



RCFNS
RURAL COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF NOVA SCOTIA



Annual Report

2022

Collaborating with Communities to Create a Brighter Future

Who We Are

The Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia (RCFNS)

- is a member of the Community Foundation of Canada. RCFNS supports community organizations in rural Nova Scotia, through convening, fund development and granting.
- has a proven track record, with more than 20 years of developing and delivering small grant 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 Canada, Environmental Funders of Canada and the Nova Scotia Music Association and the Nova Scotia Not For Profit Coalition.
- has signed and adheres to the seven pillars of the Canadian Philanthropic Commitment on 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



Marta Anderson



Jean Ward



Jessica Fancy-Landry



Chris Googoo



Ben Haightway



Mark Embrett



Ella Lentz



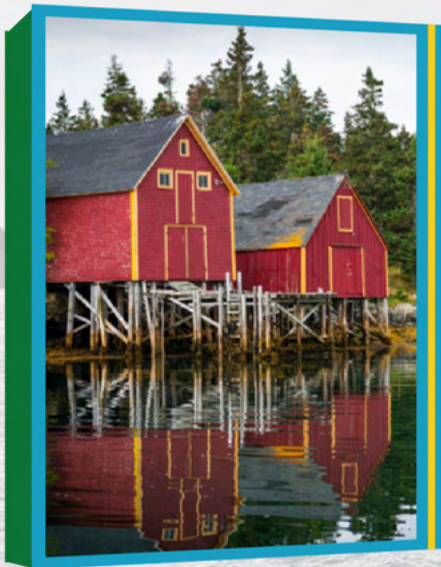
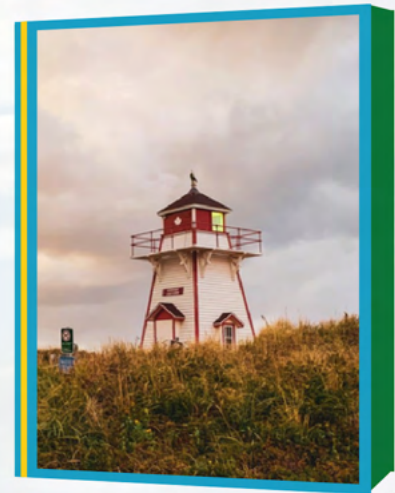
Justin Cottreau



Belinda Tupper

Our Mission

To build on the strengths and assets of rural Nova Scotia by convening, stimulating generosity, establishing giving, growing an endowment, and granting funds to create diverse, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable communities.



Our Vision

We believe that all people live within diverse, healthy, sustainable, and prosperous environments!

Our Values

- RCFNS values rural people and the important contributions they make.
- RCFNS is accountable to community members including donors and grantees,
- RCFNS values diversity, equity inclusion and environmental stewardship
- RCFNS values positive leadership and responsible innovation.
- RCFNS values learning, acknowledging, and understanding more about reconciliation and the decolonialization of wealth.
- RCFNS values recognizing marginalized people and the contribution they make.



Message From RCFNS' Board Chair



Sherry MacLeod
Board Chair, Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia

As I reflect on my year as chair of the Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia, I am thankful for having been given the opportunity to volunteer with the Foundation. It has given me the opportunity to work with some great people. I have learned of many non-profit organizations doing tremendous work across the province. I've seen firsthand how directors, volunteers, and donors put in a lot of time, money, and energy to help ensure our success. Success is measured not by the size of our endowment but by the positive effect on Nova Scotian in rural and coastal areas. And it is very obvious RCFNS has touched many lives in my time here. Small amounts of money in the right hands does large things for our province.

