

ANNUAL REPORT

SMALL COMMUNITY, BIG POSSIBILITIES

20
25
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CHEBUCTO
CONNECTIONS



We live and work in K'jipuktuk, Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) people, which is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship, and as such committed to respecting the land, waters, people, and relationships through our roles and responsibilities as treaty people.



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Leading with Vision

Letter from the Executive Director and Board Chair

For over 20 years, we've had the privilege of living and working in Spryfield and the surrounding communities. Throughout that time, we've witnessed many changes—and Chebucto Connections has evolved alongside them, adapting our programs and services to meet the shifting needs of our community.

A quote that continues to inspire and guide our work is:

“Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.” This timeless wisdom is at the core of what we do. Our mission is not only to respond to immediate needs but to empower individuals with the skills, confidence, and opportunities to thrive.

This past year, we were proud to expand our programs in meaningful ways. We launched open markets and hosted new community events that brought people together and strengthened connections. In response to growing interest, we added more English as an Additional Language classes. We also introduced youth drop-in nights—providing young people with a safe, welcoming space to learn, grow, and have fun while developing teamwork and life skills.

Looking back, we are proud of what has been accomplished. Looking forward, we are filled with hope and ambition. In the coming year, we aim to build new partnerships and explore fresh opportunities to enrich our community further. Our vision is to continue addressing essential needs like food security and housing retention, while deepening our investment in people through education, empowerment, and community engagement.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey. Your continued support and involvement truly make a difference.



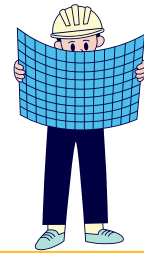
Reeta Singh
Board Chair



Christina Carter
Executive Director

The Blue Print

Guiding Principles



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.

“Programs are really helpful and well thought out, enhancing community driven culture.”

Community Profile

Chebucto Connections mainly supports households in Spryfield, Herring Cove, and Cowie Hill, with 40% from marginalized households. The demographic make-up of the community includes, 6% with indigenous ancestry, 25% visible minorities most commonly identifying as Black, South, West Asian, or East Asian. 16% are immigrants, with over 7% arriving to the area in the last five years.

Over the year, we've learned that flexibility is key to effectively meeting participants' needs. Based on feedback, we launched an English Conversation class and added more halal and culturally diverse food options. Partnerships with local organizations and businesses have been vital, allowing us to maximize resources and expand our outreach.

What's Cooking

Food Services & Support

Due to the high cost of basic needs such as rent, food has become the primary expense that many households are reducing, contributing to an increase in food insecurity. With funding received from donors, foundations and the government we were able to introduce additional avenues for accessing healthy foods at a lower cost. This expansion of programs not only meets urgent nutritional needs but also reinforces community connections through **Lunch and Learns** and community events.



***“As a dad of 5 teenagers
this program helps so
much to keep fresh
produce in the house.”***

Produce Packs

The **Produce Pack** Program provides free access to fresh and nutritious produce to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity within the Spryfield community. Every two weeks, we give out 100 produce packs that includes essential staples and seasonal produce.

Monthly Pantry

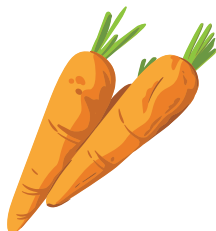
In January 2025, we introduced a registration process for individuals and families to receive customized **Monthly Pantry** support, including tailored food bags and optional items like laundry detergent and toiletries. By collecting information on dietary preferences and specific needs, we can better serve our community. Feedback from participants is encouraged to help us improve the service and adapt to the neighbourhood's changing dynamics.

Community Pantry

The **Community Pantries** were built by youth in our Pathways to Education program and can be found at Chebucto Connections and the Harrietsfield Community Centre. They offer non-perishable food and personal care items to anyone who visits during the organization's office hours. The pantry supplies are generously sourced through donations from local businesses, as well as funding from the Department of Opportunities & Social Development.

Emergency Food Support

We also provide **Emergency Food** assistance. The Outreach team prepares food bags for individuals in urgent need, such as those moving into new housing, unhoused people or folks escaping intimate partner violence (IPV). These emergency provisions are designed to offer immediate relief and stability during challenging times.



***“Offsetting cost
of my ever-
growing food
budget.”***

Community Markets

Our open **Community Markets** provide fresh low cost/free produce to all members of the community. The market helps individuals facing food insecurity who may not qualify for traditional food programs yet are still burdened by high rent costs. The market acts as a social hub, where people can shop for their needs, engage with neighbours, learn about nutrition, and explore new recipes.

