



RCFNS
RURAL COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF NOVA SCOTIA



Annual Report

2021

Collaborating with Communities to Create a Brighter Future

Who We Are

The Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia

- is a community foundation that supports community organizations in rural Nova Scotia through convening, grant-making, and capacity-building
- has a proven track record, with more than 20 years of developing programs
- has dedicated board members from all regions of the province who have a wealth of experience about community development in rural Nova Scotia
- is a registered charity
- adheres to the highest standards of transparency and accountability in its financial management
- is a member of the Community Foundations of Canada, Volunteer Climate Change
- has been widely recognized for its excellence and leadership in the field of rural grant-making
- adheres to the values of gender equality, equity and climate action



Penny Cooper



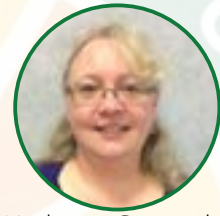
Sherry McLeod



Maureen Coady



Jean Ward



Kathryn Gamache



Marta Anderson



Chris Googoo



Ben Haightway



Mark Embrett



Ella Lentz



Heather Beaton



Jayne Hunter



Our Mission

Using equity, diversity, inclusion and climate action, to build on the strengths and assets of Nova Scotia by stimulating and establishing philanthropic giving, developing permanent endowment fund, and granting funds.

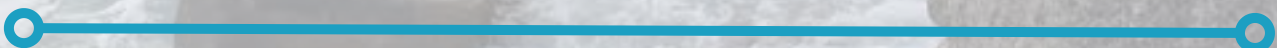


Our Vision

We believe in the inherent value of rural communities and the important contribution they make to our province

Our Values

- We believe in the inherent value of rural communities and the important contribution they make to our province
- We believe in being accountable to donors, grantees and communities
- We believe that leadership and innovation are integral parts of community vitality



Message From RCFNS' Board Chair



Sherry MacLeod
Board Chair, Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia

What a year it has been! In 2021-22 the Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia was actively supporting four of the 17 UN Sustainable goals of Gender Equality, Climate Action, reducing inequality, and sustainability. We have signed the Canadian Philanthropic Commitment to Climate Change and pledged our organization to reducing and overcoming Nova Scotia's 10 Social Determinants of Health. No small task!

RCFNS has spent the year convening with many organizations and individuals to understand the needs of rural communities and the impact our grants have had on those communities we serve. Through the generous help of the PhiLab Atlantic Hub and Sarah Lavallee, RCFNS received a grant impact report that proves that we do make a difference. Our grants sparked more programs and further enhancement of connections leading to sustainable and long-lasting impact. To read Sarah's report please head to our website and look under Our Resources.

In 2021-22 we developed and created funds based on our convening including a pilot project Housing for Health in the Strait Area. We also started a Ukrainian Nova Scotia Settlement Fund, the Pictou County Benefit for Ukraine Fund. We plan to do more conveying across the province leading to more Fund Development and Granting.

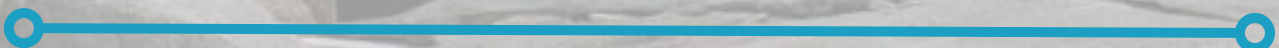
Perhaps the biggest accomplishment of RCFNS this year was hiring an Executive Director, Penny Cooper. Penny has made it possible to do a lot more conveying and fund development which in turn will lead to more granting. She has spent the last few months organizing and operationalizing many of our policies and procedures. RCFNS can now enhance our three pillars and expand our impact in rural Nova Scotia.

I would like to thank our volunteer Board of Directors for their many hours of impact work with our foundation. Without their tremendous effort we could not have granted over \$2 Millions dollars in funds that have impacted Nova Scotia so greatly.

