



THE REPORT OF THE

CGRA

Canadian Grandparents Rights Association Established in 1986

PROGRESS IN CANADA—

RECOGNITION FOR FAMILIES

- Grandparents' rights boosted by new law in Nova Scotia
- Parental Alienation Awareness Day on April 25th is now marked annually in many corners of the globe— and progress is being made on various fronts.
- The first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was on June 15, 2012, and it's on the same date this year.
- Intergenerational Day is on June 1, 2014

HELPING FAMILIES IN DISTRESS

Since 1986, the Canadian Grandparents Rights Association has been helping Canadian families in distress after a divorce or death in the family.

QUESTIONS ?

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GOOD NEWS FOR NOVA SCOTIA'S GRANDPARENTS AND GRANDCHILDREN

After many years and a long battle for grandchildren and grandparents' rights in the Maritimes, Nova Scotia's grandparent's group have finally won the first battle.

New custody rights for grandparents in Nova Scotia came into effect on Monday, Sept 1, 2014. Changes will be made to the Maintenance and Custody Act. Over many years in this province, grandparents have been unfairly shut out in custody cases. In the past, grandparents seeking access had to ask the court's permission for standing before they could proceed to a hearing regarding access to their grandchildren.

GRANDPARENTS MAY ASK FOR CONTINUING ACCESS

With Bill 40, grandparents will not have to apply for standing. The court will recognize grandparents as part of the family where parents divorce or separate, and grandparents may ask for continuing access.

Pauline Glenn, a National Director for the Canadian Grandparents Rights Association, and a leader with the advocacy group *Grandparents Rights for Nova Scotia*, has been fighting for this day for 14 years.

"Although a cloudy and rainy day, for Nova Scotia's grandparents and grandchildren it's a sunny day," Pauline said on CBC Radio's Information Morning during an interview on Bill 40.

When the Nova Scotia Justice Minister Lena Dian introduced the changes earlier this year, she said the amendments to the Maintenance and Custody Act would remove this step so courts would proceed directly to considering requests from grandparents for contact.

"We have a voice now," Pauline said. "The courts will look at us more positively, because we have rights." It could save time and legal fees, as well. Pauline hopes the next step will be to expand the conciliation processes to include grandparents. Glenn compares losing access to grandchildren to experiencing a death in the family.

Warmest regards to you all for the rest of 2014.
Daphne Jennings, CGRA