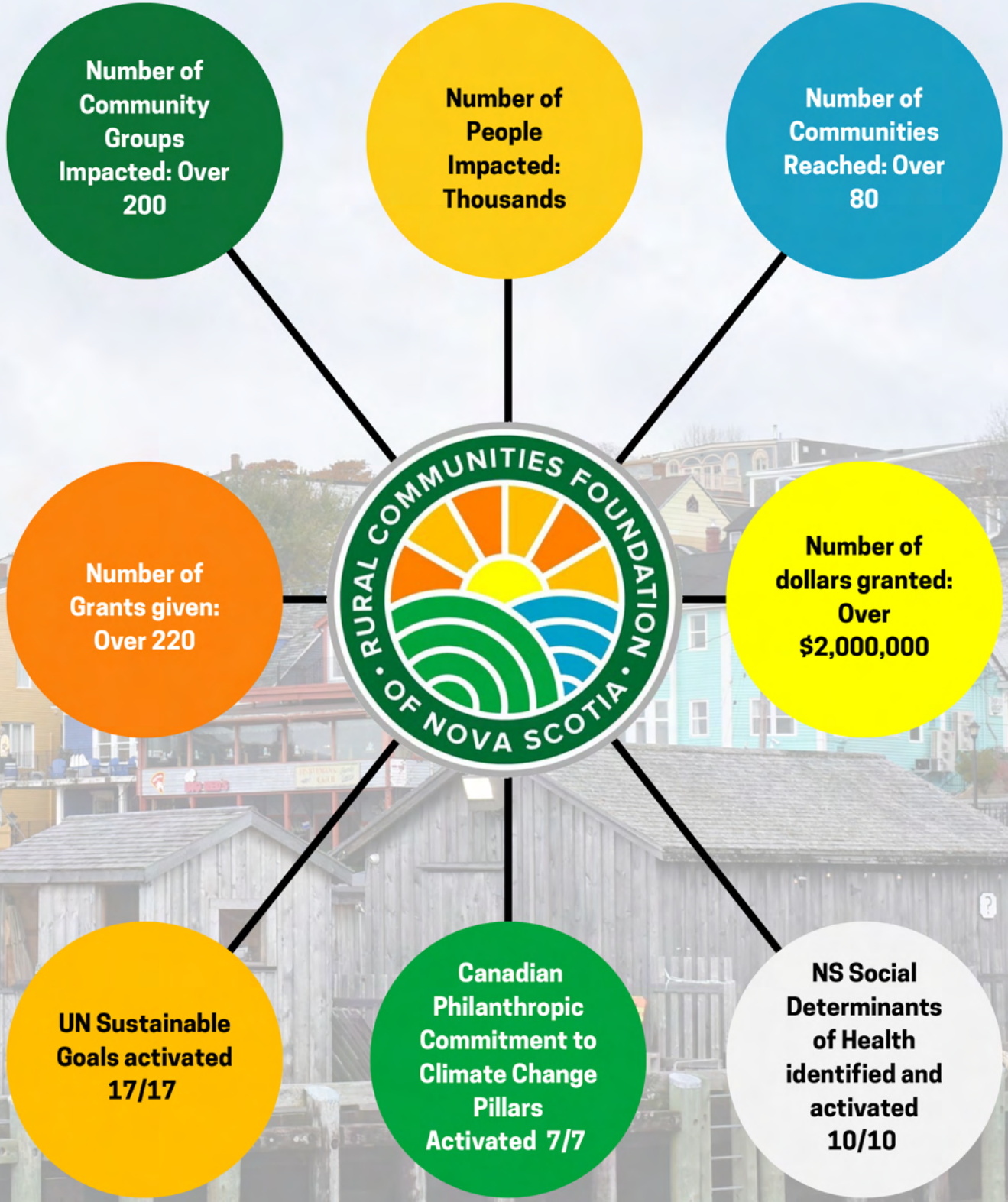
This year we concentrated our fund development and granting on not just gender equality but equality for all. We worked on climate action initiatives, assisted non-profits to recover from the pandemic, helped Ukrainians settle in NS, and created a child hunger fund. Finally, through the IRP program, working with social enterprises, we are hoping for Social Purpose Organizations will be more sustainable. We planned our first of many convening sessions; this one dealing with climate action and reconciliation, to be held on Earth Day, April 22, 2023

This was our first full year with an executive director. It has changed the amount of granting, fund development and convening we can do dramatically. Without Penny Cooper, we certainly couldn't have accomplished what we have. I want to thank her for all she does. The Board is very confident we made a great choice. That said, it is my hope RCF will continue to grow and help rural communities not just survive but prosper for many years to come.

2023-24, is my last year with the board. My goal as past chair will be to assist the new chair and I am looking forward to a new chair with new ideas, that will continue to grow RCFNS. We have a board of strong leadership, that is diverse in culture, skills, and geography representing NS. I see great things in the future of this foundation.

I want to thank all the outgoing directors this year, Jean Ward, Maureen Coady, Marta Anderson, & Cara Jones, while wishing them luck in their future endeavours. And finally, I want to welcome the new directors and congratulate them on becoming part of this awesome board of directors. I know they will enjoy the experience as we all have, for no gift is better than the gift of giving.

Our Numbers



**Number of
Community
Groups
Impacted: Over
200**

**Number of
People
Impacted:
Thousands**

**Number of
Communities
Reached: Over
80**

**Number of
Grants given:
Over 220**

**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**

Impact Stories

Soaring Eagle Fund



The Soaring Eagle Fine Arts Grants' purpose is to ignite a conversation on challenges facing the LGBTQI+ community in Rural Nova Scotia and identifying and implementing solutions. The fund will focus on these issues and unite the members of the LGBTQI+ community within Nova Scotia to resilience work led by others identifying with LGBTQI+ through conversation and projects within their communities.

One such project was Mackie's Mobile Studio

Jordan Mackie along with Mackie's Mobile Studio hoped to create a direct-to-door recording studio to reach musicians in rural areas that don't have access to a studio.

Jordan renovated and created a semi-professional in house studio, as well as designed and built a portable vocal booth to deliver direct-to-door recording services to their clients. Jordan expanded and created a studio on wheels that can then be a vendor at music festivals, fairs, and other events offering recording services and cater to a clientele that lives in the rural Maritimes.

Mackie's Mobile Studio aims to solve barriers such as a lack of transportation to a studio, living in a rural area without access to a studio and for those with mental/physical limitations and disabilities that may not thrive in a traditional studio setting. Mackie's Mobile Studio brings the studio directly to your house so you can record in your comfort zone.

