



SHYFT Youth Services, PO Box 2000, Yarmouth, NS, B5A 1E5

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April 12, 2012

Dear Minister Peterson- Rafuse,

It has come to our attention that response letters have been going to concerned citizens in our community regarding SHYFT in which you are explaining your decisions in regards to SHYFT and the services that are to be funded in our area. We are concerned to note that you have stated that we have "refused to continue this partnership" with your department.

At no time have we refused this partnership with your department. We have disagreed with your department as to how services for homeless youth in our community should be delivered, however this disagreement does not constitute a refusal. In fact, we have a signed agreement with your department in which it states we will continue to partner with your department by offering your new youth outreach position for our area through SHYFT. Disagreement, debate and honest dialogue are paramount in a democratic society.

By expressing our community's belief that a 24/7 model of service was still needed in our community and that funding for SHYFT should be provided, as no other consistent and supportive overnight option is available, we were not refusing to work with the department.

We continue to see the Department of Community Service as an important partner in the work that has been done and continues to be needed to be done in our community.

We have hired our Youth Outreach Worker and she commenced providing services on Monday April 2nd. from the SHYFT House location.

Sincerely,

Jude Fulton

Co-chair SHYFT Youth Services Society