



CHEBUCTO
CONNECTIONS

20
23

ANNUAL

REPORT

www.chebuctoconnections.ca

OUR VALUES

- **Security & Prosperity** - therefore we support initiatives that protect, enhance and attract resources to our communities.
- **Diversity & Inclusiveness** - therefore we welcome all viewpoints and serve to amplify marginalized voices.
- **Equity & Fairness** - therefore we are dedicated to assisting groups that work toward equitable access to resources.
- **Caring & Engagement** - therefore we seek to develop common understanding by listening and partnering to develop relationships that maximize results.
- **Transparency** - therefore we declare our associations with others and communicate responsibly when representing the Association as appropriate, while respecting confidentiality.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'm still trying to catch my breath.

That statement pretty much sums up how the year went. It's been a year of struggle for so many due to inflation and it has made our job more challenging as we try to help more with less. But anyone working in the non-profit world knows that battle. It's a job that can wear a person down when you are exposed to seeing the challenges and barriers of your fellow humans. But as hard as it is at times it's just as much if not more rewarding. It makes a person self reflect their own life and feel grateful. Grateful to have a roof, grateful to be able to buy food, grateful for health. Seeing my fellow humans struggle for the basic necessities to survive does sadden me but it also lights a fire in me. It makes me want to work harder to bring in services that not only tend to the immediate needs but invest in this beautiful community so that people struggling have access to services that will give them a hand up. We all need the same things to survive - shelter, food and water. These are the basics yet so many go without them. Chebucto Connections team is prepared and ready this year to do more even if it has to be done with less. We work for the people, we work for positive change. As this year closes I am hopeful and go in feeling more determined than the last year. There is lots to be done but together anything is possible.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair – Michelle Lucas

Director – Paul Lai Fatt

Director – Cecilia
Murphy

Director – Shelly Currie

Secretary – Tyler
Bechard

Director – Miriam
Stanfield

Treasurer – Julie
Robichaud

Director – Jenna Giles

Director – Alana Wilson-
Lowe

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

We live in a beautiful, bustling and diverse community. The dedicated team of Chebucto Connections staff and volunteers has continued to tap into what the needs of this community are and helping to find ways to meet them.

This year, Chebucto Connections drew on its networks of community organizations and supports and leveraged every fundraised dollar to help people in need, including: food/produce packs and a community food market for those experiencing food insecurity, urgent supports for people at risk of being evicted or experiencing homelessness, books for young children, access to oral care at a local dentistry clinic for clients with no health insurance, and so much more.

Also, the Pathways team proudly celebrated another graduation class in June, having connected JL Ilsley High School students with mentorship, tutoring, ESL classes, and other supports through the year.

With this being my last year as Chair, I offer my gratitude to my fellow board members, to other volunteers and donors, and to the Chebucto Connections staff who want to help their fellow neighbours. We can have a great impact when everyone pulls together.

Michelle Lucas





COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Our Community Outreach Manager is dedicated to providing service to community members so they are able to move forward in their lives. Helping them to gain the tools needed so they are successful in the path they choose.

ORAL HEALTH CARE

Oral Care is Health Care.

Funding through Green Shield and a partnership with Spryfield Dentistry has allowed us to provide oral care for those under-insured or not insured. Because good oral hygiene is vital for one's physical and mental health.

"Prior to this program, I was in distress and discomfort every single day having to think about my mouth especially with eating. I now have peace of mind because my gums do not bother me. This has been a massive change for me going forward. It has been a major health growth. My partner and I both feel that we have changed in how we see ourselves and how others see us. It was a 100% confidence boost". -

Oral Care Client

LIBRARY CLUB

Reading with your child is one way to help set them up for success. It encourages a thirst for knowledge, enhances concentration and is a great form of entertainment. This is why Chebucto Connections partnered up with the Dollywood Foundation to deliver free books to children 0-5 years of age.

Each month books are selected by an advisory panel from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and mailed to the child's home. Books are brand new and theirs to keep.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS CONTINUED

Due to the rising cost of living food has become one of the most requested items. We support local residents struggling with food insecurity with bi-weekly produce packs and Holiday Baskets.

PRODUCE PACKS

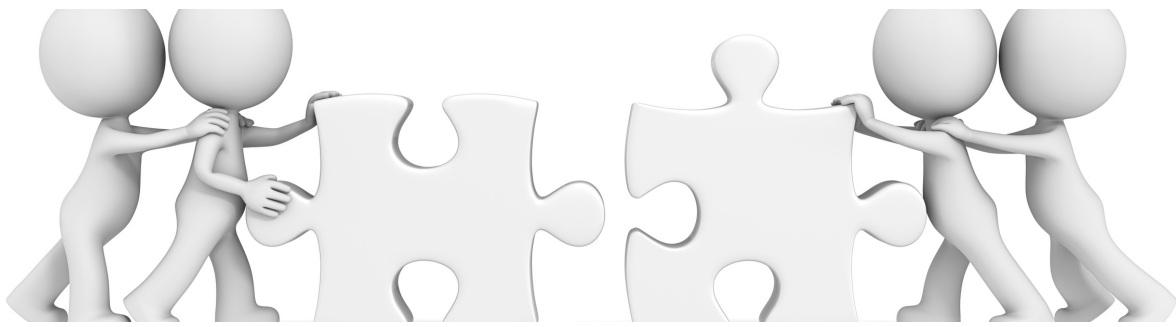
- We gave out 2400 produce packs this year to folks experiencing food insecurity. Each pack contains fresh produce, eggs and bread.
- We reach over 250+ individuals bi-weekly. Providing them with fresh nutrient dense foods.

