward making this a reality. We would also like to acknowledge the ongoing work of the staff and administration of the Harbourside Lodge, as they continue to support residents, and to work with the Department of Community Services to ensure that residents are able to make choices about where they will live and what supports they will require.

Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to “choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement”. The thoughtful planning and consultation with those currently living in Harbourside Lodge demonstrates a commitment to honouring this right.

We look forward to future announcements as Nova Scotia moves toward full deinstitutionalization of people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Patricia Neves  
Executive Director

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