



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

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"Ambiguous Crossroads":
Persons with Mental Health Problems and the Criminal Justice System
February 1, 2013
Halifax, Nova Scotia

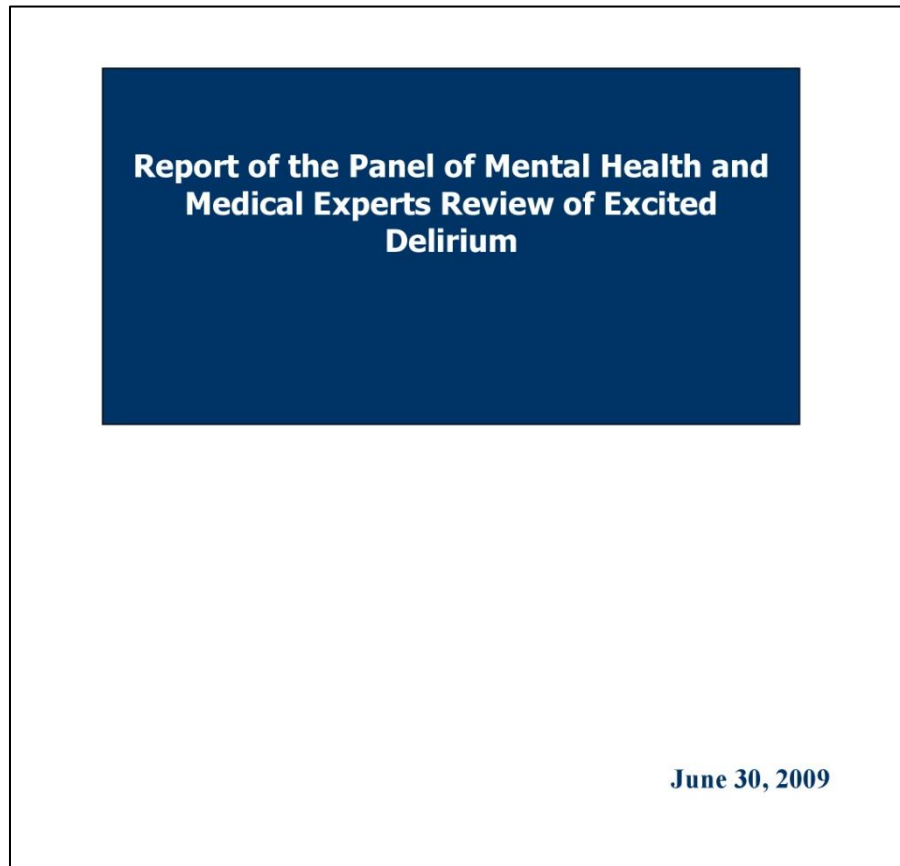
The Hyde Inquiry (2009-2010)



Howard Hyde

October 6, 1962, to November 22, 2007

Report of the Panel of Mental Health and Medical Experts Review of Excited Delirium (2009)



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

Bill 50 (2010)

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.

This Bill amends the Correctional Services Act and the Police Act to **require the development and implementation of uniform training programs and guidelines for correctional services employees and police officers who work with individuals with mental disabilities.**

