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Annual Report

April 2023–
March 2024

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Prepared By
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chebuctoconnections.ca

Letter from the Executive Director & Board Chair

One of our donors said it best - *“The staff are so engaged in and love their work and it shows. There’s passion to do good within the walls of Chebucto Connections”*. - Margo Kerr

Chebucto Connections has become a place of hope and a pillar of strength, thanks to the commitment of its team. Their work is not just about fulfilling roles; it's about making meaningful connections, fostering inclusivity, and empowering individuals to achieve their fullest potential. Every day, the staff and volunteers come together with a shared vision of creating a vibrant and supportive community. Their collaborative spirit and innovative approaches have led to numerous success stories, each one a testament to the transformative power of collective action. As we look to the future, we remain inspired by the dedication and compassion of our team. We are committed to continuing this journey with the same enthusiasm and drive, ensuring that Chebucto Connections remains a place where everyone feels valued and supported. Together, we will keep building a brighter, more connected community.



OUR BOARD

- Shelly Currie - Chair
- Reeta Singh - Vice-Chair
- Julie Robichaud - Treasurer
- Tyler Bechard - Secretary
- Michelle Lucas - Past Chair
- Paul La Fatt - Director
- Cecila Murphy - Director
- Jenna Giles - Director
- Alana Wilson-Lowe - Director



Vision & Mission

Mission

Security & Prosperity - we support initiatives that protect, enhance and attract resources to our communities.

Diversity & Inclusiveness we welcome all viewpoints and serve to amplify marginalized voices.

Equity & Fairness - we are dedicated to assisting groups that work toward equitable access to resources.

Caring & Engagement - 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.

Vision

Building Connections to Build Community

Our Vision is a community that is actively engaged in making Spryfield and surrounding areas a healthy and vibrant place to live and work.



Community Review....



"Chebucto Connections has been for the last several years, particularly during the Covid pandemic, a safe zone for me and for my late partner. It was where we could take what we needed and give what we could without judgement, community in its truest sense. Chebucto Connections was there for us. We weren't too lesbian, too fat/unhealthy, too poor, too distraught. Through Chebucto Connections, I discovered various ways to look after myself and my dying partner better. This was not only through their direct programs of food and other supports, but also questions answered in a caring, timely, and above all confidential manner. We also were helped to connect to other organizations such as Caregivers Nova Scotia, the Salvation Army, various programs from Community Health, and the Halifax Libraries. I was given the tools to better care for myself and my partner. Covid has taught me gratitude: we could and did isolate ourselves; Chebucto Connection never did: they were unsung essential workers for us. We couldn't have made it without them, even to providing us with masks and rapid test kits to ensure our continued safety when they weren't readily available elsewhere."



Iftar Dinner

“Thank you so much to the incredible staff of Chebucto Connections and all the dedicated volunteers for organizing such a wonderful Iftar dinner! It was truly an amazing experience filled with delicious food and heartwarming conversations. Ramadan is a time for reflection, community, and generosity, and last night's event embodied all of that. Grateful to be part of such a welcoming and inclusive community.” 🌙🌟 #Ramadan #Community #Gratitude

Highlights this year



Holiday Giving

This holiday season with the help of generous donors we supported 186 households reaching 485 individuals.

"Big shout out to the team. Your hard work and dedication is above and beyond we so needed this boost for our families."

Kids up front

Children and youth across Canada benefit from Kids Up Front by offering them opportunities to attend various events. This year 339 tickets were provided for experiences such as Michelle Obama's event, sports games, and shows at the Neptune Theatre.



Highlights this year



Gardening

A nine week Garden & Food Program where youth learned gardening skills, food literacy and cooking at a local community garden.

“Coming here was probably my favourite moment of the summer. It was nice to be somewhere that wasn't work or doing nothing at home.”

Pathways Reunion

Alumni Ambassadors reflect on staying connected with alumni from various cohorts, emphasizing mentorship to guide young individuals towards success beyond high school graduation.

