Nova Scotia Association for Community Living

Nova Scotia Association for Community Living (NSACL) is a province-wide, not-for-profit association of people with intellectual disabilities, families, and others leading the way to build a just and inclusive society.

NSACL works strategically with other disability rights organizations and, in particular, with People First Nova Scotia.

What's in the News:

Annapolis Valley Employment Services
Brighter Days
Housing NS
Take Action
NS Disabilities Support Program

Exciting transformations! Advocacy! Where does the future lead my child or children? What do I want my child’s or children’s future to look like in a perfect world? What supports are available in the Annapolis Valley and
I have been welcomed by a few and I am here to walk this walk with you and help you get the future set up or discuss your wants for your child or adult child! My name is HEATHER JORDAN and I have joined the Nova Scotia Association for Community Living. I am joining them as the Community Home Support Facilitator for Annapolis Valley and surrounding area. The position is currently a 20 hr/per week position. I will be hopefully be able to help you avert a crisis or intervene and help in a crisis that is happening with your family member. I am hoping to meet with each of you and all workshops and supports in the area. Please feel free to get to me through my email at heather.nsacl@gmail.com.

The province launched its new employment services system, Nova Scotia Works, at the Elmsdale Futureworx Job Search Centre, a Nova Scotia Works employment services centre.
The new system will strengthen Nova Scotia's workforce by providing better front line services and support for youth, job seekers and employers.

"We've been working hard to ensure all Nova Scotians looking for work have access to the employment services they need, no matter where they live," said Labour and Advanced Education Minister Kelly Regan. "This new system will provide the support they need to find a good job, and it will also help employers find skilled workers."

Government began working with service providers in November to redesign the $23-million employment services system. The new system includes:

-- more front line staff
-- increased focus on career counselling for youth
-- more effective recruitment support for businesses
-- expansion of services across the province for people with barriers to employment
-- support for career practitioner certification and professional development

"Working with the employment services team at Futureworx has helped me with my recruitment needs," said Michael Jodrey, Jodrey and Company Ltd. "I needed more employees, and with their help, I was able to access recruitment advice and support which ultimately helped grow my business."

While the overall budget remains the same, the Nova Scotia Works system reduces administration and infrastructure costs from 53 per cent down to 27 per cent. More front line staff were hired with the savings to focus on employer engagement, client service, and outreach to schools.

Qualified career practitioners and counsellors will deliver a consistent suite of services including career counselling, job
search services and resources, job coaching, job development, employment workshops, and employer engagement.

"With the transformation of employment services in the province, we now have a more relevant suite of options, tools and supports available for our clients," said Randy Lindsay, Futureworx executive director. "This will enhance our ability to connect job seekers with available positions and help individuals, employers and our communities realize their potential."

The transformation of Nova Scotia's employment services was a key recommendation in the Transition Task Force report released in June. The report is online at http://novascotia.ca/lae/pubs/docs/From-School-to-Success-Clearing-the-Path.pdf.

This system is funded by the Canada-Nova Scotia Labour Market Development Agreement. For more information, and a list of Nova Scotia Works employment centres, visit http://www.novascotia.ca/works

Nova Scotians can visit the new centres in their communities as they launch over the next few weeks. The following Nova Scotia Works employment service centres are holding open houses on the dates indicated:

Southwest Employment Service
-- Shelburne, 3588 Highway 3 - Sept. 20
-- Yarmouth, 103 Water St. - Oct. 25

YMCA
-- Eastern Passage, 1515 Main Rd. - Sept. 7
-- Sheet Harbour, 22756 Highway #7 - Sept. 8
-- Cole Harbour, 5 Cumberland Dr. (Cumberland Plaza) - Sept. 9
-- Dartmouth, 14-118 Wyse Rd. - Sept. 12
-- Dartmouth, 35 Wilfred Jackson Way - Sept. 14
Musquodoboit, 12943 Highway 224 - Sept. 16
Halifax, 2269 Gottingen St. - Sept. 19
Porters Lake, 5228 Highway 7 - Sept. 21
Sydney, 399 Charlotte St. - Oct. 4

