



## **Anonymous Endowment Surpasses \$1 Million in Support for Tri-Counties**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 8, 2025

**Yarmouth NS** – This year, the Reciprocity Health Fund at the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (CFNS) has granted more than \$300,000 to Nova Scotia’s Tri-Counties, raising the total investment in Yarmouth, Digby, and Shelburne counties to over \$1 million in the past four 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 meaningful strides toward health equity and social connection. Projects include increasing access to nutritious food through weekly backpack deliveries, a community kitchen, and gardening programs; expanding mental health and resilience-building supports for youth; providing culturally relevant programs for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities; offering transportation services for those facing isolation, poverty, or health challenges; and more.

This year’s benefitting organizations are:

- Acadia University and Shelburne County Community Health Board
- Acts of Kindness Society
- Aidaen Mae Fund
- Autism Nova Scotia – South West Chapter
- Digby & Area Community Gardens Society
- LungNSPEI
- Schools Plus
- Shelburne County Youth Health and Support Association
- Sou’West Nova Transit
- The Youth Project
- Thriving Together Society
- Yarmouth Wesleyan Church

A grant to Sou’West Nova Transit Association will support the offering of free first rides for new passengers. The charity provides transportation in Shelburne County, a region without



Kevin Curry, Executive Director of Sou'West Nova Transit in Shelburne County.

public transit. While services are subsidized by municipalities, donors, and grants, rides still carry a cost for users, and prospective passengers may be unsure about reaching out for their transportation needs.

Kevin Curry, Executive Director of Sou'West Nova Transit, says their drivers logged over 300,000 km last year—the equivalent of circling the earth seven and a half times—and delivered 35–45 rides every day. Thanks to their dedication, residents can reach medical appointments, run errands, and stay connected. Curry's hope is that with support from the Reciprocity Health Fund, even more people will feel confident requesting a ride, knowing their first experience is free.

A grant was also awarded to the Digby & Area Community Gardens Society to support their staffing costs for the next

three years.

Garden Manager Hiren Mistry says this multi-year grant provides him with the opportunity to expand their offerings and further support the community.

"It's honestly a dream come true," says Mistry. "The fact that I can have three years to focus on these people and the community, and build something in collaboration with the Board, it's really wonderful."

In recent weeks, the Digby & Area Community Garden has donated more than 300 pounds of fresh food to the community. Mistry has plans underway for irrigation, permaculture, berries, hazelnuts, and grapes—all aimed at increasing production and sharing it with those who need it most. Beyond addressing food insecurity, the community garden also fosters togetherness, reduces social isolation, and offers community members the mental health benefits of working with the land.



Hiren Mistry, Garden Manager at the Digby & Area Community Garden.



In a release earlier this year, CFNS announced an additional contribution of \$7.75 million to the Reciprocity Health Fund's endowment. This contribution will more than double the granting potential of the Reciprocity Health Fund, with almost \$700,000 expected to be granted in 2026.

"This is an incredible gift for residents of the Tri-Counties," says Daniel Holland, CEO of CFNS. "This endowment will generate returns, enabling granting in the region in perpetuity. More than \$1 million has been granted over the past four years, and with the growth potential of an endowment this size, the impact is only just beginning."

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is honoured to steward the Reciprocity Health Fund and looks forward to supporting the generosity of Nova Scotians and those with a connection to the province who wish to establish their own Funds at CFNS.

- 30 -

**Media Contact**

Kathleen Murphy Director, Communications  
Community Foundation of Nova Scotia  
kathleen.murphy@cfns.ca  
902-213-0025