Investment

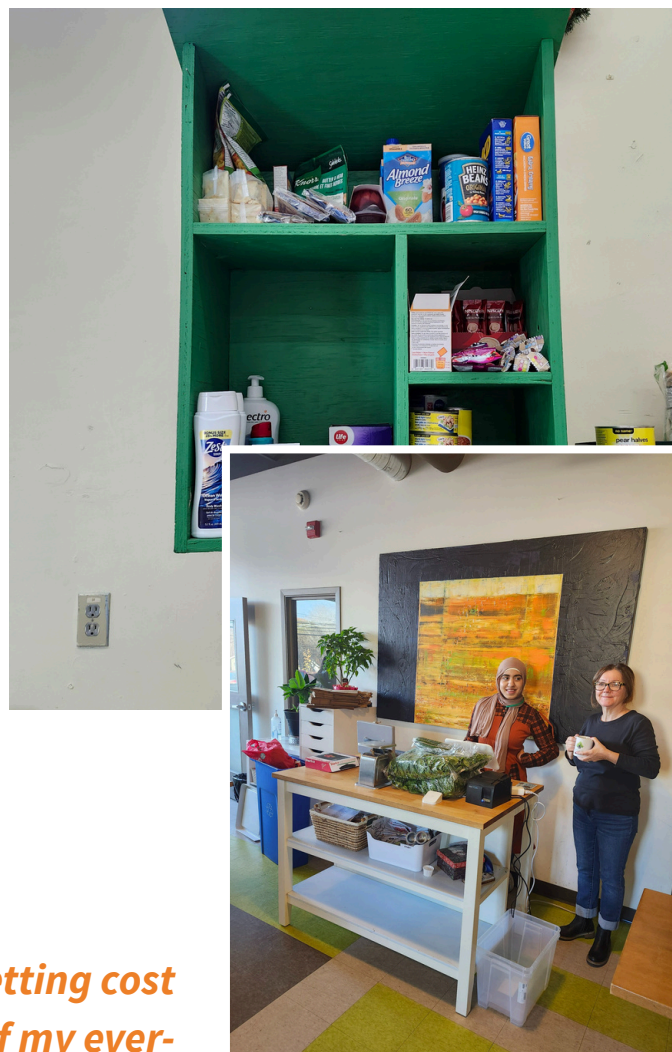
\$90,000 has been invested to support families and individuals experiencing food insecurity.

Reach

Our food programming has supported **800+** community members in the Spryfield and Harrietsfield area.

Synergy

We partnered with **25** organizations and businesses to support our food initiatives.



Broadening Our Food Reach

The Harrietsfield Community Market was launched in November 2024 as part of our commitment to enhancing food access in areas identified as having barriers, particularly due to limited transportation options. Located at the Harrietsfield Community Centre, this market provides a vital service to local residents, especially those living in the nearby trailer park or within the Harrietsfield/Williamswood area.

Twice a month, we offer a "shop" experience where community members can pick up essential items free of charge. The market offers a selection of fresh produce, bread, and non-perishable food items. By providing this opportunity, we aim to reduce the strain on individuals and families who may otherwise have to travel long distances to access affordable groceries.

We hold the market at two different times each month, once during the day and once in the evening, to ensure that people with various schedules can benefit from the program.



As a single person, I was immobile for a few months, and because of your program, I was able to gather some food and share it with my friends who in turn made meals for me that I was then able to freeze. I can't tell you how much this has meant to me. Additionally, I am also grateful for the 2 different admission times/dates, I can't always make a Tuesday day time, so having an opportunity for an evening time has been a blessing for me.

Your kindness and compassion means the world to me and to others who have utilized the program. Keep up the great work, your smiles and generosity have made the world of difference!!

Rooted in Service

Outreach Programming

Our outreach support team works hand in hand with individuals and families, guiding them through often complex systems. We connect them to community resources, help with grant and rental applications, and offer financial literacy workshops.

- Our commitment is to support our clients throughout every step of their journey.
- We take a holistic approach, addressing not only immediate needs but also focusing on the long-term well-being and growth of our community members.

Operating as a Hub, we provide a dedicated office space for community partners to meet with clients. This facility is equipped with internet access, phone services, printing, and faxing capabilities, ensuring that service providers are well-prepared to support residents.