“By highlighting the achievements of these alumni, it highlights what the program does. It shows the importance of just how having somebody in your corner can transform into something so much bigger beyond you.”



Overview of Programs



Pathways to Education

Since 2010, Chebucto Connections has delivered this award winning program to hundreds of students and has made significant progress in a number of key strategic priorities, including improving students' competencies and healthy living skills. Our goal is to make sure students are equipped to successfully transition to post-secondary education, training or employment; helping break the cycle of poverty. During the 2022-2023 school year, a total of 178 youth successfully completed the Pathways to Education Program, 90% of the students enrolled in Pathways graduated with 79% of those students transitioning to post-secondary education.

Oral Health Initiative

Thanks to funding from Green Shield and a collaboration with Spryfield Dentistry, we are able to offer oral care services to individuals who are under-insured or not insured. Maintaining good oral hygiene is crucial for both physical and mental well-being.

Library Club

Reading with your child fosters success by promoting knowledge and concentration. Chebucto Connections partners with the Dollywood Foundation to provide free books to children aged 0-5 through the Imagination Library, offering monthly deliveries of new books to children's homes for them to keep.

Food Assistance

With the increasing cost of living, food has emerged as one of the most requested essentials. Our initiatives aid local residents facing food insecurity free bi-weekly produce packs, a summer market, food pantry and holiday baskets. These initiatives supported 300+ households reaching 500+ individuals.

Partnerships at the Hub



To enhance service access, we collaborate with external organizations to provide additional services in our office. By offering internet, phone, printing, and faxing facilities, service providers can effectively assist residents in the Spryfield area.

- **Nova Scotia Legal Aid** - assists residents by offering free legal advice on tenancy/landlord issues, appeals related to income assistance, employment insurance, and CPP disability.
- **Tax Filing** - operates a year-round volunteer income tax program to help residents file their taxes, ensuring they receive benefits like the GST rebate and Child Tax Benefit.
- **Dalhousie Legal Aid** - runs a form-filling clinic where residents can receive assistance in completing applications such as citizenship papers.
- **The Multi-Service Round Table** - organizes monthly meetings for various service providers to gather, share their expertise, experiences, and resources, fostering awareness, enhancing communication, and preventing redundancy.
- **Getting Everyone Online (GEO)** - collaboration has facilitated equipping 13 households with digital skills, devices, and internet access.
- **Job Junction** - utilizes our premises to meet with clients and conduct workshops.
- **Student Placements** - offering students the chance to apply their academic knowledge and skills in a professional setting.
- **Saint Mary's International Master of Teaching English** - offers free English as an Additional Language (EAL) classes to community members.

Financial Report

Apr 1, 2023 – Mar 31, 2024



**Income for fiscal
year**

**\$1.070
Million**



**Expenses for fiscal
year**

**\$1.104
Million**

Throughout the fiscal year 2023-2024, Chebucto Connections has been supported financially by grants, foundations, businesses, and individual donors. Private donations have been essential in enabling us to allocate resources to initiatives that go beyond the scope of our grants, like the Holiday Basket Giveaway and Library Club. Our goal is to maintain a balanced budget while providing high-quality programs to our community. The net loss experienced this fiscal year reflects the increasing needs of the community we serve diligently. To aid in supporting and advancing Chebucto Connections' mission and vision, our board members and volunteers have established a fundraising committee with a focus on raising unrestricted funds.

Gratitude in Action...A tribute to those who make a difference

To our incredible donors and volunteers,

Your unwavering support fuels our mission and brings hope to countless lives. Thank you for your generosity, dedication, and compassion. Together, we create positive change.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Chebucto Connections



Celebrating Our Champions: A Tribute to Our Funders

To our valued funders,

Your unwavering support drives our mission forward and transforms lives. Thank you for believing in our vision and making a difference. Together, we create lasting impact. As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with immense gratitude for your contributions. Your generosity has enabled us to expand our programs, reach underserved communities, and provide critical resources to those in need. We look forward to another year of collaboration and success.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Chebucto Connections

