



NOVA SCOTIA
Health and Wellness
Office of the Minister

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Robert C. Fougere
901-2677 Gladstone St.
Halifax, NS B3K 0A3

Dear Mr. Fougere:

Thank you for writing to me about coverage for sex reassignment surgery under MSI. I fully agree with you that this surgery can improve quality of life for many individuals.

I was proud last fall when our NDP government amended Nova Scotia's *Human Rights Act* to include protection for transgendered persons. At the time, the Department of Health and Wellness began work to understand how best to address access to surgical procedures associated with transgender surgery.

I was very pleased to confirm that Nova Scotia will fund these procedures under MSI.

I want to acknowledge the hard work and activism of the LGBTI community on this issue. Groups such as the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Coalition have been a strong voice for trans* rights and their input into this change was invaluable.

Moving forward we will continue to make changes to improve the quality of life for transgendered Nova Scotians by providing options and support during their transition. Providing affirmative and appropriate services to the LGBTI community, youth in particular, is one of the priorities of our Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. Amongst other changes, there are now more Gay-Straight Alliance groups in Nova Scotia high schools than ever before.

I know that Nova Scotians are supportive of the LGBTI community, and I am so pleased to be able to facilitate these changes in policy.

Sincerely,

David A. Wilson
Minister

- c. Premier Darrell Dexter
Honourable Maureen MacDonald
Honourable Christopher d'Entremont
Mr. Leo Glavine
Mr. Lucas Thorne-Humphrey, NSRAP