



More than \$300,000 granted to Health and Wellness Programs in the Tri-Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yarmouth, NS – The strong community spirit in Nova Scotia’s Tri-Counties inspires a variety of programs aimed at improving health and well-being in the region. The Reciprocity Health Fund, an anonymous granting initiative stewarded by the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia, acknowledges the profound difference these programs can make when they receive adequate financial support. In early September the Fund awarded over \$300,000 in new grants and multi-year commitments to twelve programs, raising the total investment in Yarmouth, Digby, and Shelburne to over \$700,000 in the past three years.

The Reciprocity Health Fund supports community-based projects addressing the social determinants of health – the living conditions people experience that influence a wide range of health outcomes and risks such as food insecurity, income, education, employment, housing, gender, and access to health and social services.

This year’s grantees are making notable progress in advancing community well-being. Their efforts include expanding support for autistic individuals in rural regions, enhancing access to women’s and 2SLGBTQ+ health services, operating food pantries and a meal program, and providing healthcare transportation for the elderly and economically disadvantaged.

This year’s benefitting organizations are:

- Acts of Kindness (AOK) Society
- Autism NS – Southwest Chapter
- Beacon United Church
- Bear River First Nation
- Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia
- Shelburne County Youth Health and Support Association
- Tri-County Restorative Justice
- Tri-County Women’s Centre
- VON Tri-County
- Yarmouth Community Health and Wellness Classes
- Yarmouth Life Skills
- YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth



Maia Mathieu, executive director of the Tri-County Women’s Centre in Yarmouth, is grateful to have received renewable funding from the Reciprocity Health Fund to support the salary of a nurse practitioner for their wellness clinic for the next three years. The clinic provides many services, including improving access to primary health care for women, youth, and the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Yarmouth, Digby and Shelburne counties.

Daniel Holand, CEO of the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia, says this fund exemplifies the power of the community foundation model in uplifting our province.

“We’re inspired by the great work being done by grantee organizations and thrilled for those who are positively impacted by these programs,” says Holland. “What’s especially exciting is that the funds are generated annually from an endowment, ensuring that the Reciprocity Health Fund will continue to grow and provide significant support to the Tri-Counties forever. It’s an incredible gift for Nova Scotians, and we look forward to more initiatives like this in the future.”



Carly Levy, CFNS Stewardship & Donor Relations Manager, left, visited Reciprocity Health Grant recipients at the Tri-County Women’s Centre in Yarmouth. From second left, Maia Mathieu, Executive Director; Bethany Surette, Clinic Director; and Janelle MacDonald, Nurse Practitioner.

About Community Foundation of Nova Scotia

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (CFNS) is a charitable giving facilitator. Our purpose is to inspire giving and steward funds to help build Nova Scotia communities of respect, belonging and possibility. We help donors make sustainable charitable impact on causes they care about by endowing funds for donors, managing donation programs and convening conversations that make a positive difference in our communities.



Established in 2008, we steward over 150 funds with assets of some \$30 million in philanthropic investment under our management. We're part of Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), the national network for Canada's 200 community foundations that reaches 90 percent of the country's communities.

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