



**Community
Foundation**
of Nova Scotia

*Generosity Today,
for Tomorrow*

2024
Annual
Report

Cape Forchu

Land Acknowledgement

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is located on Mi'kma'ki, the sacred ancestral land and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

We are grateful to work and build community here. As stewards of the future and philanthropy, we uphold the values of collaboration and inclusivity in all that we do.

People of African descent have shared these lands, in what is now called Nova Scotia, for more than 400 years; over 50 strong and resourceful African Nova Scotian communities exist here today. Our commitment is to build relationships of understanding and mutual support with all communities in the work we do at CFNS.



A Message from our *Board Chair & CEO*

If there's one thing we've always known about Nova Scotians, it's that we show up for each other. Whether it's a neighbour lending a hand, a coach making room for every child to play, or an entire community rallying behind a cause—this province is built on generosity, kindness, and care.

That spirit shone brighter than ever this past year at the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia. Our Fundholders granted more than \$4 million across the province and beyond—our highest granting year to date. Behind every dollar is a story of impact, and we're proud to share some of those stories with you in this year's annual report.

Among the year's milestones was the launch of the CFNS VISIONS Fund—created from an \$8.5 million endowment established in 2023 to support Nova Scotians, forever. In 2024, the Fund made its first grant, marking the beginning of its lasting impact. We are proud to steward this extraordinary gift and to uphold the vision of the anonymous donor who made it possible.

Fundholders are truly the heart of what we do at CFNS. Each one brings a unique perspective on the kind of community they want to help build, and it's our privilege to help make that a reality. Whether supporting a cause close to home or creating a legacy for future generations, we're proud to help turn their generosity into real change in communities across Nova Scotia.

In 2024, we welcomed 17 new Donor Advised and Charitable Organization Funds, bringing our total to more than 160. This growth is a reflection of belief. Belief in the power of community. Belief in the potential of every Nova Scotian. And belief that, together, we can build communities of respect, belonging, and possibility.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank".

Frank Lockington
Board Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel".

Daniel Holland
CEO





Daniel Holland, CFNS CEO
Yarmouth Buoy Wall



About the Community Foundation

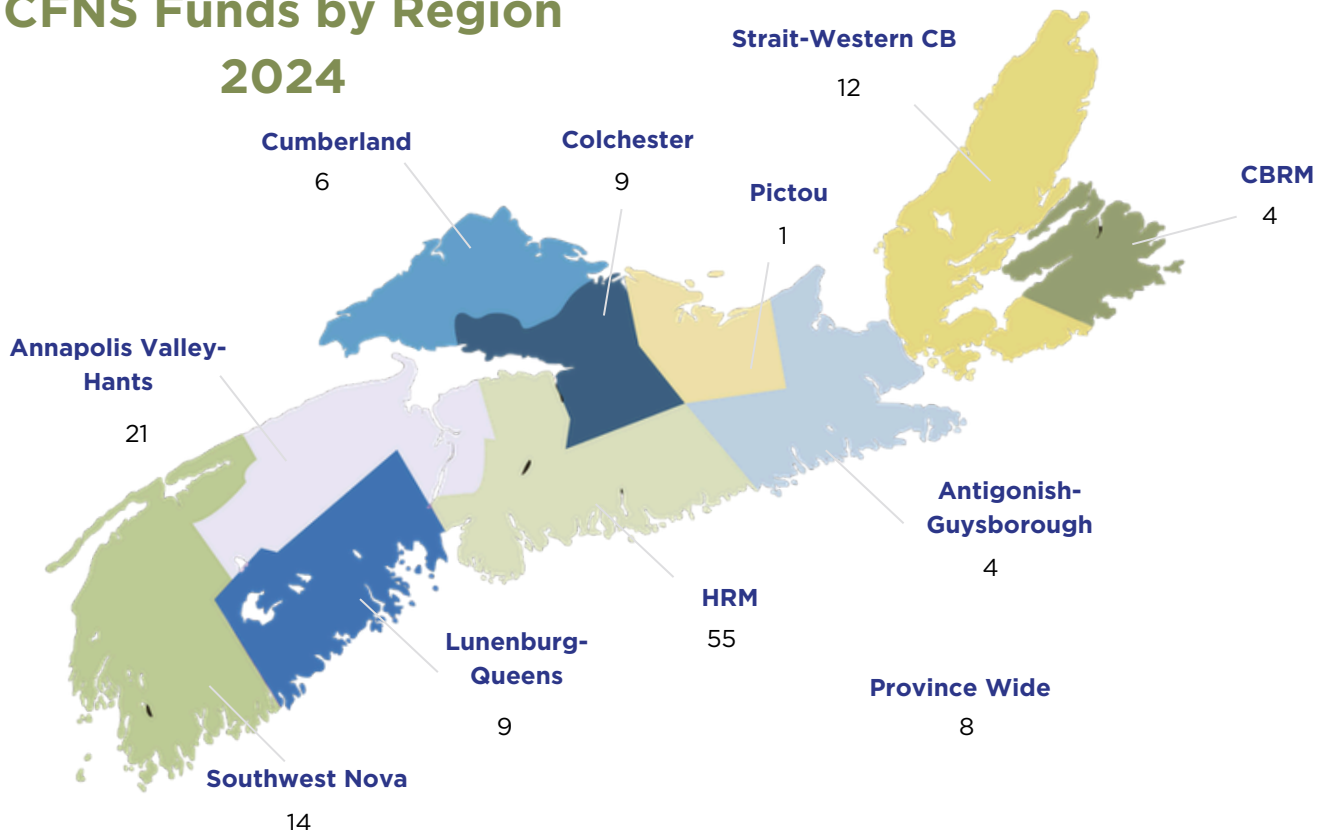
The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (CFNS) is a charitable giving facilitator.