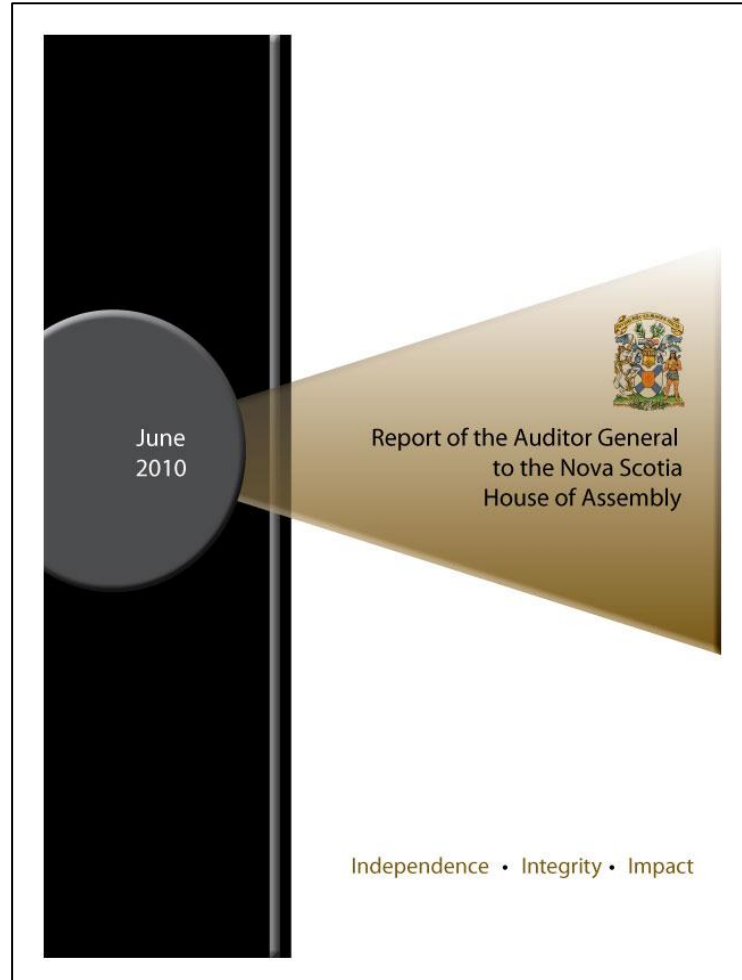
Private Members Bill

The Honourable Michel P. Samson
Liberal, Richmond

Royal Assent: May 11, 2010



Report of the Auditor General (2010)



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

Findings:

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

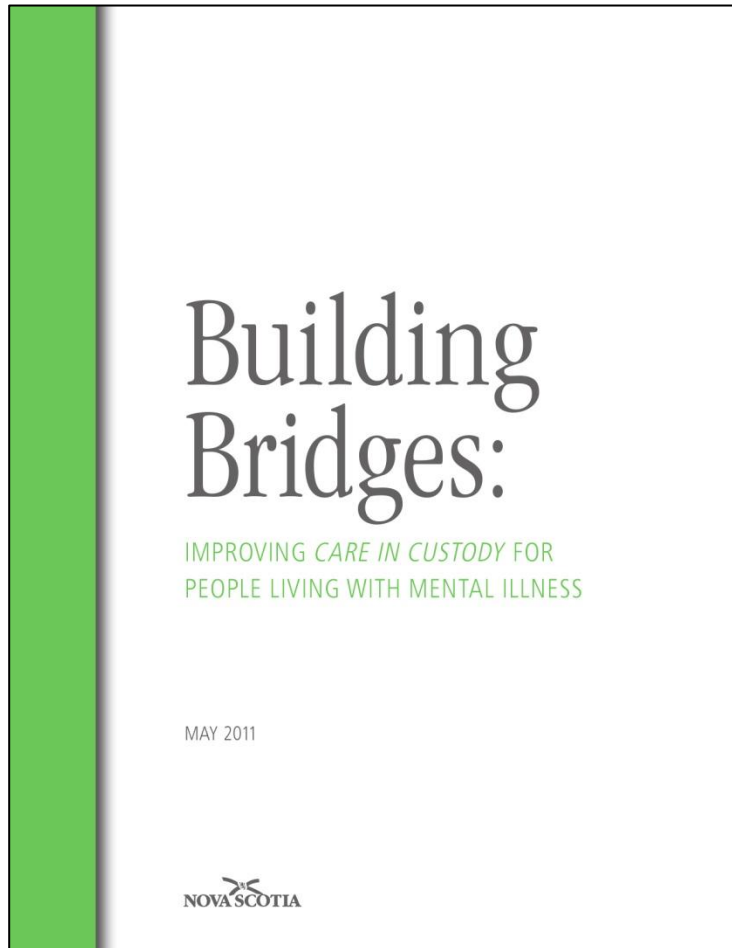
- “We accept this report and we agree with all 19 recommendations.”
- “This document will be of value for current service enhancements and as we move forward in the development of a **Mental Health Strategy for Nova Scotia.**”

