

5945 Spring Garden Road Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1Y4

BN #891950305RR0001

Board Members

Board Chair

Catherine Rahey Autism Consultant Complex Cases and Learning CentreConsulting Services

Vice Chair

William Lahey President and Vice-Chancellor University of King's College

Treasurer

Greg Smith, CPA, CA Director of Finance Payzant Building Products Ltd

Honorary Member

Joan M. Craig, C.M. Founder Autism Nova Scotia

Members at Large

Sarah Boyne, MSc. S-LP (c) Speech-Language Pathologist

Allison Garber Owner Allison Garber Communications

Janean Marshall Director of Academic Services Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey

Dave Nicholson, FCPA, FCMA Chief Financial Officer Atlantic Subway

Paul De Wolfe, B.A., CFA, FRM Retired Banking Professional Former Senior Vice President, Corporate Banking Mentor in Financial Literacy Initiatives

Dr. Abraham (Rami) Rudnick BMedSc, MD, MPsych, PhD, FRCPC, CCPE, CPRRP, MCIL, DFCPA, mMBA

Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Bioethics and School of Occupational Therapy, Dalhousie University; Clinical Director, Nova Scotia Operational Stress Injury Clinic, Nova Scotia Health Authority

> Dr. Robert Strang Parent

> > Ian Sutherland Partner Stewart McKelvey

Tim Houston Leader, Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia

November 14, 2024

Dear Premier Houston,

On behalf of Autism Nova Scotia, I am reaching out to request your continued support in the work and implementation of the Autism Action Plan, a commitment made by your government earlier this year. This plan is essential for providing equitable, sustainable support to Autistic individuals across Nova Scotia, ensuring they have access to the resources and services necessary to thrive.

Autistic individuals and their families continue to face significant challenges in accessing timely, appropriate support for respite, education, employment, and housing. By fulfilling the Autism Action Plan, your party would take critical steps toward addressing these needs, thereby advancing both inclusivity and quality of life for the autistic community in Nova Scotia.

The Autism Action Plan offers a roadmap for developing inclusive, community-focused services that benefit Autistic individuals of all ages and their families. It promises not only to enhance support systems but also to empower Autistic people to participate fully in their communities.

We urge you to honor your commitment by prioritizing the implementation of this plan. Together, we can ensure Nova Scotia leads the way in creating a province where every Autistic individual can live a full life.

Thank you for your dedication to the autistic community. We look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Amanda Alxand

Amanda Alexander, Interim Executive Director Autism Nova Scotia

Catherine Rakey

Catherine Rahey, Autism Nova Scotia