We help donors make a sustainable philanthropic impact on causes they care about at the grassroots level. We endow funds for donors, manage donation programs, and convene conversations that make a positive difference in our communities.

We do this through three funding streams: Donor-Advised Funds, Impact Funds that target specific priorities, and Community Funds created and guided by communities.

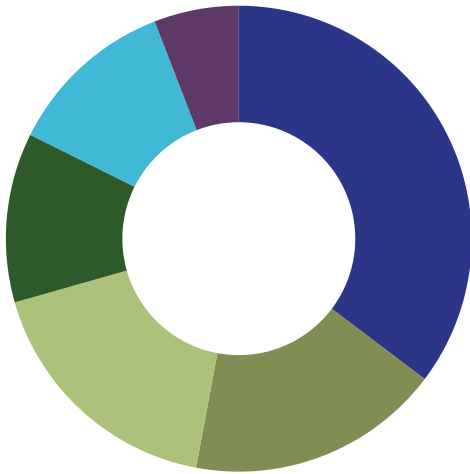
Our ultimate vision is to build vibrant communities of respect, belonging and possibility across Nova Scotia that have the resources to care for their own needs.

CFNS Funds by Region 2024



New Funds 2024

CFNS welcomed 17 new Funds in 2024, including newly established managed, flow-through, and endowment Funds. Some were created by first-time Fundholders, while others were opened by existing Fundholders looking to expand or diversify their philanthropic impact.



New Funds by Type

- Scholarship & Award: 6
- Charitable Organization: 3
- Individual & Family Donor-Advised: 3
- Community: 2
- Thematic: 2
- Future Fund: 1

160

Total Funds in 2024

17

Funds Established in 2024



Digital Nova Scotia *TechQuity Award*

The Digital Nova Scotia (DNS) TechQuity Award was established in 2024 to support African Nova Scotian students pursuing undergraduate studies in the technology sector. This landmark initiative, made possible through a \$100,000 Endowment Fund, underscores DNS's commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion in the digital industry.

Digital Nova Scotia is proud to celebrate Hamza Abawajy, a first-year applied computer science student at Dalhousie University, as the inaugural recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship.

“This award means a lot to me because it allows me to pursue my degree to my full capacity. Thank you, Digital Nova Scotia, for choosing me to represent them as the first recipient of their inaugural award. I am truly honoured.”

