

FAQ – ARC RRC Community Placements

October 2020

ABOUT

What is this project about?

- Government is phasing out large institutional settings over time, in recognition of the positive impact community living can have on both Disability Support Program participants and communities.
- The Department of Community Services (DCS) will be phasing out Adult Residential Centres (ARCs) and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) and creating new community placements.
- There are eight ARC/RRC facilities across the province, serving approximately 525 participants.
- This project will focus on creating 400 new community placements over the next six years to both move participants out of these facilities, and place high priority participants from the service request list into the community.
- As part of this work, the Disability Support Program will significantly reduce new admissions to larger facilities while increasing the availability of community placements.

Why are we making this change?

- Adult Residential Centres (ARCs) and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) have shown to limit participant choice, independence, community inclusion, and quality of life. All provinces and territories in Canada have moved, or are moving away, from this type of program.

What are the benefits of living in a community?

- Community is where a person feels safe, valued for their contributions, and able to freely pursue their interests. Community living aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and creates stronger, more diverse communities where all Nova Scotians are included.

What do we mean by community-based living?

- Community-based living includes having the option to live in smaller settings, or independently.

What does this mean for people living in larger facilities?

- We will maintain existing programming and supports as participants transition into the community. We will also be there to support participants as they prepare to move and once a new placement is identified.

What if someone prefers the ARC/RRC setting? Is that option still available?

- Phasing out these facilities was a recommendation of the government-endorsed “Choice, Equality and Good Lives in Inclusive Communities – A Roadmap for Transforming the Nova Scotia Services to Persons with Disabilities Program” Report (the Roadmap). As a result, Government committed to ending permanent placements in ARCs and RRCs. We remain committed to phasing out large, facility-based programs.

HARBOURSIDE

The first of eight of the facilities to be phased out will be Harbourside Lodge ARC in Yarmouth.

We are working directly with Harbourside Lodge and their participants, families, and staff to understand what we need to have in place so that people can move safely. We will work closely with each participant, and in collaboration with their families to honour the strengths, needs, and choices of each individual.

Why Harbourside?

- With Harbourside, we have the opportunity to invest in new community-based infrastructure, supports, and programming that will better serve the needs of participants.
- We will continue to work closely with participants and those on the service request list to move them to their preferred option, as quickly as feasibly possible.

What does this mean for participants currently living at Harbourside?

- As people move into community, we will ensure moves are safe and tailored to individual needs. Each participant’s support network and family will be involved in developing individual transition plans.

When will homes and placements be ready?

- We are anticipating new homes will be ready mid-next year, with additional homes move-in ready in the months following. However, some residents of Harbourside could start moving into existing DSP services sooner than that if their needs can be met.
- Working with the team at Harbourside, we will begin a phase-out of Harbourside and will complete individualized planning for the residents who live there. It is anticipated that the entire process will take approximately 18 months to complete.

Will all participants at Harbourside meet the criteria to be supported in community?

- We are in the process of designing support options to allow ARC residents to safely and effectively live in community. This includes completing individualized planning for residents.

How will this impact Harbourside staff?

- We are moving people to community settings, so there will be impacts for the people who work there – not immediately but over time.

- We will be sure to follow all collective agreements as we move ahead and work collaboratively with the NSHA, as their employer.
- It's important to keep in mind this work will not happen overnight—we are looking at the very least 18 months to fully make this transition at Harbourside.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- For any questions/inquiries about this work, please direct them to your Local Change Ambassador or your supervisor.
- For periodic updates on this work, please visit our project [Pulse page](#).

Questions & Answers

What are the benefits of living in a community?

Community is where a person feels safe, valued for their contributions, and able to freely pursue their interests. Community living aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and creates stronger, more diverse communities where all Nova Scotians are included.

What do we mean by community-based living?

Community-based living includes having the option to live in smaller settings, or independently.

What does this mean for people living in larger facilities?

We will maintain existing programming and supports as participants transition into the community. We will also be there to support participants as they prepare to move and once a new placement is identified.

What if I want to move right away?

People will be prioritized based on their readiness and desire to move. Disability Support Program Care Coordinators are available to explain the process in more detail.

What role will families and support networks have?

Each participant's support network and family will be involved in developing individual transition plans that ensure safety and honour participant choice.

What about supports that currently aren't available?

We will work closely with participants, community partners, service providers, and families to identify and support individual needs. While we recognize that current community programming is unable to support everyone who currently lives in larger facilities, transition planning will help ensure participants continue to receive the supports they rely on.

More Questions?

Contact your Care Coordinator at the Department of Community Services or visit the Department of Community Services website at:

novascotia.ca/coms

Moving to Community

For Persons with Disabilities

Offering choice to people who want to live in the community.



*Better services,
better lives in community*

Consultation

Through consultation, we have developed a plan to allow people to move from larger facilities into community. The people we serve and their individual needs are the focus of the plan.

Residents of Adult Residential Centres (ARCs) and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs), their families, and teams provided input and ideas. This valuable feedback helped us identify several specific supports that will allow participants to live healthy and inclusive lives. These discussions also provided important insight into the questions and concerns of participants and their families.

In addition, our partners at the Department of Health and Wellness, the Nova Scotia Health Authority, our community-based service providers, and municipal leaders have been engaged. We also have looked to other provinces for lessons learned.

What We Heard

Consultations were held with residents and families across the province. We heard:

- The choice of community location and the ability to live close to family and friends are top priorities.

