



Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities
Phone/TTY: 902.455.6942 - Toll Free: 1.866.696.7536
nsleo2018@outlook.com
www.nsleo.com

Charitable Registration #119063477RR0001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY

ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK – May 31st to June 4th

Halifax, Nova Scotia (May 30th, 2021) 2021 marks 34 years of Nova Scotia's leadership in raising awareness on disabilities issues through the Partnership for Access Awareness Nova Scotia (PAANS). Issues of ability and inclusion are important year-round. However, Access Awareness Week is an opportunity that allows Nova Scotians to really promote these issues to audiences from all walks of life. Through press conferences, forums, concerts, and community events we engage the broader community on issues that are sometimes forgotten.

On **Monday, May 31st** the Honourable Randy Delorey, Minister of Justice, and Halifax Regional Municipality's Mayor, Mike Savage, offer welcoming remarks heralding in Nova Scotia's 2021 Access Awareness Week.

The Impact of COVID-19 on Persons with Disabilities Panel Discussion

The Honourable Kelly Regan, Deputy Premier, brings opening remarks to the virtual panel discussion with first voice on the impact of COVID on persons with disabilities on **Wednesday, June 2nd from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**. Moderated by the Honourable Kevin Murphy, Nova Scotia's Speaker of the House, this year's theme focuses on *Awareness to Action: Where we were; where we are; where we want to be and how do we get there*.

Scholarships for Students with Disabilities & Presentation of Mel Hebb Hourglass Action Awards

Partnership for Access Awareness Nova Scotia (PAANS) is pleased to announce the provincial recipients of thirteen Scholarships for Students with Disabilities and four Mel Hebb Hourglass Action Award winners.

The Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, Minister of Labour & Advanced Education will bring welcoming remarks during a virtual celebration co-hosted by Gerry Post and Debbie Adams on **Friday, June 4th from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**.

Please join us in celebrating the achievements of our provincial students:

Jannie Baker – New Waterford

Melody Brittain – Plympton
Braedon Carter – River Tillard
Gabrielle Close – Beaverbank
Tyler Cross – Bridgewater
Alexandra DeCoste – Afton
Lee Gilbert – Central Onslow
Ruby Harrington – Glenholme
Amber Hattie – Plymouth
Emily Innocent – Portuguese Cove
Kayla MacKinnon – Dartmouth
Karlee Saulnie – Hortonville
Anton Sianchuk – Halifax

Please also join us in recognizing the leadership demonstrated by our 2021 Mel Hebb Award recipients:

Access Award – Chrysalis House, Ginger McPhee, Executive Director
Andre McConnell Award – Maria Medioli, Executive Director, Disability Support Programs, Dept. of Community Services
Community Action Award – Port Morien Wildlife Association, Jeff McNeil & Stan Peach
Exceptional Service Award – Cynthia Carrol, Executive Director, Autism Nova Scotia

On behalf of the Partnership for Access Awareness Nova Scotia (PAANS) we would like to take this opportunity to thank the many communities around the province for joining us in recognizing and celebrating Nova Scotia's 34th Provincial Access Awareness Week through videos and Proclamations:

The Honourable Kelly Regan, Deputy Premier
The Honourable Kevin Murphy, Speaker of the House
The Honourable Randy Delorey, Minister of Justice
The Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, Minister of Labour & Advanced Education

Halifax Regional Municipality Council & Mayor Mike Savage
Cape Breton Regional Municipality Council & Mayor Amanda McDougall
New Glasgow Council & Mayor Nancy Dicks
Town of Wolfville Council & Mayor Wendy Donovan
Kentville Council & Mayor Sandra Snow
County of Annapolis Council & Deputy Warden Michael Gunn
Municipality of Argyle & Council Warden Danny Muise
Richmond County Council & Warden Amanda Mombourquette

This free virtual event is open to all however you must register using the following link to attend:

[ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK NOVA SCOTIA - May 30, 2021 \(pheedloop.com\)](https://pheedloop.com)

[ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK NOVA SCOTIA - May 30, 2021](https://pheedloop.com)

ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK NOVA SCOTIA by Partnership for Access Awareness on May 30, 2021. Online.

Register now and learn more!

pheedloop.com

Partnership for Access Awareness Nova Scotia (PAANS) is a committee of the Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities that celebrates the diversity and abilities of people with disabilities. PAANS is dedicated to promoting the inclusion of all Nova Scotians with disabilities as full citizens within the community. Through public awareness, community partnerships and education PAANS fosters an environment of equal participation for persons with disabilities within Nova Scotia.