Hamza Abawajy, recipient of the inaugural Digital Nova Scotia TechQuity Award





The Kentville Volunteer Fire Department Memorial Bursary supports students from Central Kings, Horton, and Northeast Kings who have shown an interest in first responder work. Starting in 2025, three \$1,000 bursaries will be awarded each year to encourage achievement and success in future community leaders.

Carl Knox
Former Captain
Kentville Volunteer Fire
Department

Brian Taylor
Photography



Alana Hirtle

CFNS Board Member & Portapique Volunteer
Portapique Community Centre Playground



Portapique *Build-Up Fund*



Volunteers at the Portapique Community Hall preparing a meal for neighbours

The tragic events of April 18 and 19, 2020 left a lasting impact on the hearts of Nova Scotians. For those who lost loved ones, and for friends and neighbours who lost cherished members of their community, the grief remains profound. But so too does the strength and resilience of the Portapique community.

In the summer of 2020, the Rotary Club of Truro connected with Portapique residents to ask a simple but powerful question: How can we help? From those conversations, a shared vision took shape—a renewed community hall that would be fully accessible, welcoming to all, and a space for healing, gathering, and growing together.

A Fund was opened at CFNS to support fundraising efforts for a new playground, which opened in 2021, and the new Portapique Community Centre, which opened its doors on May 31, 2024. It now hosts suppers, dances, fitness classes, youth programming, and more—bringing life and laughter back to a community space. The Portapique Community Build-Up Fund at CFNS remains active, continuing to support ongoing programming and ensure the hall stays vibrant for generations to come.

The Portapique Community Centre uses an alternative, traditional spelling of 'Portapique' that differs from the community's current spelling.





**Chantelle's parents, Kelly & Mark Lindsay
and family friend, Blake**

Masstown

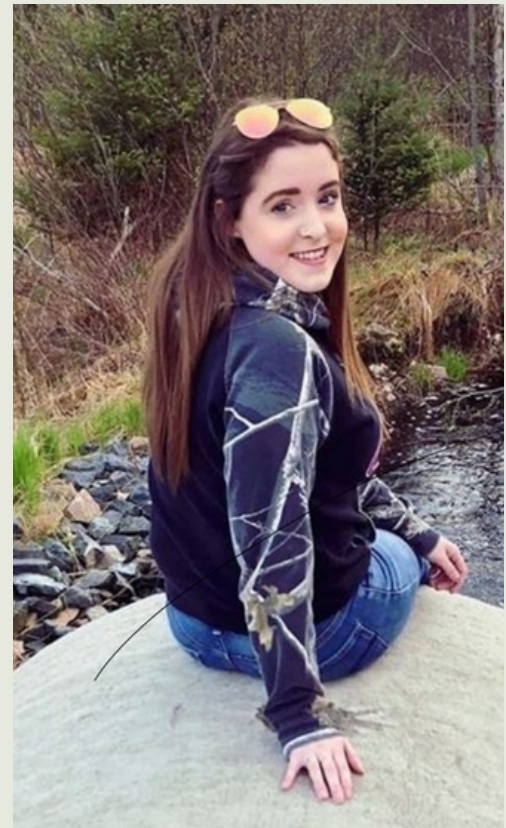
Chantelle Lindsay *Legacy Fund*

If you've heard of Chantelle's Pumpkin Blast, you know that it isn't your regular fall fair. There's a giant pumpkin drop, a pie-eating contest, a dance, and three pumpkin-shooting cannons—the largest of which is 65 ft long and over 22 tonnes!

That's right, the Lindsay family goes all out for their event, attracting thousands to Blake's Pumpkin Jungle in Masstown each October and raising more than \$167,000 in the last four years. The event is held in memory Chantelle Lindsay, and the money raised goes to support the Chantelle Lindsay Legacy Fund.

Chantelle Lindsay passed in 2020 after a long and courageous battle with Cystic Fibrosis. Just 23 at the time, her parents promised that they would continue her fight, and people would remember her. Her legacy lives on in many ways. She is remembered as a beautiful, happy, and carefree young woman who always had a smile on her face and loved sports. Her legacy Fund at CFNS carries on her commitment to active living by supporting both education and participation in hockey, horseback riding, swimming, soccer, dance, and more for young people with Cystic Fibrosis.

