**Inclusion Nova Scotia Messages- August 2025**

Welcome to this month’s round of messages from Nova Scotia’s Disability Support Program (DSP) about our work on the Human Rights Remedy.

**Safe Housing Measures (Housing Safeguards)**

o DSP has started to explore how to ensure homes that people choose to live in are safe and meet community standards.

o This work will impact individuals with disabilities throughout Nova Scotia, and support them in being and feeling safe in their chosen communities.

o DSP is currently reviewing key regulations and policies. DSP will also to meet with key groups, including persons with disabilities, to talk about what makes a home safe and how to include these needs in future standards.

When will DSP complete this project?

o DSP is currently researching safe housing measures. Results of this research will be available by January 2026.

**Disability Support Outreach Teams**

o DSP has started to develop Disability Support Outreach Teams to provide health support to people with disabilities not available through the public health system.

o These teams will provide disability-specific support to individuals and their families/support networks, support staff, and health care providers.

o Teams will include different allied health professionals. They may include some of the following roles:

o Occupational therapists and assistants

o Physiotherapists and assistants

o Dieticians

o Behavioural interventionists

o Board-certified behaviour analysts

o Psychologists

o Social workers

o Speech-language pathologists

o These teams will be community-based. Services will be offered in an individual's home or another community location, depending on what works best for them.

Does the Disability Support Outreach Team act as my new health provider?

o No. These teams are being created to work alongside existing services you might access – they are not meant to duplicate them.

**Workforce Competency Development**

o DSP is updating the key skills and values required for disability support workers to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

o Engagement with individuals with disabilities, their families/support networks, support staff, and other audiences within the disability support sector will start shortly

o A survey, will be sent out in the coming weeks.

I want to contribute to the survey on workforce competencies. How do I access it, and when is it available?

o The survey will be sent by email to key organizations (for example, People First NS, Inclusion Nova Scotia, and others) in the disability support sector in the next couple of weeks, and they will share it with community members.