Housing Support

Through various donations and government funding, we offer services aimed at fostering positive relationships between landlords and clients. Our support includes advocacy, assistance with housing paperwork, securing housing resources and maintaining tenancy once clients are housed. Our ultimate goal is to ensure safe and secure housing. Our outreach team can provide consultations on housing options, tenancy-related matters, eviction issues and will work with clients to set up achievable goals.

The library had about 5-8 individuals sleeping rough on its property. Since your in-reach visits began, I believe 6 have secured supportive housing, & all have either been added to the BNL or received assistance through your efforts, including giveaway bags. Your support is invaluable!

Chris Rogers - Halifax Library



Housing Support Continued....

We have successfully provided housing support for a diverse group of individuals, including single parents, seniors, those new to Canada and folks experiencing Intimate Person Violence (IPV). Our efforts have significantly supported numerous individuals in residential tenancy hearings, successfully diverting many from eviction.

- On-site staff have fostered relationship-building with local landlords, aiming to prevent evictions and enable individuals to age in place with supplementary support;
- 44 public housing applications and renewals completed;
- 92 subsidy applications, and 88 renewals submitted;
- Connected with 71 households whose primary language is not English, ensuring they received services in their native language.



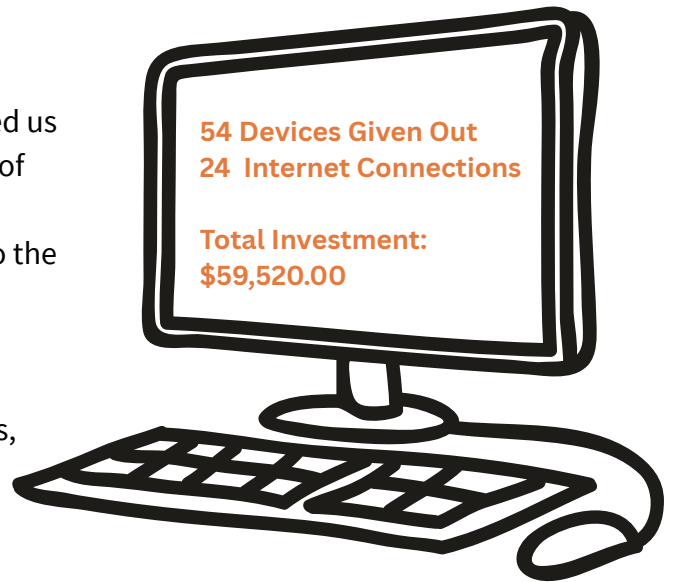
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We were lucky to have had 100 rough sleeping gear bags donated during the winter season from The Bank of Montreal. This generous donation enabled us to expand our outreach efforts, ensuring we were able to connect with those experiencing homelessness in our community. The bags supported us in making connections with folks living in highly vulnerable situations and are in need of critical support. Bags included clean undergarments, hand warmers, high-protein snacks and other necessities a person can use to try and stay warm. Each interaction was an opportunity to offer not only tangible support but also emotional reassurance, showing empathy and understanding.



GEO Connects

Our partnership with GEO Nova Scotia has allowed us to connect eligible community members in need of online access with free internet and devices. This initiative not only links individuals and families to the digital world but also empowers them to engage more actively in today's tech-driven society. By offering these vital resources, we aim to enhance educational opportunities, improve job prospects, and promote community involvement.



English as an Additional Language (EAL)

This program fosters a sense of community by bringing people together through food and conversation - assisting those learning English with everyday dialogue and language skills. Chebucto Connections collaborates with Saint Mary's University, inviting students training to become English teachers in international contexts to volunteer and enhance the conversational experience.

- A total of 65 distinct participants took part in 27 classes.
- Over 1,000 volunteer hours were contributed
- 28 volunteers
- 3 community members and 25 students from Saint Mary's University - International Masters of Teaching English program.



Tax Clinics

We provide year-round tax services, specializing in the filing of simple tax returns. This ensures that individuals remain current with their filing obligations and are able to access the benefits for which they are eligible.

Through this initiative, we aim to promote financial well-being and stability, empowering individuals to make informed decisions and confidently plan for their futures.



Fuel the Future

Youth Programming

Pathways to Education



81% of Pathways
participants graduate.

The Pathways Spryfield program was established in 2010 to tackle the low graduation rates in the Spryfield/Sambro Loop community. This initiative enhances the ongoing work of educators by offering four essential supports: advocacy, tutoring, mentoring, and scholarships.