The event has been so successful that Chantelle's parents, Mark and Kelly, opened a managed Fund in 2024 so some fundraised dollars can be invested and grow for increased philanthropic impact.



The *Hughie Awards*



The Hugh Douglas Langin Scholarship Fund – affectionately known as the Hughie Awards – provides financial support to music students. Created by family and friends in memory of Hugh Douglas Langin, the Fund honours his passion for music and his inspiring legacy.

These annual scholarships support students in NSCC’s Music Arts, Music Business, and Music Production and Engineering programs, as well as local musicians pursuing studies or artistic growth. The awards are given to those who share Hughie’s love of music and who will benefit most from the support – helping local talent “play on.”

Hughie’s unrelenting love for music defined his 79 years. He loved every genre – blues, rock, folk, reggae – with a special love for jazz. He was happiest among musicians, dancing in front of the stage at Stayners Wharf. Having a cognitive disability did not mean Hughie lacked wit or wisdom. He had a wickedly dry sense of humour with perfect comedic timing. He could see any situation clearly and sum it up succinctly, and had an innate ability to see the goodness and talent in those around him. Hughie was Halifax’s embodiment of the idea that within each of us lies the strength to transform and enhance our lives, regardless of the obstacles we face.

CFNS Donors

Anne Campbell & John Lindsay

“Our family was looking for a way to honour our lost loved one, Hugh, and ensure his legacy lived on in the community. We established an endowment with CFNS to support music scholarships in his name, and the community foundation model proved to be exactly what we needed to realize our vision. It didn’t take long to see the enduring benefits of collaborating with CFNS and the potential it held for others. So, we also chose to actively support the charity’s growth. The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia offers an accessible, strategic approach to philanthropy that truly uplifts our province. We’re proud to be donors to CFNS.”

Anne Campbell & John Lindsay
Hugh Douglas Langin Scholarship Fund
CFNS Donors





Ken Cleveland and Frankie

Acts of Kindness Society
Reciprocity Health Fund Grant Recipient
Yarmouth



Acts of Kindness

Acts of Kindness Society (AOK) received a \$25,000 grant from the Reciprocity Health Fund in 2024 to support their food security efforts in the Tri-County Area.

At the time of publication, Ken Cleveland and his team at AOK have 22 bright red food pantries along the southwest shore, and have served more than 62,000 hot meals in their two years of operation.

The Reciprocity Health Fund is an endowment made possible by a donor wanting to have a positive impact on the health of people in and around the Tri-County area.

The goal of this Fund is to reduce health inequalities in the Yarmouth, Digby, and Shelburne areas by providing organizations with the opportunity to expand or create new services and activities that address the social determinants of health.





St. John's United Church
Strathlorne, Inverness



The Impact of an Endowment:

St. John's United Church



Weston, Susan, Linda, Elizabeth, and Rev. Nick Phillips of St. John's United Church in Strathlorne, Inverness County.

Tucked into the green glen of Strathlorne, there's a little church, just shy of two centuries old. St. John's United Church has always been a gathering place—where hands are held in prayer and voices rise in song, and the community comes together, season after season.

But maintaining a place like this—small, rural, and deeply loved—hasn't always been easy. That is, until a gift arrived in the form of an anonymous endowment established with CFNS.

No one in the congregation knows for sure who gave the gift. That's part of its grace. What they do know is that the annual disbursement has always come in times of need; when the roof and siding needed replacing, when the heating system failed, and when accessibility improvements were long overdue. Thanks to the endowment, St. John's United now has new siding, a sturdy new roof, a reliable heating system, an accessible ramp, and a wheelchair-accessible bathroom—changes that mean the world to the people who gather there.

Reverend Phillips says the endowment has brought comfort to the congregation. "There's no stress at our meetings," he says. "No worry. Just conversations about what needs to be done next."

This is the quiet power of an endowment: a one-time act of generosity that creates a lasting ripple. It doesn't just fund projects—it gives peace of mind. It sustains places that sustain people. And in Strathlorne, it ensures that a small rural church remains what it has always been—a sanctuary, a center, and a place where hearts feel at home.

