



ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2026

We live and work in K'ipuktuk, 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.

chebuctoconnections.ca

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

We entered the year with confidence, navigated unexpected challenges and moved forward with purpose. Through our work at Chebucto Connections, we supported individuals and families by expanding access to education, improving youth mental health services, helping people secure and maintain housing, and addressing food insecurity through diverse approaches. One principle remained clear: one size does not fit all.

This year also brought challenges. Government budget cuts required us to examine our dependence on funding sources and the long-term sustainability of our work. This reflection has strengthened our resolve to build a more resilient organization. We are actively exploring new pathways toward sustainability and strengthening partnerships to ensure we can continue delivering responsive services.

Our commitment to community remains at the centre of everything we do. We are grateful for the support of those we serve, our partners, donors, volunteers, and community members. We remain focused on delivering meaningful programs and building a more connected, supportive community. **Message from the Executive Director and Board of Directors**





MISSION

Our mission is to empower residents and strengthen community connections by bringing people, resources, and partners together to create positive change across Eastern Chebucto Peninsula.

VISION

A community that is actively engaged in making Spryfield and surrounding area a healthy and vibrant place to live and work

HOUSING SUPPORT

This past year was exceptionally busy as the ongoing housing and affordability crisis significantly increased demand for our services. Thanks to the addition of two funded staff positions through the **Affordable Housing Association of N.S** and one **United Way Halifax**-funded staff member, we were able to expand our capacity and provide enhanced support to individuals and families in our community.

650 people were supported toward greater stability through services that helped ease the cost of living, access and maintain housing, and navigate challenges to build greater stability. This included supporting women experiencing violence to develop safety plans and access safe, secure housing through the Gender-Based Violence Housing Subsidy.



PATHWAYS TO STABLE HOUSING

We supported 28 families and individuals find safe, stable housing. This represents more than just a number, it means 28 households taking an important step toward greater stability, security, and a place to call home.



NEW BEGINNINGS

We supported 12 households in finding new, stable housing - helping individuals and families move forward with greater security, stability, and a place to call home.



ONE LESS HOUSING WORRY

We supported 109 households with their rental subsidy renewals, helping ensure they could maintain access to affordable housing and avoid disruptions to their housing stability.

OUTREACH SERVICES

Our outreach services provide practical and personal support to help community members navigate life's challenges and build greater well-being. From tax filing, form filling, and budgeting support to Lunch & Learns and other community-based resources, we aim to create welcoming spaces where people can access information, build skills, connect with others, and feel supported.



BUILDING CONFIDENCE THROUGH LANGUAGE

We provided English as an Additional Language (EAL) support to 30 community members, helping newcomers and English-language learners build communication skills, confidence, and connections within the community.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



Through our partnership with GEO Connects, we help ensure that cost is not a barrier to being online for low-income Nova Scotians. As a GEO Referral Partner, **we connected community members with 27 Chromebooks, 16 connectivity supports, 13 home internet connections, 4 cell phones, and 3 mobile plans.** This partnership helped people access essential services, education, employment, and stay connected to their communities.

INCOME TAX FILING



We helped 913 low-income individuals file their income taxes, providing accessible support to navigate the tax system and access the benefits and credits they may be entitled to. This practical support helps reduce financial stress and strengthens household stability.

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Through **Pathways to Education in Spryfield**, young people receive the academic, financial, social, and personal support they need to stay engaged in school and work toward graduation. Pathways helps students overcome barriers and build confidence in their education and future. The program has played an important role in **helping increase the local high school graduation rate from 55% to as high as 90%.**

This year, we supported students as they prepared for life after high school through six post-secondary visits. Students explored different education and career pathways while learning practical skills around scholarships and applications. Workshops focused on the importance of healthy routines and independence in post-secondary life, with students reflecting on challenges such as sleep, nutrition, and managing their own schedules. As one student shared, ***“I feel less stressed about the future now that I understand there’s no single right path — just the one that fits me best.”***



CELEBRATING THE NEXT CHAPTER

Each year, we celebrate the achievements of our graduating class and the exciting paths ahead. This year, **we celebrated 51 graduates, with 84% moving on to post-secondary education** - a milestone worth celebrating!

WHERE LEARNING MEETS FUN

Our program is about more than just tutoring - it's a fun space where youth can learn, connect & grow through experiential trips, crafts, & activities. Building friendships and lasting memories.

LEARN, GROW & SUCCEED

Our tutoring program provides academic support to 240+ youth.

Through individualized support, youth have a space to ask questions, work through challenges, and reach their academic goals.



BUILDING FOOD SECURITY TOGETHER

Our food security programs provide community members with access to free and low-cost food options, along with Lunch & Learns opportunities to build knowledge around food, health, and well-being. Through collaboration with community members and local organizations we work together to make healthy food more accessible and strengthen food security across the community.