Report of the Fatality Inquiry into the Death of Howard Hyde (2010)



http://www.courts.ns.ca/hyde_inquiry/hyde_inquiry_report.pdf

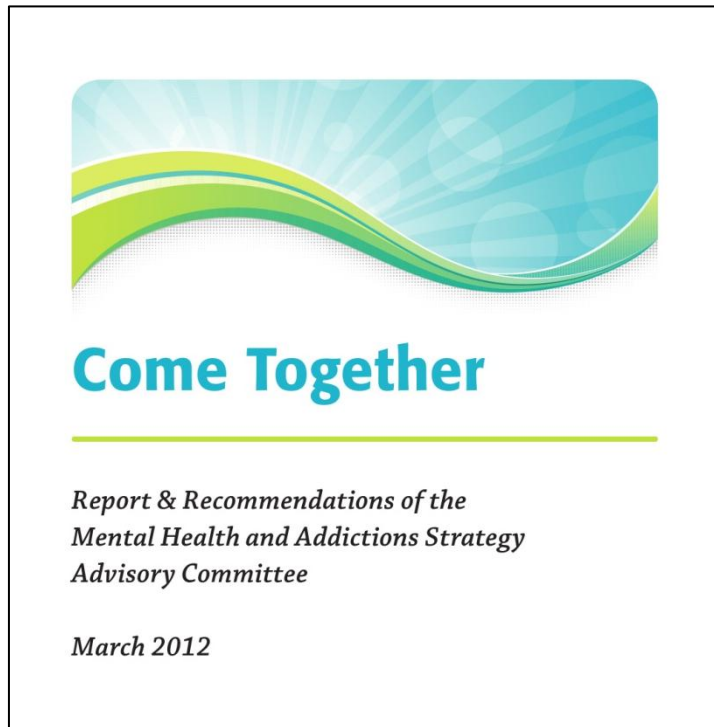
Building Bridges: Improving Care In Custody for People Living With Mental Illness (2011)



“In 2012, the province will release its progress report on the plan.”

http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/global_docs/Building_Bridges_Hyde_Report.pdf

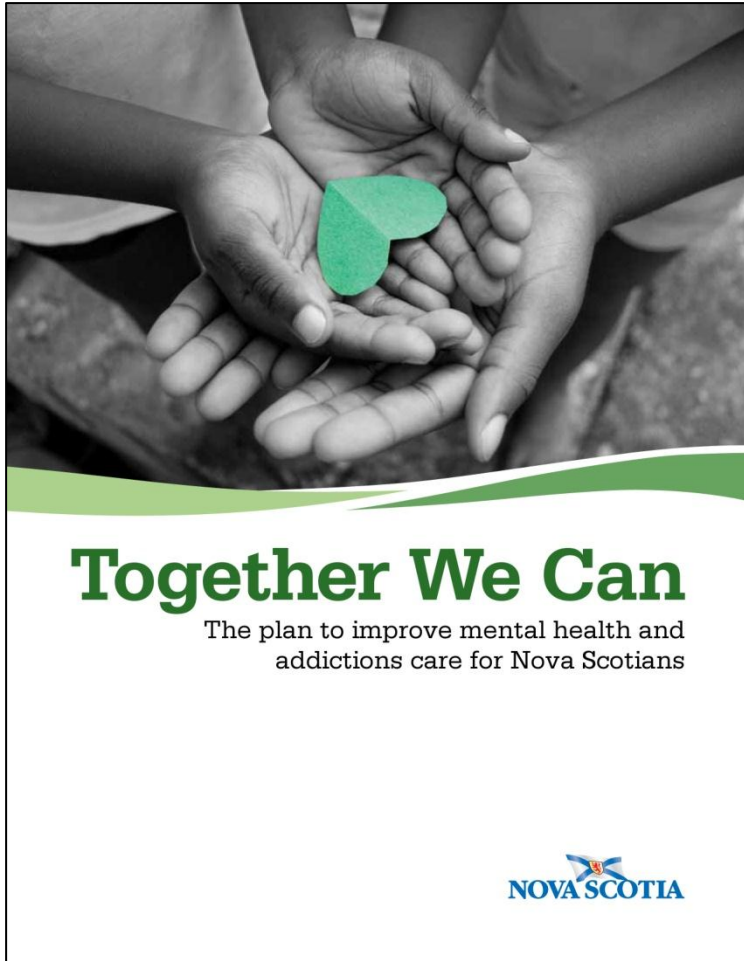
Come Together: Report & Recommendations of the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Advisory Committee (2012)