CFNS offers anonymous endowments to ensure your generosity remains private and your intentions are upheld exactly as intended, while supporting the causes you care about.





Inverness

L'Arche Cape Breton
Equine Therapy



Anonymous Donation

L'Arche Cape Breton

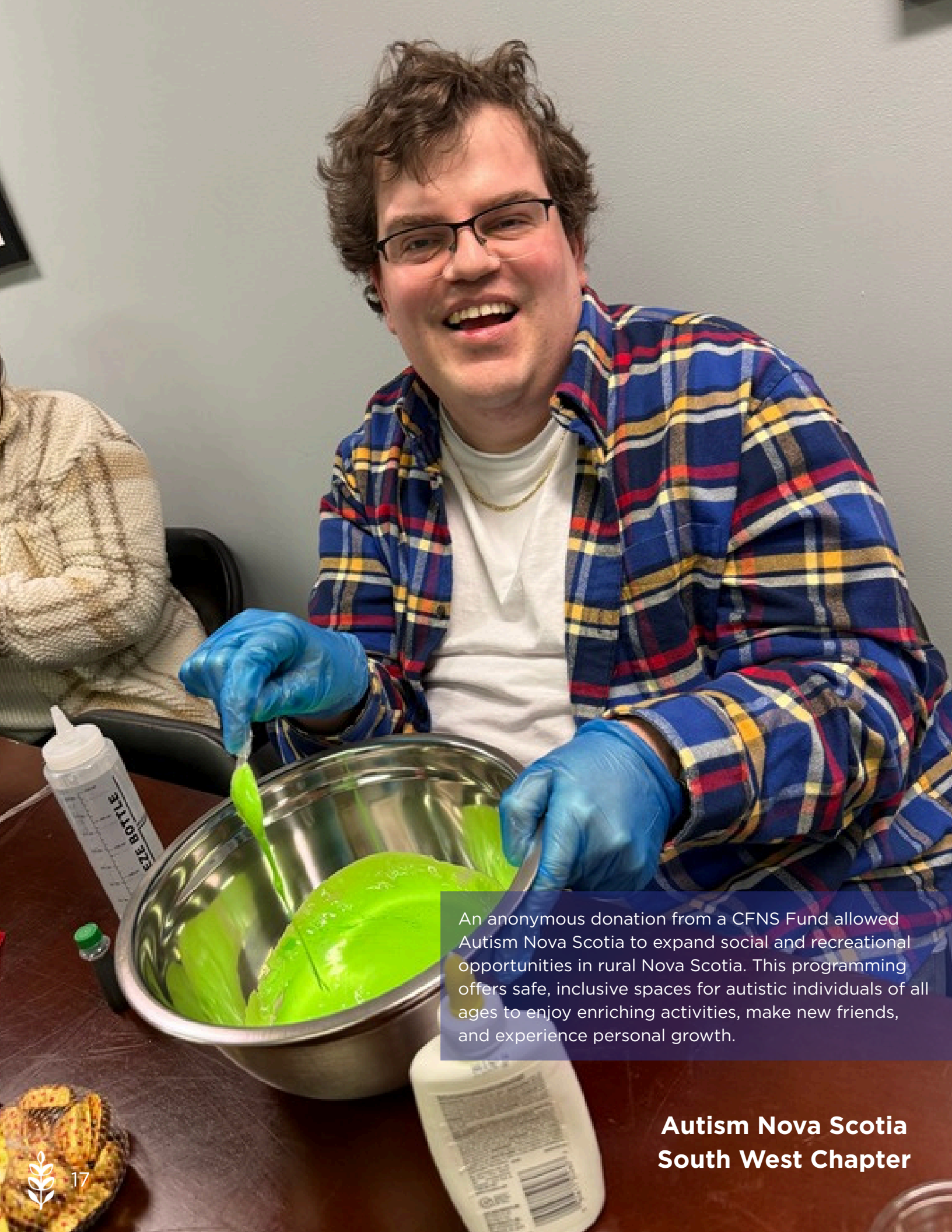
An anonymous CFNS Fundholder donated to four L'Arche locations across Nova Scotia in 2023 and 2024, with gifts totaling \$400,000.

