



**Department of  
Community Services**  
Office of the Minister

PO Box 696  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2T7

Our File Number:

Ms. Jeanne Sarson  
167 Evergreen Dr.  
Truro, NS  
B2N 6H9

APR - 4 2000

Dear Ms. Sarson:

As a participant, you are aware Nova Scotia undertook a unique and extensive consultation on the National Children's Agenda (NCA). It was our objective that as many Nova Scotians as wished would have the opportunity to participate.

The Prime Minister and Premiers delegated responsibility for the NCA to the federal/provincial/territorial Ministerial Council on the Social Union. Five regional consultation sessions were held as part of the national consultations. The one in Atlantic Canada was in St. John's, Newfoundland. In order to give Nova Scotians the opportunity to provide input in the formation of a comprehensive long term strategy to improve the well-being of children, a provincial consultation process was undertaken. Six consultation sessions were held around the province; in addition, special sessions were organized for youth, a consultation was organized and facilitated by the Black community, and focus groups were held with parents/organizations supporting children with special needs.

We are extremely pleased to append the Report on the 1999 Nova Scotia Consultation Process. This report will be sent to the federal government to form part of the National Consultation on the NCA. This report reflects the overall directions of Nova Scotians. The quality of this report is a result of the valuable input we heard from participants like you. We heard common messages such as the need for support for the care of children, the need for economic security, respect for diversity, prevention, child and youth friendly communities, equitable access to services, collaboration with the community and the need for evaluation. The most predominant overall message we heard was a "call for action". We look to the federal government to partner with us to enable Nova Scotia to act on these issues.

In closing, I want to express my sincerest appreciation for your input into the Nova Scotia consultation. I am hopeful that through this consultation we have made a valuable contribution to a comprehensive children's agenda.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Christie

Attachment



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