“So very grateful for the produce package. I made a soup and used a variety of fresh herbs. It looked exotic and tasted delicious. It was an uplifting experience”. - **Produce Pack Recipient**

HOLIDAY BASKETS

The Holidays - The most wonderful time of the year. That tune doesn't ring true for many families and individuals. For some it's the most stressful time; trying to make sure there's a gift under the tree for a loved one and wanting to provide a little extra for the holiday dinner can be too much for some.

So we put out a call and donors answered. The generosity of those who know and empathize with the stress during this time of year provided 125 families and individuals a Holiday basket. Each basket contained everything needed for a traditional holiday feast right down to the dessert.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

In an effort to not duplicate services we partner and coordinate with outside organizations to bring their services not currently offered in the Spryfield area to our office to break down barriers to accessing services. Offering an office for community partners to meet with clients that is complete with internet access, phone, printing and faxing, service-providers are well-equipped to support residents.

OUR PARTNERS

- Nova Scotia Legal Aid - connecting residents to free legal advice around tenancy/landlord issues and appeals with income assistance, employment insurance and CPP disability.
- Tax Filing - a year round volunteer income tax program filling taxes for residents to ensure they are receiving benefits such as GST rebate and Child Tax Benefit.
- Dalhousie Legal Aid - a form filling clinic where residents can come get help filling out applications such as citizenship papers.
- Multi-Service Round Table - holding monthly meetings where other service providers come to meet and share their areas of work, experience and resources to build awareness, improve communication and reduce duplication.
- Diagnosing Poverty, Prescribing Possibilities - a partnership with community healthcare practitioners where we ask them to consider income as a risk factor in a persons' health. Healthcare providers refer their patients to us to meet with our Community Outreach Worker who will work with them to discuss their needs and help navigate services.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Department Community Services - Funds received through the Department of Community Service allowed us to help those who were experiencing homelessness or in danger of being evicted. With this funding we were able to keep 18 unique individuals remain housed and secured housing for 5 individuals.



Pathways to Education Progress Report "Building a Graduation Nation"

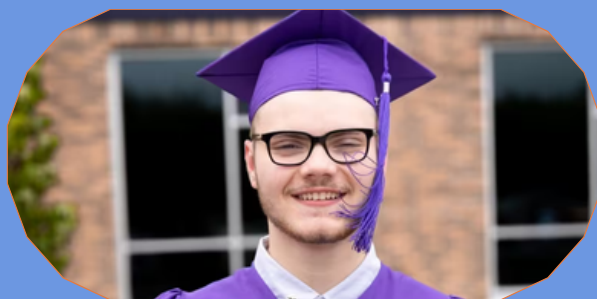
Since 2010, Pathways to Education has delivered its award winning program to hundreds of students and has made significant progress in a number of key strategic priorities including supporting newcomer youth, improving students' competencies and healthy living skills. We support youth in finding their way back to social engagement and to think critically about how they want to engage in their community. Our goal is to make sure students are equipped to successfully transition to post-secondary education, training or employment; helping break the cycle of generational poverty.

SUPPORTING NEWCOMER YOUTH

The Spryfield community has changed drastically over the past decade. Being a popular community for immigrants to move into and call home has enriched our community but many immigrant youth found reaching their academic potential challenging due to the language barrier.

Knowing this, we once again partnered with Saint Mary's International Master of Teaching English to provide quality EAL classes during the school year. Supporting 76 participants that included Pathway Newcomer Youth and their families. Class became a place where folks came together as a unit to learn and connect to others in their community.

"I, like my son, can do his school work and I can work on my work at the same time. It's such a nice community. When will we do this again?" - EAL Participant



Silas has been in the Pathways Program for 4 years and with hard work, dedication and support from the Pathways Program he was awarded a \$100,000 Schulich Leader Scholarship. This prestigious award is only given out to 100 youth across Canada.

"Pathways staff really make a difference. Getting positive comments and feedback on where you can grow is so powerful for students in Spryfield. It's an encouragement to be more curious and learn subjects that might have a reputation for being difficult." - Silas

70%

Invested In
Youth

2000+

Community
Member
Supported

\$80,000

Invested in
Food
Support

90%

Pathways To
Education
Graduation
Rate

660

Books Mailed
Out to
Children 0-5
yrs old

Financial Report

	2023	2022
Revenue	\$1,223,246	\$1,182,808
Expenses	\$1,237,992	\$1,172,796
Net Profit/Loss	<\$14,746>	\$10,012

During our 2022-2023 fiscal year we continued to see financial support from our individual donors along with growing support from many HRM businesses. Grants and funding from foundations make up the bulk of our revenue. Private donations allowed us to invest in areas that were not funded through our grants, such as the Holiday basket giveaway and Library Club. As we look ahead to continued growth, we are committed to balancing the budget while providing quality programming in the community we serve. The net loss in 2023 is a snap shot of the growing needs in the community we serve. Our work here is possible because of the support and commitment from our board, volunteers, staff and donors.

I Donate Because.....

"When an organization like this contributes to helping, so many people, in so many situations "get-a-step-up" we all benefit". - Donor

"I always put my money into an organization that has results and takes action." - Donor

We couldn't have
done it without your
generous *support.*

Thank you

to all our donors
and volunteers.

There is no such thing as a “**small donation**”. Every dollar given allows us the opportunity to build on relationships, and reach those that are sometimes hard to reach.

Thank you for investing into this organization.



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Pathways
to Education



WALKER WOOD
FOUNDATION

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United Way
Halifax

Wattswind
THE ENERGY TO LEAD



Canadian Progress Club
HALIFAX CITADEL

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harvest**