L'Arche Cape Breton used their gift to fully fund their Community Life activities programming and to support their Day Programs.

L'Arche Cape Breton operates in a rural area with few resources for people with intellectual disabilities. The organization provides a vital service while demonstrating all the things that people with intellectual disabilities can accomplish when given the opportunity.

CFNS is proud to support this generosity that makes a difference in communities throughout Nova Scotia.





An anonymous donation from a CFNS Fund allowed Autism Nova Scotia to expand social and recreational opportunities in rural Nova Scotia. This programming offers safe, inclusive spaces for autistic individuals of all ages to enjoy enriching activities, make new friends, and experience personal growth.

**Autism Nova Scotia
South West Chapter**

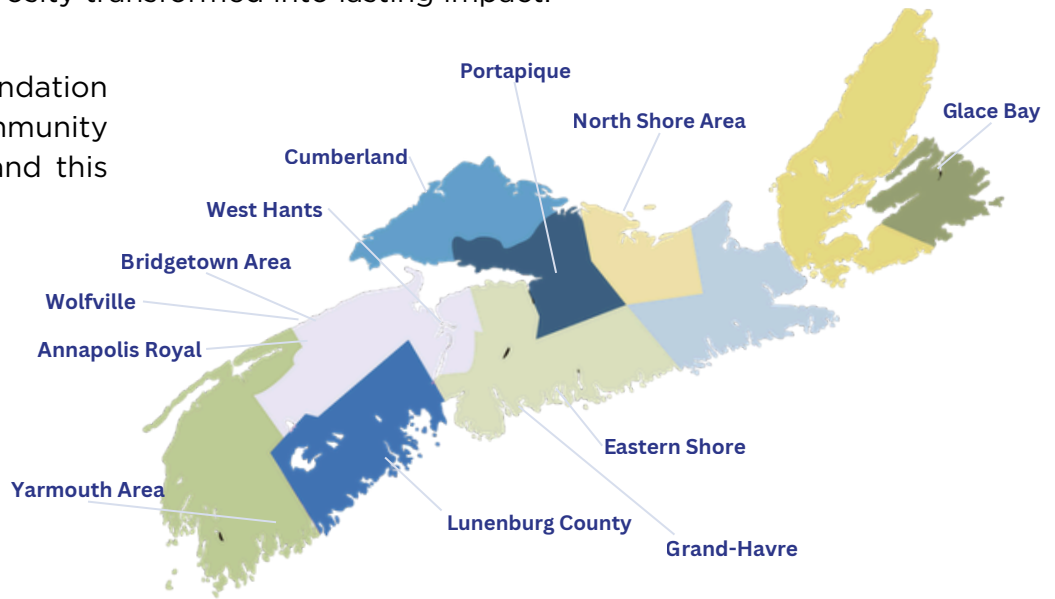


Community Funds

A Community Fund is a powerful tool for local resilience, rooted in the belief that the people who live in a community are best equipped to shape its future. Built by and for the community, these permanent Endowment Funds grow over time and provide steady, reliable support for local priorities—now and for generations to come.

Whether it's helping to stock the local fire department, sustain seniors' programs, or ensure everyone has access to safe, welcoming recreation spaces, a Community Fund reflects the heart of the people who sustain it. It is local generosity transformed into lasting impact.

In 2024 the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia had 12 Community Funds across the province, and this number continues to grow.



Lunenburg





Pathways to Employment is a community-based service center that supports individuals living with mental illness or substance use disorders. They provide participant-directed programming focused on skill development, social enterprise, and community integration. The CFNS VISIONS Fund grant allowed the organization to expand its services with a peer support program.

**Pathways to Employment
Sydney, Cape Breton**



The *CFNS VISIONS Fund*

In 2024, CFNS launched the inaugural VISIONS Fund, catalyzed by an anonymous donor's \$8.5 million endowment and hope for a more equitable and innovative future in Nova Scotia. The Fund struck a chord across the province in both of its priority areas: (1) funding for organizations supporting individuals who've faced significant life challenges and (2) funding for innovative, inclusive approaches to post-secondary education.