The funding received from the Soaring Eagles Fund was used towards purchasing a new iMac, a portion paid towards a new audio interface, microphone, and other studio equipment and in building acoustic panels for the studio.

Since receiving funding, CBC news has done a story on Mackie's Mobile Studio highlighting its accessibility, quality and consumer friendly attributes. Mackie has since recorded over two dozen customers since opening shop, most of which have been returning, happy clientele.



Impact Stories

Kia Communities in Motion

Kia Canada, in partnership with Community Foundations of Canada launched Kia Communities in Motion. This program is inspired by Kia's brand belief, 'Movement that inspires.' Movement is at the core of human development - through movement we see new places, meet new people and have new experiences. It is through this movement that we find inspiration. This all-new program is developed to support movement in local communities providing charities and the recipients of their efforts, the time, space and funding to find inspiration to move forward.

COMMUNITIES
IN MOTION



One such project was The Nova Scotia Transformation Closet. This project provided gender-affirming items, such as binders, gaffs and packers, to transgender and gender diverse people who need them, at no cost. One of the sexual health centres in our network has started this project on a small scale, offering these products to gender diverse community members in their rural area. It has been extremely popular, with people of all ages accessing these products they could not access on their own, due to lack of funds or other barriers. Sexual Health Nova Scotia realized the need for this project across Nova Scotia as many people have reached out asking if the products are available in their own communities, and there is only one other small-scale project of this kind available only in Halifax and for youth only. We do not have funding currently to provide these products other than through a time-limited grant at the first centre that began the project. We want to make this important and affirming service available to as many gender diverse people who are in need as we can, in all areas of Nova Scotia.



Impact Stories

Joan Feynman Climate Change Fund

The Joan Feynman Climate Action Fund was created in 2019 with a private donor grant to ignite creativity, innovation and change through community projects on climate change. During the next 3-5 years RCFNS plans to greatly increase our Feynman Fund granting and to coordinate with other sectors to leverage progress on climate change throughout the province.



The Mersey Tobetic Research Institute (MTRI), hosted a professional leadership and development event for sixteen people working in the fields of climate change & land conservation. The event was partially funded by the Joan Feynman Climate Action Grant. Individuals who work on the front lines of the climate crisis and land stewardship are increasingly feeling exhaustion and hopelessness that comes with facing the harsh realities before us. This professional development event was a chance to reflect, renew and connect with other people working in the same fields.



The event centered around the theme of cultivating resilience and hope and based on a format called a *Circle of Trust*. Participants enjoyed an opportunity to pause and reflect in the beautiful surroundings of Mersey River Chalets and were honoured to have Melissa Labrador, an L'nug Guardian from Wildcat Community open & close each day with a traditional Mi'kmaq ceremony.



The program built capacity and skills to support participants in their professional and personal lives, including various leadership skills in communication, as well as opportunities to explore where they were in terms of their own lives and their work. Out of this process can come a renewed sense of purpose and commitment, building the stamina needed to remain active and engaged in the vital roles they are fulfilling.



"The Circle of Trust experience shifts social expectations to create a space for sharing and a deeper form of listening. By taking the time to share and understand each other's experiences as well as reflect on my own, I feel I am able to move forward with renewed purpose and hope."Alysha

Our Commitments



In 2022, RCFNS granted over \$250,000 worth of grants to rural charities: over \$28,000 for the Joan Feynman Climate Change Fund, \$200,000 for Gender Equality Grants, \$3,000 for Soaring Eagle Fund and over \$27,000 for Ukrainian Supports.

Our Financials

Assets	2022	2021
Current		
Cash	1,107,251	103,881
HST Recoverable	1,804	1,023
Investments	13,952	19,974
Accounts Receivable	540	
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	1,123,547	124,878
Restricted Investments	333,796	355,784
Appropriated cash, Endowment Fund	22,484	
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	\$1,479,827	\$480,662
 Liabilities & Net Assets		
Current		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	1,964	32,344
Deferred Contributions	1,126,630	10,203
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	1,128,594	42,547
Net Assets		
General Fund	(55,047)	32,331
Internally Restricted Fund	50,000	50,000
Endowment Fund (externally restricted)	811	315
Endowment Fund (internally restricted)	355,469	355,469
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	351,233	438,115
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	\$1,479,827	\$480,662

This summary is based on excerpts from audited financial statements by MacDonald Murphy & Timmons Inc. Chartered Professional Accountants. Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia was registered in July 11, 2000 under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. Registration number: 3786251.

Our Future

Expanding our Impact Investing

Highlighting UN Sustainable Goals

Convene Impact Sessions

RCFNS Board Training

2023 Joan Feynman Climate Action Grants

2023 Community Sector Recovery Fund

Expand Housing For Health Program

Expanding Community Granting

2023 Zero Hunger Fund

2023 Soaring Eagle Fund

Align With More Partners

Ukrainian Nova Scotia Resettlement Fund

Policy Review

2023 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...