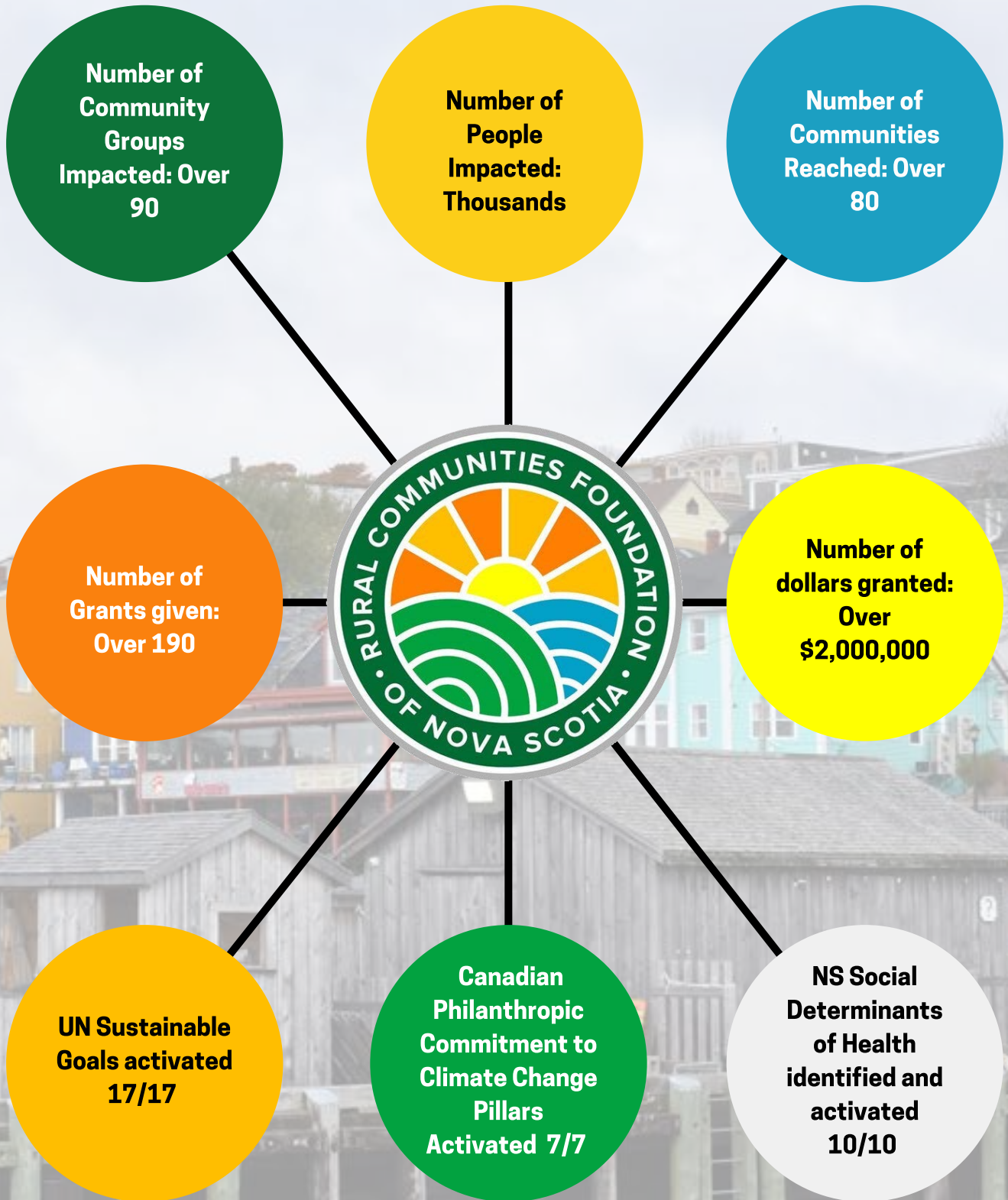
A big thank you to our donors: Those that have donated properties, which helped us to grow and prosper as a foundation, those creating specific funds such as Susan Hirshberg and her family, and Drake Jensen, who's funds, time and energy are making a big impact on rural communities. Also The Community Foundations Canada, with many flow through grants, who's support and mentorship has helped us tremendously. RBC, Kia Motors, the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Canadian Federal Government. Of course, a big thank you to Jayne Hunter and her staff at Literacy Nova Scotia (LNS) for their guidance and support.

Last but not least, thank you to our rural community organizations, municipalities, and bands councils . Many of these are made up of volunteers that give so much of their time to help grow and strengthen our province. Without them, all of this could not be possible.

All our volunteers, staff, and donors have stepped up to serve RCFNS's vision of strong leadership, gender equality, diversity, sustainable communities, and climate action which, when partnering with rural communities, makes Nova Scotia thrive!



Our Numbers



**Number of
Community
Groups
Impacted: Over
90**

**Number of
People
Impacted:
Thousands**

**Number of
Communities
Reached: Over
80**

**Number of
Grants given:
Over 190**

**Number of
dollars granted:
Over
\$2,000,000**

**UN Sustainable
Goals activated
17/17**

**Canadian
Philanthropic
Commitment to
Climate Change
Pillars
Activated 7/7**

**NS Social
Determinants
of Health
identified and
activated
10/10**

Our Impact

Hope House

Hope Project Addiction Services serve women from CBRM who are homeless, live below the poverty line, and represent a highly vulnerable at risk population. With the help of the 2021 Gender Equality grant they implemented a pilot project called Pathways to Empowered Change (formerly known as Economic Empowerment Her Way). In this pilot project, they worked with 30 plus women in upgrading education, back to school options, resume building, and navigating employment opportunities and job shadow placement. The focus of the pilot was to develop leadership & employability skills.

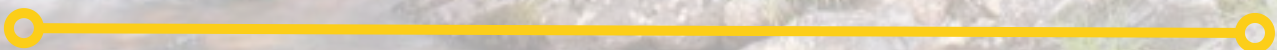
Throughout the pilot Hope House found that their objectives of the program matured. They shifted to create a program that offers wrap around supports to ensure economic stability and sustainable livelihood - workforce readiness is part of a broader mandate.

Though the grant program ended, Hope House continues to offer group education sessions that are one afternoon per week of classroom programs with individualized tailored programming of education and job opportunities throughout the week.

This program taught participants to use their voice to confront situations in a safe space. Using these tools participants can convey information, make their needs known and navigate solutions. This was done by role play, implementing behavioural therapy tools and in-house policies that align with trauma informed research. The participants were educated on codependency behaviours, spectrums gender specific violence and gender inequality issues in workplace.

