

# 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

Zach Churchill Leader, Nova Scotia Liberal Party

November 14, 2024

Dear Honourable Zach Churchill,

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

Autistic individuals and their families face ongoing challenges in accessing timely support for respite, education, employment, and housing. By recognizing 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 provides a roadmap for developing inclusive, communityfocused 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 prioritize the implementation of this plan within your party's platform. 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