- Supportive relationships, including those between residents and staff, are very important. Both residents and their family members want those relationships to continue.
- Moving to a community-focused model will likely require additional support staff.
- Maintaining and enhancing the level of available services is important to residents and their families.
- As the plan moves forward, residents and families want to continue to be involved and updated on progress.

What's Next

Creating New Community Homes

- We are committed to offering choice to people who want to live in community, where they are true community members with opportunities for personal growth, and the ability to contribute meaningfully in ways that make sense for them.
- Government is phasing out large institutional settings over time, in recognition of the positive impact community living can have on both Disability Support Program participants and communities.

- As part of this work, the Disability Support Program will significantly reduce new admissions to larger facilities while increasing the availability of community placements.

Community Home Design

Approved home builders will supply a variety of community home models that meet participants' needs.

What this means for current participants

- Every participant is important to us. We are committed to working closely with participants and their families, and ensuring people are engaged and involved every step of the way.
- As people move into community, we will ensure moves are safe and honour participant choice.
- Each participant's support network and family will be involved in developing individual transition plans.



Questions et réponses

Que sont les avantages d'une « vie en société »?

C'est dans la société qu'une personne se sent en sécurité, valorisée pour ses contributions et capable de s'adonner librement à ses activités préférées. La vie en société cadre avec la Convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées des Nations Unies et crée des collectivités plus fortes et plus diversifiées où tous les gens de la Nouvelle-Écosse sont inclus.

Qu'entendons-nous par « vie en société »?

La vie en société offre la possibilité de vivre dans un établissement de plus petite taille ou de manière indépendante.

Qu'est-ce que cela signifie pour les personnes qui vivent dans des établissements de plus grande taille?

Nous maintiendrons les programmes et les dispositifs de soutien existants au fur et à mesure que les participants feront leur transition dans la société. Nous serons également là pour aider les participants lorsqu'ils se prépareront à déménager et lorsqu'un nouveau placement sera trouvé.

Et si je veux déménager tout de suite?

Les personnes auront la priorité en fonction de leur disponibilité et de leur désir de déménager. Les coordonnateurs de soins du Programme de soutien aux personnes handicapées sont disponibles pour vous expliquer le processus de façon plus détaillée.

Quel sera le rôle des familles et des réseaux de soutien?

Le réseau de soutien et la famille de chaque participant participeront à l'élaboration de plans de transition individuels qui garantissent la sécurité et respectent le choix du participant.

Qu'en est-il des dispositifs de soutien qui ne sont pas offerts actuellement?

Nous travaillerons en étroite collaboration avec les participants, les partenaires communautaires, les fournisseurs de services et les familles pour cerner les besoins individuels et y répondre. Bien que nous reconnaissons que les programmes communautaires actuels ne sont pas en mesure d'aider toutes les personnes qui vivent actuellement dans de plus grands établissements, la planification de la transition permettra de s'assurer que les participants continuent à recevoir les dispositifs de soutien sur lesquels ils comptent.

Vous avez d'autres questions?

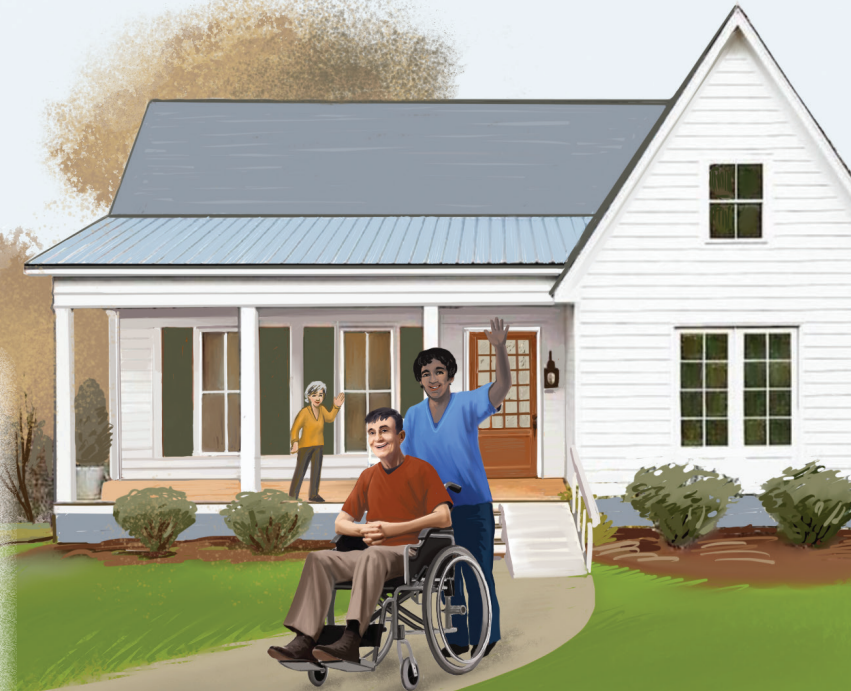
Communiquez avec votre coordonnateur de soins du ministère des Services communautaires ou consultez le site Web du Ministère à l'adresse suivante :

novascotia.ca/coms/fr

La vie en société pour les personnes ayant un handicap

Donner le choix aux
personnes qui veulent
vivre en société


NOVA SCOTIA
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE



*De meilleurs services pour
une meilleure vie en société*