As a result of this program, Hope House has employed nine graduates of Hope House. 8 of the 9 past employees are currently in their areas of chosen employment or upgrading their education. At least 6 of the 30 plus participants this year have chosen to go back to school to upgrade education for more desirable employment opportunities.

Ultimately, Hope House was able to advance their capacity to network relationships with other agencies that help to advance women in male dominate work sectors. Hope House provides the stability of safe housing and a platform to support women to navigate with other agencies that work in their specific field of interest. This project allowed Hope House to gather more information to support women in their informed choices around vocation options and supports (funding/ bursaries) available to make it happen.



Impact Stories

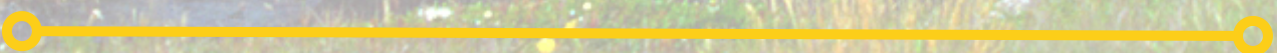
Tri-County Women's Centre



When we lift up the hearts of Indigenous women, we lift up our communities. The western way has had a devastating impact on Indigenous women. We want to change the story of Indigenous women from victim to the true story of love, power, hope and resilience. The Tri County Women's Centre goal was to bring back the Clan Mothers - women-led practices, women leadership, and to right relations between the genders.

They did this through sharing traditional cultural teachings and Ceremonies. There were talking circles (in-person and online) where every voice was valued. This was critical in this time of isolation. There were healing Ceremonies held both at a central location and in individual communities when it was safe to do so and with Covid protocols.

The Tri-County Women's Centre built a M'ikmaq leadership program through this work, bringing out the leadership skills in women, young and older. They are helping young Indigenous women who are working professionally in the western world to gain skills and strength to cope with the discrimination through their connection with their cultural and Spirituality



Impact Stories

Joan Feynman Climate Change Fund

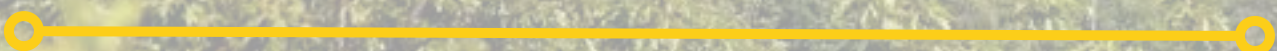
West Colchester Consolidated School made purchases with the Community Sparks (Joan Feynman Climate Change Fund) grant money provided. As part of teaching students about renewable energy, they purchased BioLite camp stoves and cook stoves that operate their own fans to keep the fire going, lights and create power to charge devices using USB.

Physical Education teacher Jimmie White is seen here with a BioLite stove showing 7 students at West Colchester Consolidated School the students how it works.

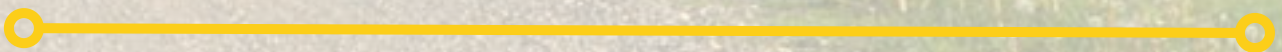
The school also purchased weather stations and installed them so students would know the outside and inside temperature and humidity (so they would best know how to dress for the weather). In addition, they purchased round thermometers and placed them in outdoor classrooms around the school so students could compare location temperatures based on sun exposure etc.

Butterfly kits were ordered to be delivered in the Spring so P-3 students can experience the lifecycle of a painted lady butterfly and we will be purchasing and creating seating for a garden along with some idle free parking signs.

Climate action and education will have lasting impacts for these students and students yet to come to West Colchester Consolidated School.

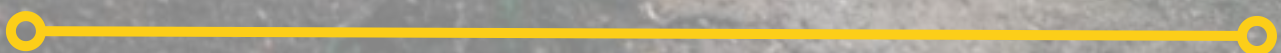


Our Commitments



Our Financials

Assets	2021	2020
Current		
Cash	103,881	102,176
HST Recoverable	1,023	1,274
Investments	20,289	5,350
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	125,193	108,800
Restricted Investments	355,469	308,019
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	\$480,662	\$416,819
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Current		
Bank Indebtness		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	32,344	8286
Deferred Contributions	10,203	20,207
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	42,547	28,493
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	32,331	30,307
Internally Restricted Fund	50,000	50,000
Endowment Fund (externally restricted)	162,225	164,910
Endowment Fund (internally restricted)	190,559	143,109
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	438,115	388,326
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	\$480,662	\$416,819



Our Future

Expanding our Impact Investing

Highlighting UN Sustainable Goals

Convene Impact Sessions

RCFNS Board Training

2022 Joan Feynman Climate Action Grants

2022 Gender Equality Grants

Expand Housing For Health Program

2022 KIA Communities In Motion Grants

2022 Recovery Fund Program

2022-23 Soaring Eagle Fund

Align With More Partners

Ukrainian Nova Scotia Resettlement Fund

Policy Review

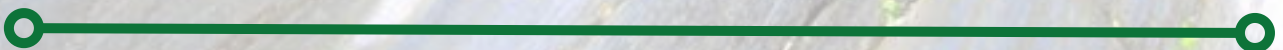
2022 Strategic Planning

Expand Our Community Impact



RCFNS

RURAL COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF NOVA SCOTIA



Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia



Financial Contributions for Equity, Diversity and Climate Leadership Innovation makes Healthy Communities!

Please consider Donating today...