2.4-1 Provide additional mental health and addictions services **to ensure timely access and to meet the need for service within provincial correctional services.** Review the space requirements for such enhancements and **ensure sufficient and appropriate treatment space is available within correctional facilities.**

2.4-2 Provide best practice anti-stigma education to health care providers, Emergency Department staff, police and corrections workers **to establish a greater level of comfort and skill** in dealing with individuals who have mental health and/or addictions issues, **and are or have been in conflict with the law.**

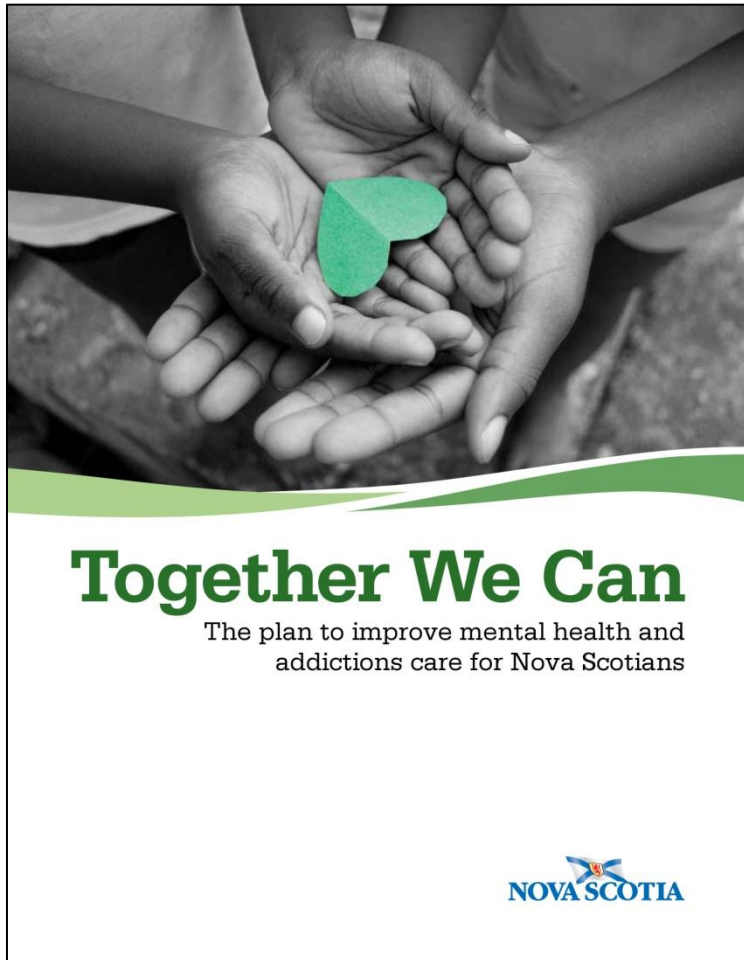
Together We Can: The plan to improve mental health and addictions care for Nova Scotians (2012)



“Care in custody is being improved for people who are living with mental illness through *Building Bridges* [...]. **Improvements include better training, stronger partnerships, and information-sharing between the criminal justice and health-care systems.**”

“**The Mental Health Court**, the first of its kind in Nova Scotia, now hears cases involving adults who have been charged with a criminal offence and have a mental illness but are competent to participate in the criminal justice system. The goal is to **treat these individuals fairly and compassionately, and help them improve their mental health to reduce the risk to public safety.**”

Together We Can: The plan to improve mental health and addictions care for Nova Scotians (2012)



ACTION:

Incarcerated adults **will receive the mental health and addictions services they need**, through collaborative work between Capital District Health Authority, district health authorities, and the Department of Justice.