

The first week of the Commission on Inclusive Education's public engagement has already seen more than 1,400 Nova Scotians have their say, both online and in person.

"We're delighted with the response so far," said Sarah Shea, chair of the commission. "It's important for us to hear the perspectives of parents, students and teachers. We are looking to Nova Scotians to tell us about the successes and the challenges with the existing model of inclusion, and especially to provide us with solutions for moving forward."

Along with Ms. Shea, commission members Monica Williams and Adela Njie have visited schools from Yarmouth to Cape Breton, with more visits planned in the coming weeks.

"We have seen some really innovative programs where administrative staff and teachers are working together to support student success," said Ms. Williams. "However, we know this isn't everyone's experience, so we need to hear first voice stories, ideas and suggestions for making things better for our students."

"It's been very inspiring to see the innovations underway in our schools - and equally frustrating to know that some students are still not getting the support they need," added Ms. Njie. "Public engagement now and through to the submission of our final report will be crucial to achieving positive and meaningful change."

The public workshop in Halifax takes place today, Nov. 27, at 6:30 p.m. with a full registration of 300 participants.

The public engagement continues until Dec. 15 with an online survey and options to submit feedback in writing or by video. Visit www.inclusiveedns.ca for details on how to share feedback.