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## **A Remedy for Dreams**

**Winnipeg, April 26, 2023** – A recent ruling in Nova Scotia is cause for celebration for people with disabilities in that province. It began in 2013 when three people with disabilities and the Disability Rights Coalition sued the province over their right to live in the community and not in an institution. Like many court cases, it took a long time get resolved. But in 2021, the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal made a ruling on the case. The court agreed that people with disabilities were being treated unfairly by the province.

After the ruling, the Disability Rights Coalition and the Department of Community Services began working together. They worked to find a solution to end the unfair treatment of people with disabilities and to change the way supports are provided. They call this solution a ‘human rights remedy.’ But many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities call it a dream come true.

Leta Jarvis is an institutional survivor, a member of People First Nova Scotia, and a member of the People First of Canada and Inclusion Canada’s Joint Task Force on Deinstitutionalization. She said, “This plan is about getting people with disabilities out in the community to have a life. My brother is still in an institution and I want him to have choices, a chance to dream and have a voice about who he lives with and where.”

The remedy will close institutions in Nova Scotia within five years. The remedy will also see individual planning and funding that goes to the person with a disability to decide how it is spent. The remedy is also changing the way of thinking about living in the community with the right supports.

Charlie Lemon, President of People First Nova Scotia, said, “People should have control over where they live, with who, and what they do. They should be able to decide what they eat, where they can go and how to spend their own money.”

It has been said that the remedy in this case has made for a big change of heart, mindset and culture in Nova Scotia. The remedy is moving the province from the worst to the first in many ways. Dewlyn Lobo, President of People First of Canada, said, “It is good that human rights won out in this case. Everybody should have the right to live in community with supports. Everybody should get to make their own decisions. Everybody should have a chance for their dreams to come true.”

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People First of Canada is the national voice of people who have been labelled with an intellectual or developmental disability. For further information contact Shelley Fletcher, Executive Director, Phone: 204-784-7362 or by Email: [sfletcher@peoplefirstofcanada.ca](mailto:sfletcher@peoplefirstofcanada.ca) Find out more at [www.peoplefirstofcanada.ca](http://www.peoplefirstofcanada.ca)

People First Nova Scotia (PFNS) is a self advocacy group of members who have been labelled with an intellectual disability. For further information, contact Cyndi Carruthers, Executive Director, Phone: 902-893-3033 or by email: [pfns2014@gmail.com](mailto:pfns2014@gmail.com)