This year we added in some new opportunities to help support youth in their journey of growing and discovering their unique strengths and talents. Opportunities focused on creativity, leadership, and teamwork, allowing participants to explore their interests and develop important life skills.

Highlights

Ski Martock - One cold winter day we took 25 youth to Ski Martock - Upon arrival, participants suited up and split into two groups: experienced skiers ready to explore the resort and first timers who received hands-on coaching. While there were plenty of slips, falls, and nervous laughter at first, those who had never skied before quickly found their rhythm. In no time, students were racing down the hills, their fears replaced with confidence and pure excitement. One student summed it up best, shouting, **"This is the best thing I've ever experienced!"**

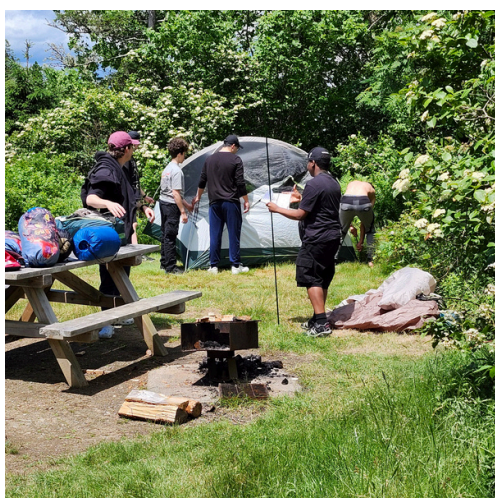
A trip to Ottawa - Stacey who is in our Pathways program was chosen to attend the Young Canadians National Summit. This summit is a week-long trip where over 100 youth ages 14-18 immerse themselves in learning about the Canadian Government, democracy and why it matters to them and their community. Participants had opportunities to meet MP's and influential people in our Federal Government. This helped build on their leadership abilities, expanded their peer networks and learned how to influence change in their own communities. Stacey described their experience at the forum as **"truly unforgettable"**. From day one they were thrown into hands-on learning that went way beyond textbooks. The youth toured key political institutions like the Supreme Court, House of Commons, and Senate. Stacey expressed that this experience has deepened her understanding of Indigenous Governance which was taught from workshops and conversations about treaties, self-governance, and reconciliation. She shared that she has sharpened her media literacy and learned how she can use her voice against hate, misinformation, and injustice. **"The week didn't just give me skills; it gave me direction. I'm beyond grateful for the opportunity and can't wait to pour everything I've learned back into the community."**

ManCave

ManCave was developed in response to increasing reports highlighting the necessity of discussing consent and conflict resolution among the male student body. It is designed with an emphasis on challenging harmful societal expectations surrounding masculinity.

Each week 20-30 male students meet to “break bread” during lunch hour. They discuss topics such as dealing with heartbreak and emotional health and respect (what does it mean? How do you give it? How do you earn it?).

The second part of the program includes off-site activities that promote growth and healthy risk taking, encouraging the participants to step out of their comfort zones and explore new experiences. These activities are designed to foster resilience, build confidence, and strengthen the bonds among the group. Activities have included axe throwing, camping and skiing.



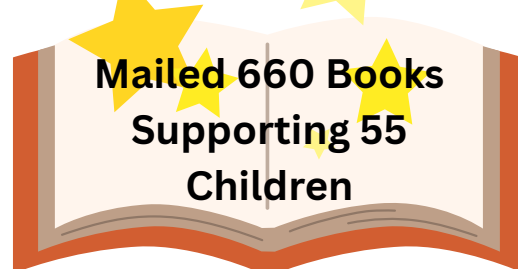
“If a guy is a 9-5 worker he is lame, and if he buys his girl, wife a gift he is a pimp.”

“Men have to deal with a lot more than people think”

“Finding it hard to be a man lately because I’m getting really lonely and it’s starting to hurt”

Library Club

Partnering with the Dollywood Imagination library we run a **Library Club** program that provides children in our community access to free books. Those registered in the program are sent a free, brand new book each month and the best part? They get to keep the books! Our Library Club strives to help build children’s love for books and to set them up for success and help prepare to be school ready.