Abbey Ferguson, Executive Director of the Halifax Sexual Health Centre. Their VISIONS Fund grant supports the Compassionate Comprehensive Care Program, which provides essential sexual, reproductive, and gender-affirming healthcare products and services.

The response was powerful. CFNS received 151 applications from throughout the province; a testament to the passion and need across our communities.

From the outset, CFNS has been intentional in how this granting process is managed. To ensure the review process reflects the spirit and purpose of the Fund, we assembled two arms-length adjudication committees—one for each funding priority. These committees were gender diverse, included members who identify as African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaw, and White, and spanned an age range from 25 to 73. Representing both urban and rural communities, committee members bring not only professional insight but also deep lived experience. To compensate them for this experience, all adjudicators were offered honoraria for their time.

We are proud of this thoughtful, community-informed approach. It ensures that the distribution of the VISIONS Fund reflects the complexity, resilience, and creativity of Nova Scotians—and stays true to the intentions of the donor who made this possible. But, we didn't get it all right. In our attempts to remove barriers for marginalized groups who often receive less support, we learned a lot about power dynamics and how we can improve this process for both our applicants and our adjudication committees in the years to come. We are committed to learning and growing each year.

In 2024 nine grants have been awarded throughout the province, reflecting a diverse range of impactful programs.



Deanna Ferguson from Pictou County Adult Learning Centre. Recipient of VISIONS funding to create a kitchen at their post-secondary institution that will not only teach employable skills for their students but will combat food insecurity in the region.



The CFNS VISIONS Fund

Nova Village NS (formerly Fairview Resource Centre) received a multi-year grant to support the *Thriving Families NS* program, which aims to provide education and family assistance to immigrants, refugees, Asylum seekers, and first-time parents or caregivers. The program offers workshops on child and youth safety, family violence laws, child and youth protection laws, injury prevention, and connects families to essential resources like food programs, housing, and one on one support. This new initiative would not be possible without the multi-year funding awarded from the CFNS VISIONS Fund, which will support the new staff needed to lead this program.



Thriving Families NS facilitator, Madi Gebreyesus, left, with program participant.

"Thriving Families NS fills a gap in Nova Scotia for low barrier educational opportunities for families to learn the laws and legislation in this province for caring for children and youth. Education and early support for families is key for long term success. We know this is going to be a game changer for families in Nova Scotia, providing an educational platform and reducing the number of families who fall through the cracks."

-Natalie Brown, Executive Director of Nova Village NS



Thriving Families NS participants from the first session.



“It is our duty to protect every single human being that resides in Mi’kma’ki. Mi’kmaw peoples have been doing that for centuries, and that is still true today. Wherever they come from in the world and make Mi’kma’ki their home.”

- CFNS VISIONS Fund adjudicator
From transcript records in choosing
the Nova Village NS project.





DILL'S
ATLANTIC GUEST



Supporting *Multi-Year Initiatives*

In 2024, CFNS advanced its commitment to trust-based philanthropy by adopting more flexible and responsive grantmaking practices. Recognizing that nonprofit organizations are best positioned to determine their own needs, CFNS began offering multi-year funding and supporting essential operational costs, including salaries and overhead. This approach aligns with the principles of trust-based philanthropy, which emphasize providing long-term, unrestricted funding to empower grantees to allocate resources where they are most needed, fostering innovation and sustainability .

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.



Tri-County Women's Centre staff. From left: Maia Mathieu, Executive Director; Bethany Surette, Clinic Director; and Janelle MacDonald, Nurse Practitioner.

The Mi'kmaw and Indigenous Entrepreneurship Program at NSCC was given funding for three years from the CFNS VISIONS Fund in 2024. This program will support Mi'kmaw and Indigenous NSCC students and alumni in launching and growing businesses. This initiative will provide business and cost of living grants, along with mentorship and culturally relevant programming in partnership with Mi'kmaw and Indigenous entrepreneurs in Unama'ki (Cape Breton), with plans to expand in partnership with Mi'kmaw communities throughout Nova Scotia. Multi-year funding from the CFNS VISIONS Fund will be used to pilot and scale this program, including both participant grants and facilitation.