Job Resource Centre
Windsor, 80 Water St., Windsor Mall - Sept. 20

Peopleworx
Coldbrook - 11 Opportunity Lane - Sept. 19
Middleton - 298 Marshall St. Sept. 23

Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association
Amherst, 63 Victoria St. - Sept. 16
Springhill, 166 Junction Rd. - Sept. 21

Employment Solutions
Liverpool, 7A Henry Hensey Dr. - Sept. 20
Bridgewater, 215 Dominion St. - Sept. 20
Hubbards, 10 Pte. Richard Green Lane - Sept. 21

Le Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse
Church Point, 1649 Highway 1 - Sept. 9
Tusket, 1 Slocumb Cres. - Sept. 13

EmployAbility Partnership
Port Hawkesbury, 811 Reeves St. Unit 6 - Sept. 16

Digby Disabilities
Digby, 87 Warwick St. - Dec. 9

Northside Employment and Resource Centre
North Sydney, 105 King St. - Sept. 13

Career Connections
Guysborough, 996 Highway 16 Unit C, Chedabucto Centre -
Sept. 16
-- Antigonish, 50 James St. - Sept. 23

Adam’s job at Costco has been a turning point, but to understand why you need to know a bit about him and the path that led him there.

After high school Adam spent a while job searching, trying out jobs, trying out the Nova Scotia Community College, and participated in employment programs. He explored different options and it gave him time to grow and learn about himself. Once quite shy, volunteering at the Discovery Centre and working with the public forced him out of his shell. His job at Burger King taught him that a really fast paced position isn’t right for him and he needs a job that is one clear task. Being in a position where his tasks change every second is hard. Adam hadn’t found his place yet and struggled to find motivation.

Adam was on the waitlist at Building Futures Employment Services when we were approached by the Ready Willing & Able team. The Ready, Willing & Able program has a national relationship with Costco and contacted us for job candidates. We immediately thought of Adam and felt he would be a strong candidate. We brought him in, worked with him on interview skills, and he submitted his resume. Adam was pretty happy because he’d applied to Costco before but hadn’t gotten an interview until he started working with Building Futures and Ready, Willing & Able – just goes to show that building employer relationships are key!
Adam was successful in the interview and has been working at Costco as a Front end associate since June 2014. Here’s his experience in his own words: “Working at Costco has been great and it’s the longest job I’ve ever had. It’s a good job for me because it’s clear, easy steps. Sometimes I have to help customers lift heavy things. It’s a good salary and I get benefits – I know most jobs don’t offer that. What I enjoy most is my co-workers and the happy atmosphere. The people I work with have a positive attitude and this helps me stay motivated. I also understand the consequences of not being reliable more now. I don’t plan on leaving this job anytime soon! My job coach has helped me set goals and kept me honest. When I got off track she’d find out and ask me why. The management has been fair and strict, just the way it should be. They want to see you succeed in the company and hold you to expectations”.

Working is important to me because I want to contribute to society. I have money to buy things, go on dates and go to Cuba with my girlfriend. I also contribute to my family by paying rent. I have a lot more energy, I lost a lot of weight and I made friends. I feel happier and my days are brighter.

Respectfully submitted by: Adam Jones – Happy Employee, Sonja - Building Futures & Lynn - Ready, Willing & Able.

The Province of Nova Scotia is collaborating with its provincial and territorial partners to support the Government of Canada’s efforts towards developing a national housing strategy. Over the next few months, Nova Scotians and their fellow Canadians will have an opportunity to help shape long-term national housing policies through online consultations and other
means.

As you are aware, Housing is one of the most fundamental needs for Nova Scotians. Our homes shape nearly every aspect of our lives, from health, educational achievement, success in the workplace, the security of our retirement, to our dignity in old age.