One Heart, One Community

Special Events



Chebucto Connections organized a range of special events throughout the year, all featuring delicious food and supported by Collaborative Food Network funding. Some highlights of these events include:

- Ramadan Iftar Dinner – a communal meal celebrating the spirit of Ramadan;
- Valentine’s Day Cookie Decorating – a social event filled with coffee and cookie decorating fun;
- Senior’s Holiday Bingo – a bingo event designed to bring local seniors together, complete with snacks and coffee;
- Pumpkin Palooza – a fall fair that welcomed over 400 community members, featuring trunk-or-treat, a petting zoo, a magician show, games, and tasty food;
- Lunch and Learns - providing opportunities to explore various topics or skills presented by a guest speaker. Some of the sessions we’ve held include a dance and movement workshop facilitated by Halifax Dance, a discussion on cybersecurity and fraud prevention led by RBC, and a workshop on the relationship between food and mood hosted by Community Health Teams.



Iftar dinner 2025

“We were grateful to be included as I was going to be alone” **Iftar Attendee**

“This is, how you say, good, great, awesome!” **Iftar Attendee**

“Of all the Iftar’s I have attended this week, this one felt the most community” **Iftar Attendee**

Driving Forward

Our Key Take Aways and Insights



Our strategic vision aims to build a resilient community where everyone can thrive through:

- **Enhancing Access to Services:** Continuously evaluating and adapting programs to meet community needs and promote inclusivity and empowerment.
- **Community Involvement:** Engaging vulnerable groups through initiatives like Lunch & Learns and holiday events to reduce isolation and foster neighborly connections.
- **Robust Partnerships:** Collaborating with organizations and community volunteers, essential for providing resources and support to grow our programs.
- **Program Expansion:** Continuing to listen to the needs of the community and bringing in the resources and programs that will have the greatest impact. We are committed to identifying gaps and innovating solutions that cater to our community's evolving landscape.

Beyond the Gift

The Impact of our Donors



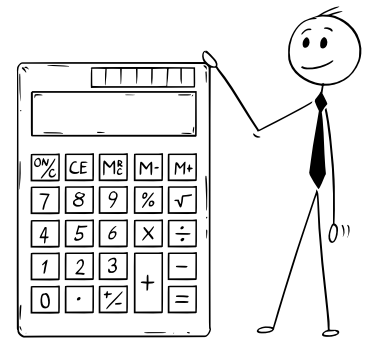
We are grateful for the financial support received from Foundations, Government and individual donors. It allows us to provide opportunities to those facing barriers and helps us create a more inclusive and supportive environment for everyone. With this backing, we can fund educational initiatives, provide access to health resources, and support cultural events that foster understanding and connection among community. As we look to the future, we remain committed to transparency, accountability, and making the most of every dollar entrusted to us. Together, we can continue to break down barriers, open doors to new opportunities, and create a legacy of lasting impact.



"Onward and upward. I hope Chebucto Connections has strong funding and community support for their great programs. Thanks for the support, great organization, great programs."

Balancing the Books

Final results for period ending March 31, 2025



Category	Details	Mar 31, 2025	Mar 31, 2024
Revenue			
Grants	Funds from foundations and agencies	\$729,976	\$785,361
Fundraising and Donations	Unrestricted funds	\$228,712	\$163,053
Government funding	Includes funds from all levels of government	\$342,961	\$140,405
Other	e.g sale of equipment	\$11,198	\$7,878
Total Revenue		\$1,312,847	\$1,069,697
Operating Expenses			
Grants and Other Supports	Supports for youth during the school year	\$52,084	\$64,382
Miscellaneous	Service charges/Funds in Trust	\$25,571	\$5,081
Office supply and equipment	IT/Equipment/Supplies	\$67,109	\$54,011
Program funding	Community Events/Housing Support	\$105,528	\$109,787
Project Material	Includes food cost	\$118,387	\$55,123
Rent	Includes utilities	\$109,901	\$102,703
Salaries and Benefits	Staffing cost	\$805,311	\$710,841
Total Operating Expenses		\$1,283,891	\$1,101,928
Net Loss/Income		\$28,956	(32,231)

Throughout the fiscal year 2024-2025, Chebucto Connections has received financial support from various sources, including grants, foundations, businesses, and individual donors. Private contributions have played a vital role in enabling us to allocate resources to initiatives that go beyond our grants. This support allows us to address immediate community needs and invest in innovative programs that foster long-term growth.

Successfully obtaining additional program funding and unrestricted funds this year has not only enhanced our programming but also helped us recover from last year's losses. Looking forward, we are committed to using every dollar judiciously to create a meaningful impact. Our ongoing focus will center on sustainable growth, community empowerment, and generating opportunities that uplift and inspire.