

An Update from Nova Scotia

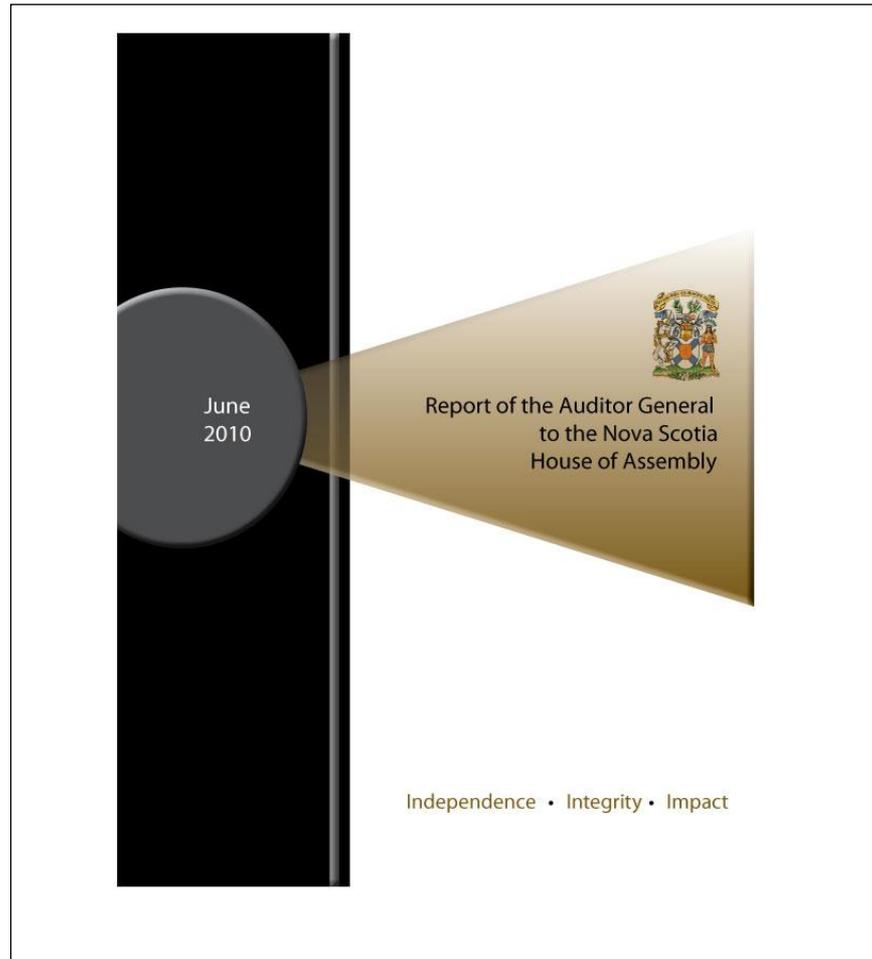


SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA
A REASON TO HOPE. THE MEANS TO COPE.

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Executive Director
Schizophrenia Society of Nova Scotia

Schizophrenia Society of Canada
National Conference
July 28, 2010
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Report of the Auditor General



www.oag-ns.ca/June2010/full%20report.pdf

The objectives of the audit were to assess whether:

- there is timely access to mental health services across Nova Scotia;
- adequate mental health information is readily available to the public;
- mental health services' wait time information is consistently and accurately prepared across the province;
- the provision of mental health services is in compliance with the *Standards for Mental Health Services in Nova Scotia*;
- DOH adequately monitors compliance with *Standards for Mental Health Services in Nova Scotia*; and
- there is adequate governance of the mental health system by, and accountability to, the Department of Health.

Findings:

- “... inadequate oversight of the mental health system ...”
- “... no effective monitoring of compliance with mental health standards ...”

Both of the above directed at the Nova Scotia Department of Health.

Findings:

- “The Department [of Health] is not fulfilling its legislative requirements under the *Health Authorities Act* to monitor and evaluate the quality of mental Health Services.”
- “... Only 14% of 358 files tested met all selected standards ...”
- “CDHA only had 1 file (1%) which met all standards tested.”

Findings:

- “Failure to comply with mental health standards negatively impacts patient care across the province and increases the risk of poor patient outcomes.”
- “The lack of effective oversight significantly increases the risk of creating a disjointed system that fails the people who need it most.”

Department of Health Response:

- “We accept this report and we agree with all 19 recommendations.”
- “This document will be of value for current service enhancements and as we move forward in the development of a **Mental Health Strategy for Nova Scotia.**”

Mental Health Strategy for Nova Scotia

- Co-Chairs for an oversight committee announced on June 1, 2010:
 - Dr. Michael Ungar, professor, School of Social Work, Dalhousie University
 - Ms. Joyce McDonald, former executive director, Colchester-East Hants Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association
- “... a commitment by government to revamp mental health and addictions services across the province.”
- “The committee will develop a strategy, a consultation process and monitor progress.”

