

This second report card reflects that to date there has been little change in these areas:

- Providing person-directed planning and decision-making
- Providing community-based housing options
- Reducing reliance on institutions
- Increasing employment opportunities
- Decreasing waitlists for services and housing options.

Persons with developmental disabilities require appropriate housing and supports. With them stand family members and service providers with expectations of the Transformation process to unfold.

CHAG, on behalf of those responding to this survey, asks the provincial government to honour the Rights of persons with disabilities as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We ask the provincial government to:

- Commit to person-directed planning and support, create community based living options, close institutions, increase employment and reduce waitlists.
- Work with families and service providers across the province to create small community based housing options.
- Commit to stopping new placements to ARCs or RRCs as outlined in Community Services' 10-year Plan for Transformation.
- Begin work to reform all disability related legislation in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Report regularly to the community on the number of people with developmental disabilities on waitlists for housing options and provide updates on the progress in creating new housing opportunities.
- Provide substantive investment to fulfill the promises made to Nova Scotians with Disabilities and those involved in their lives.

Please contact Minister Joanne Bernard if you have any comments:
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Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2T7
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Community Homes Action Group (CHAG)

REPORT

CARD

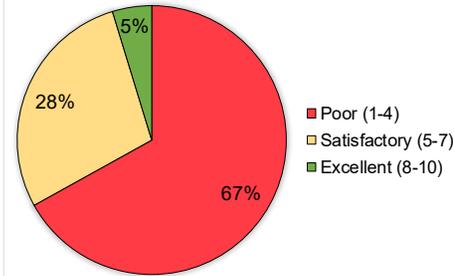
2017

Transforming Services for Nova Scotians With Disabilities Evaluation Results

In 2013 the Nova Scotia Joint Committee was formed with membership from community advocacy groups, service providers and government. The Committee developed a “Roadmap” for transforming services for Nova Scotians with disabilities. Community Homes Action Group (CHAG) is a group of concerned citizens, health care professionals, parents and advocates who have come together to draw attention to the crisis in residential options for persons with developmental disabilities, and to work with the provincial government to find solutions.

CHAG has monitored the progress of the roadmap work currently underway, by conducting province-wide surveys in 2015 and 2016 to find out what Nova Scotians think about its progress. The 2016 findings suggest that some progress has been made since 2015, but there is still a long way to go before people with disability are free from the threat of being incarcerated in institutions and living in poverty. The 2016 survey results included 137 people. An overview of the results are as follows:

67% said Poor Progress on Increasing Person-Directed Planning

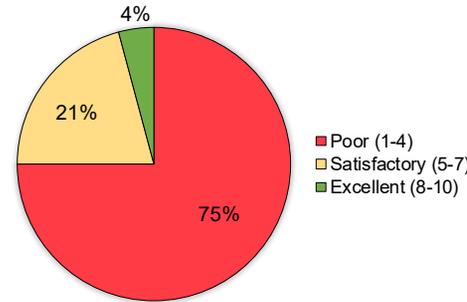


“First Voice has been a principle that has involved person centered collaboration, however the impact of these dialogues has not in my view been deeply considered or greatly influenced policy.”

“There has been some improvement in the recognition that choices are important...but the resources to make a choice are still not available.”

“In some institutions people with disabilities are not even included at their annual review meeting. DCS know that but it continues ... So others are making the plans for folks.”

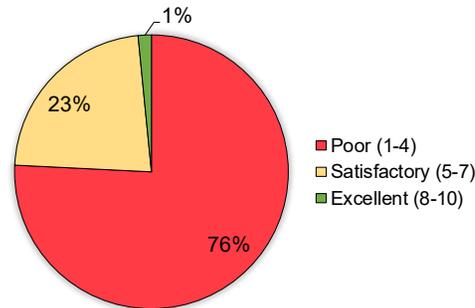
75% said Poor Progress on Increasing Employment Opportunities



“I know of several people who have young adult children who finished high school at 21, and there is nothing available for them in the workforce. None or very little government assistance for these vulnerable adults.”

“It is the direct support staff and their connections that have created work experiences for people with intellectual disabilities. Thank goodness for non-profit organizations where people with intellectual disabilities can work, are accepted and make a difference.”

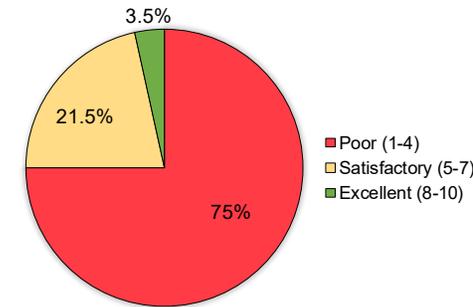
76% said Poor Progress on Increasing Community-based Housing



“Little to no change. Government remains closed to creative new housing options that are being demonstrated successfully in other areas of Canada. When ideas are brought forward to solving housing issues, the government is not open to even trying new models even though they will be more fiscally responsible.”

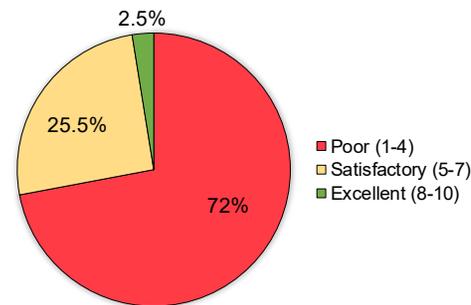
“In year 3 of the Roadmap, they are focused on moving 25 people out of institutions into the community. Out of approx. 600. At this rate it will take them 100 years.”

75% said Poor Progress on Decreasing Wait-times for Services



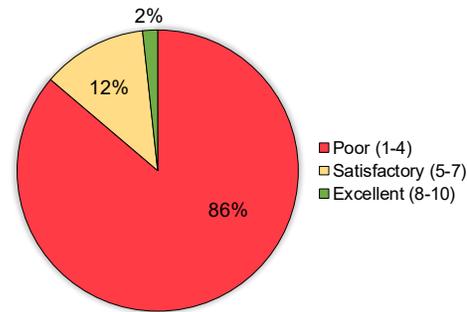
“Our son is an only child living with aging parents and with no extended family in Nova Scotia. What will happen when we die? He needs-deserves Autism appropriate housing and he deserves to have it before we die so that we can help with the transition, as opposed to being placed in an inappropriate place in a crisis situation. And what are the chances of that happening when the waiting list is over 800 and even if he gets to the top of the list, it is crisis driven...”

72% said Poor Progress on Reducing Reliance on Institutions



“This has been one of the most frustrating things to witness. The large institutions still remain. The institutions now run some community homes but often the culture in the community homes remains as it was in the large institution. People are still being admitted into institutions. The deadline for admissions continues to be changed. AND my opinion is that there is no real commitment or plan to close institutions.”

86% said Poor Progress on Decreasing Wait-times for Housing



“At a public meeting earlier this year, the Deputy Minister announced the focus this year (year 3) was to move 25 people out of institutions and into the community. Seriously -25? Out of what - 600? There was no mention of reducing waiting lists for small options or even creating more small options while this transition was taking place.”

“Many service providers are willing to look at additional capacity in community based options but government continues to respond with no mandate for increased capacity.”