Over the last few years, we’ve made some real progress in creating more affordable housing options all across the province. For example, we have seen a reduction in our waiting list for public housing and we have helped many chronically homeless individuals find a stable home in a supportive environment.

We are making progress but we know that there are existing challenges that need to be considered and new opportunities that need to be explored. That’s why I encourage you to make your voice heard by taking a brief survey or submit your views in writing before October 21, 2016. For more information, please visit www.letstalkhousing.ca. We also invite you to share this information within your respective network to raise awareness.

Sincerely,
Dan M.

Dan McDougall, President and CEO, Housing Nova Scotia

Members from the Seniors Take Action Coalition and Health Equity Action Resource Team for Richmond County/Strait Area invite you to join us and local candidates running for the upcoming Municipal Election in both
Richmond County and The Town of Port Hawkesbury. We will be asking candidates to discuss issues such as: affordable housing, poverty, food insecurity and seniors. Join us and engage our municipalities to build supportive and healthier communities.

Seniors Take Action Coalition works collaboratively to address seniors’ issues in our communities. Through ongoing dialogue, information sharing and identifying our community assets, we are committed to enhance services and programs for seniors. Members of the Coalition come from various seniors clubs and other organizations, all involved in seniors programming and services. Health Equity Action Resource Team is a multi-stakeholder, collaborative team of people from Richmond County and Port Hawkesbury/Strait area, concerned about the many issues affecting communities and people’s health. Our work is focused on how we can make people healthier by creating the necessary changes to ensure health equity. Members are from various organizations.

October 5th, 2016 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm in Port Hawkesbury at the Evergreen Seniors Club (37 Embree Street)
ALL ARE WELCOME – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
*Donations of non-perishable food items for local food banks appreciated*
Please call or email Tiffany Peeples @ 902-587-2800 ext: 2
Email: tiffanypeeples@nshealth.ca

The DSP Connection
The Disability Support Program newsletter can provide you with some highlights of the provincial budget and how the province is investing $3 million to help Nova Scotians with disabilities.
• Supporting the transition of (at least 25)
participants from larger facilities to community-based options

• Two participants have moved to Individual Living Support (ILS) – one is a small option home and the second is a supported apartment

• There is a commitment to move six (6) participants between September and November 2016 – two (2) moving to Alternate Family Support (AFS), one (1) to ILS, and three (3) to community homes

• We are identifying and discussing options with other individuals who would be good candidates to transition from larger facilities to community-based options

• $790,000 to increase the capacity of Adult Service Centers
  • Scaling up social enterprise
  • We are working to identify one or more new, high-impact social enterprises that are larger than what any one member could pursue and which may require the coordinated involvement of multiple agencies
  • This will be achieved by using insights from the external and internal reviews to inform a comprehensive “LaunchPad” process, which generates, screens, and selects the best possible enterprise opportunities

• Enhanced employment supports to help agencies grow capacity in areas that have previously been underserved

• The department has been working with DirectioNS to develop the parameters and reporting requirements for this funding
• We expect a call for proposals will be sent out soon, with the initial phase beginning in October 2016 and continuing through to Fall 2017
to read the whole newsletter with upcoming "Roadshow" dates, please click here
http://file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/The%20DSP%20Connection_Issue%202_Fall%202016.pdf

These are exciting times for NSACL. Each month, NSACL hosts an informational “Snapshot” (one hour information tour) of the work being done by Nova Scotia Association of Community Living. The tours detail how the organization was created, the support we provide and our vision for the future as well as introduce you to some of the great people we have been able to support. The purpose of the tour is to provide a unique method for people in the community to hear more about our organization. The only thing that you will be asked for is your feedback after the tour on what you thought about the presentation. **This is not a fundraiser.**

**Upcoming 2016 Snapshots:**
November 23 @ 5:30pm

Please contact barry.nsacl@gmail.com for more information and to RSVP for an upcoming Snapshot.
Our mailing address is 3845 Joseph Howe Drive,
Suite 101
Halifax, NS B3L 4H9