The Hyde Inquiry



Howard Hyde

October 6, 1962, to November 22, 2007

The Hyde Inquiry

Fatality Investigations Act



Judge Anne Derrick

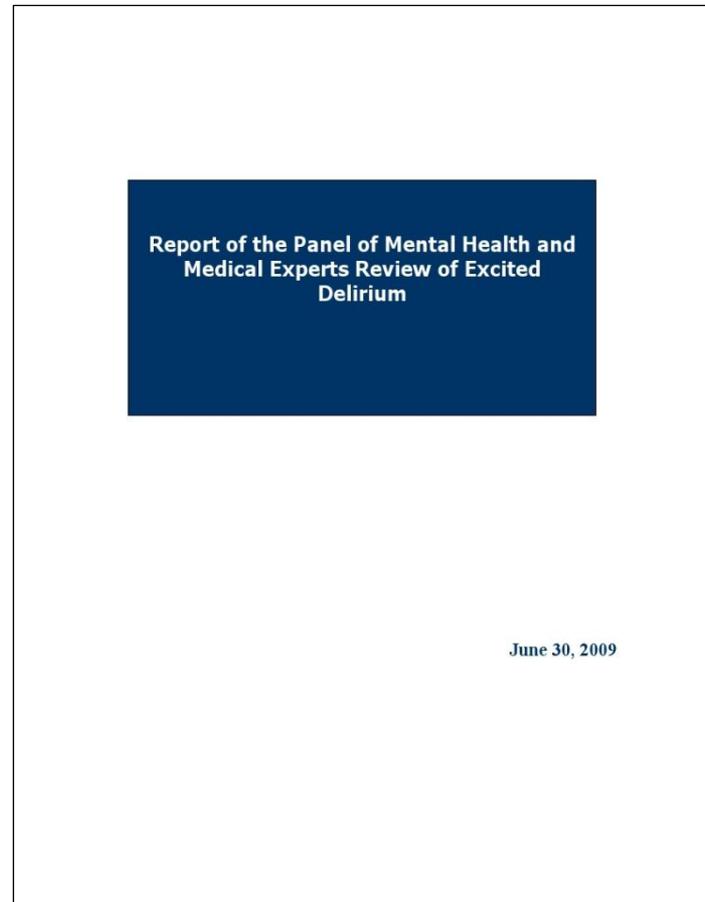


Mr. Blair Mitchell
Lead Counsel
Schizophrenia Society of Nova Scotia

The Hyde Inquiry

- February 18, 2009, to June 10, 2010
- Broadcast live over the Internet
- In session for a total of 56 days (11.2 non-consecutive weeks)
- Heard testimony from 84 witnesses
- Examined 300 exhibits
- Produced more than 11,000 pages of transcript
- 196 recommendations submitted by the parties and Inquiry Counsel
- Additional recommendations made during closing submissions
- Judge Derrick expects to complete her report later this year (2010)

Panel of Mental Health and Medical Experts Review of Excited Delirium



http://gov.ns.ca/just/public_safety/_docs/Excited%20Delirium%20Report.pdf

Panel of Mental Health and Medical Experts Review of Excited Delirium

Dr. Stan Kutcher (Chair)
Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental
Health
Department of Psychiatry
Dalhousie University

Dr. John Ross
Chief, Department of Emergency Medicine
Capital District Health Authority
Head, Department of Emergency Medicine
Dalhousie University

Dr. Stephen Ayer
Executive Director
Schizophrenia Society of Nova Scotia

Ms. Linda Smith
Executive Director
Mental Health, Children's Services and Addictions
Treatment
Nova Scotia Department of Health

Dr. Matt Bowes
Chief Medical Examiner
Medical Examiner Service
Nova Scotia Department of Justice

Dr. Scott Theriault
Clinical Director
Adult Specialty Psychiatric Services
Capital District Health Authority

Mr. Fred Sanford
Director
Policing Strategy
Nova Scotia Department of Justice

Nine Recommendations:

1. Given our current understanding of:

- the *putative patho-etiology* of the syndrome commonly called excited delirium (ED), and
- the *substantial overlap* of the signs and symptoms of ED with other well described medical and psychiatric conditions, and
- the *difficulty in ascribing specific causes* of the syndrome in the situation of first response, and in
- the *increased risk for sudden death* (with or without a struggle or restraint [including the conducted energy device]) and as a result of the current *confusion* about the use of the term ED,

the panel recommends that the term '*autonomic hyperarousal state*' (AHS) be used as a preferred descriptor for the signs and symptoms described above.

7. The panel recommends the **development of a provincial training plan** for first responders that addresses, at minimum:

- For all first responders, recognition of signs and symptoms of mental illness and appropriate response;
- Specialized training for call-takers and dispatchers to recognize the characteristics of calls likely involving persons with mental illness;
- More intensive training for a designated group of law enforcement officers who are to be called to the scene of incidents involving persons with mental illness; and
- Training for all EHS providers in the recognition of the signs and symptoms of AHS and appropriate responses.

8. The panel recommends that a formal protocol be developed in each area of the province that describes the role of law enforcement (and other emergency responders) and health professionals to acutely mentally ill persons, including those who may be suffering from AHS, based on the best practices described in this report.
9. The panel further recommends that an evaluation process be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the protocols.

Bill 50

An Act to Amend Chapter 37 of the Acts of 2005, the Correctional Services Act, and Chapter 31 of the Acts of 2004, the Police Act



Private Members Bill
The Honourable Michel P. Samson
Liberal, Richmond

Royal Assent: May 11, 2010

Bill 50

Be it enacted by the Governor and Assembly as follows:

1 Chapter 37 of the Acts of 2005, the **Correctional Services Act**, is amended by adding immediately after Section 16 the following Section:

16A The Minister shall approve and implement uniform training programs and guidelines for employees who work with individuals with mental disabilities.

2 (1) Section 5 of Chapter 31 of the Acts of 2004, the **Police Act**, is amended by adding immediately after subsection (1) the following subsection:

(1A) The Minister shall approve uniform training programs and guidelines for police officers who work with individuals with mental disabilities.

(2) Subsection 5(3) of Chapter 31 is amended by adding ", (1A)" immediately after "(1)" in the first line.