"We're grateful to receive this funding to pilot the Mi'kmaw and Indigenous Entrepreneurship Program at NSCC. By developing culturally appropriate programming with our Mi'kmaw community partners that address the unique considerations of Mi'kmaw and Indigenous entrepreneurs, including wrap-around supports to reduce systemic barriers to participation, we address a number of calls to action set forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada thanks to the VISIONS Fund's support."

- Denise Pictou Maloney, Senior Advisor,
Mi'kmaw and Indigenous Initiatives, NSCC



2024

Financial Highlights

\$33.2M

Total Assets

\$3.2M

New Contributions in 2024
to Funds Stewarded at CFNS

\$16.1M

All-Time Grants*

\$4.0M

Granted in 2024 to
Community Organizations*

15.8%

2024 Return on
Investment

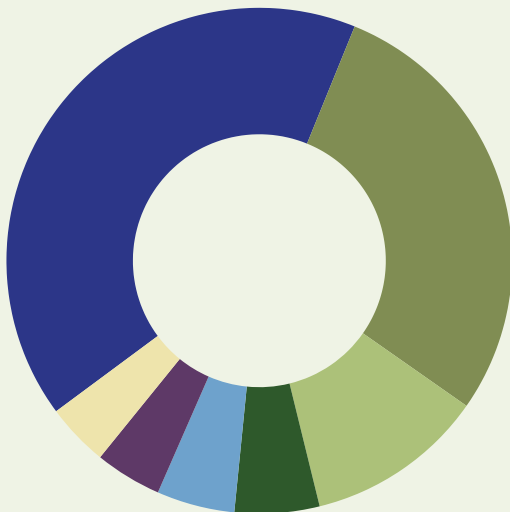
5.6%

3-Year Return on
Investment*

*These figures include certain inter-Fund transfers, such as grants made between two Funds both held at CFNS, as well as allocations to the LIFT micro-lending program. Because these transactions did not involve funds leaving the Foundation, they are not reflected on the Grants and Allocations line in our audited financial statements.

*The 3-year return includes the challenges of 2022 which produced negative returns for most risk assets, due to high inflation and increasing interest rates.

CFNS grants support a wide range of charitable and nonprofit organizations and initiatives. In 2024, the Foundation granted to 370 charities, nonprofits, and scholarship recipients, totaling over \$4 million. The chart below shows grant distribution and reflects the philanthropic interests and granting recommendations of CFNS Fundholders.



Total Granting

- Social Welfare & Health: \$1,659,000
- Education: \$1,148,000
- Relief of Poverty: \$460,000
- Arts: \$218,000
- Seniors & Disabilities: \$200,000
- Environment: \$171,000
- Restorative Justice & Recovery: \$161,000



Thanks to our 2024 *Board & Staff*

Our volunteer Board of Directors is made up of community leaders and business professionals from across the province. These community champions bring a wealth of skills and expertise in guiding our efforts and we are so grateful for their support.

Alana Hirtle, *Truro*

Angie Gillis, *Millbrook*

Anne-Marie McElrone, *Dartmouth*

Dennice Leahey, *Pugwash* - Past Chair

Erika Shea, *Sydney*

Frank Lockington, *Dartmouth* - Chair

John Nauss, *Halifax*

Lana M. MacLean, *Halifax*

Mary Eldridge, *Yarmouth*

Hon. Michel P. Samson, *Isle Madame/Dartmouth*

Michelle Williams, *Annapolis Valley*

Monita Taylor, *Porters Lake* - Treasurer

Robert Orr, *Bedford* - Past Chair

Stephanie Clark, *Bedford*

Our small but mighty team are committed to building strong, vibrant and diverse communities throughout Nova Scotia.

Daniel Holland, CEO

Brenda Smith MacLeod, CFO

Carly Levy, Stewardship & Donor Relations Manager

Julia Pollock, Accounting Manager

Kathleen Murphy, Director of Communications

Katie MacDonald, Volunteer & Capacity Development Lead





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