

## Media Release

May 17, 2024



### **Cynthia Carroll begins new journey after 16 years leading Autism Nova Scotia**

**HALIFAX** – It's with bittersweet emotion that we announce Cynthia Carroll's departure as the Executive Director of Autism Nova Scotia, effective June 1, 2024.

Cynthia's departure comes after a pivotal moment for Autism Nova Scotia with the announcement of an Autism Action Plan for the province. This milestone is a result of more than two decades of advocacy and tireless work, with Cynthia at the helm of the organization for 16 years.

"Words cannot express the gratitude I have for Autism Nova Scotia's staff and board for the work they do every day for the autism community," said Cynthia Carroll, Executive Director, Autism Nova Scotia. "It has been 16 years of growth, hard work, and passion. As I move on to the next opportunity, I'll continue to be a leader for inclusion and equitable access."

"On behalf of Autism Nova Scotia's provincial board of directors, I offer Cynthia our immense appreciation for her outstanding leadership," said David Nicholson, Board Chair, Autism Nova Scotia. "Her dedication to the autism community has made an indelible mark, and we know she will continue to break down barriers and inspire positive change in her next chapter."

Benefitting from her leadership, Autism Nova Scotia has grown from three employees in 2008 to a province-wide organization employing more than 100 people throughout 10 regional autism centres. Not only did she lead the organization through the Covid pandemic, Cynthia supported the rural expansion of QuickStart Nova Scotia, strengthened employment and independent living programs and sat on numerous committees in support of the disability community.

In addition to acting as a past chair of the Autism Alliance of Canada, Cynthia was named one of Atlantic Business Magazine's Top 50 CEOs in 2021. Next month, Cynthia will become an Associate Deputy Minister [ADM] with the Department of Community Services.

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#### **About Autism Nova Scotia:**

Autism Nova Scotia is a non-profit community-based organization that builds understanding, acceptance, and inclusion for Autistics/individuals on the autism spectrum and their families through leadership, advocacy, education, training, and programming across the lifespan. Autism Nova Scotia was founded in 2002 by Joan and Jack Craig, parents of an autistic adult son.

Autism Nova Scotia delivers programming in Halifax and across Nova Scotia through our 10 Regional Autism Centres. Our programs and services include Social & Community Inclusion; Mental Health & Wellness; Post Secondary & Employment Support; Community Engagement; and Family & Caregiver Support.

[www.autismnovascotia.ca](http://www.autismnovascotia.ca)