More Than a Workshop

Our canning workshops are designed to build practical skills and help community members learn how to preserve food at home. But the workshops often create something equally valuable: connection. During one session, a participant shared the heartbreaking loss of a loved one and how grateful she was to be part of the group during such a difficult time. While speaking with another participant, she discovered that her loved one had worked in her yard over the summer. The two were able to share memories of them, turning a workshop about preserving food into a meaningful moment of connection, comfort, and community.

FOOD SECURITY BY NUMBERS

- **1,666 Free Produce Packs** distributed to 196 households / 313 individuals
- 20 Square Roots Markets with **1,140 sales.**
- 18 Harrietsfield Markets with **618 visits and 18 produce deliveries**
- 280 Community Pantry bags **provided to 144 households / 269 individuals**
- **\$10,454** invested in keeping the Community Pantry stocked.
- 4 Lunch & Learns with **69 participants.**
- **14 participants** took part in Canning & Preserving sessions

“What my household has liked most about the Chebucto Connections food programs is how reliable, accessible, and supportive they are.”

MENTAL HEALTH

Access to timely mental health support and positive connections can make a lasting difference in a young person's life. Our services provide youth ages 13–25 with free counselling from licensed counsellors, while our ManCave program offers young men ages 14–18 a supportive space to build friendships, confidence, communication skills, and healthy connections.



18% of Canadian men aged 15–24 reported always or often feeling lonely.

Statistics Canada

Mental health counselling was the most frequently requested service through 211 Nova Scotia in 2024, accounting for 16% of referrals.

211 Nova Scotia



OPEN MINDS

Through informal feedback, participants in the Open Minds program have reported reduced stress and anxiety and greater confidence. Some have returned to school and reported reductions in self-harm.



M.A.N.C.A.V.E

Each year, Mancave participants have the opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy a camping trip together, building friendships, confidence, teamwork, and lasting memories in a fun and supportive environment.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Our annual **Iftar Dinner** has grown into a cherished gathering where our community comes together to break bread, connect, and celebrate. Each year brings more people to the table, and this year, our growing attendance has us looking for an even bigger venue to welcome everyone!



Our annual Pumpkin Palooza brings together **400+ community members** for a fun-filled day of trunk-or-treat, a petting zoo, face painting, and more. Beyond the fun, it creates a space for families to connect, build community, and make lasting memories together.



Our **Community Breakfast** brought residents, and volunteers from Halifax Stanfield together for a morning of good food and connection. The event provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships, welcome new faces, and celebrate the sense of community that makes our neighbourhood strong.

FINANCE REPORT

This year, we were pleased to maintain a balanced budget and finish the year without a deficit - an important accomplishment at a time when financial pressures across the nonprofit sector continue to grow. Rising costs, increased demand for services, and uncertainty around government funding are creating challenges for organizations and the communities they serve. At the same time, many individuals and businesses have less capacity to give due to the rising cost of living.

Support from our community and partners continues to make a meaningful difference. Virgin Radio helped generate donations through Lights Up the Community, while other funders provided essential support for our operational costs, including rent and staffing. These funds are particularly important because strong programming depends on having the space, staff, and resources needed to deliver it. Without this core operational support, it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain and grow the programs our community relies on.

While the funding environment remains uncertain, ending the year without a deficit reflects careful financial management and the continued commitment of our funders, donors, partners, and community supporters. Maintaining financial stability allows us to focus on our work, respond to growing needs, and continue building connections across the communities we serve.

	April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025
Total Revenue	\$1,461,976	\$1,312,847
Operating Expenses	\$1,433,294	\$1,283,891
Net Profit/Loss	\$28,682	\$28,956



LOOKING AHEAD: OUR GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

- **Housing Stability** – Strengthen housing supports and help individuals and families access and maintain safe, stable housing.
- **Mental Health & Wellness** – Continue to offer opportunities for mental health and wellness with a focus on reducing barriers and supporting community well-being.
- **Education & Youth Development** – Continue supporting students through Pathways to Education and create opportunities that help youth succeed in high school, prepare for post-secondary education, and build confidence for their future.
- **Food Security** – Strengthen food programs and partnerships to increase access to nutritious food while providing residents with choice, dignity, and flexibility.
- **Community Events & Connection** – Continue offering community events and activities that bring residents together, reduce isolation, build relationships, and create opportunities for people to connect.
- **Community Partnerships** – Build and strengthen partnerships, volunteer engagement, and community connections to increase our capacity and ensure programs continue to meet local needs.



CHEBUCTO
CONNECTIONS

FUNDERS

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our funders and local business partners. In a year of increasing demand and financial uncertainty, these partnerships have been especially important. We are grateful to the businesses, organizations, and funders who continue to invest in our community and recognize the value of the work being done through Chebucto Connections.

- Pathways to Education Canada
- Province of Nova Scotia
- Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia
- United Way of Halifax
- Halifax Youth Foundation
- Greenshield
- Mental Health Foundation
- Government of Canada
- Walkerwood Foundation
- Northwest Rotary Club
- Healy Family
- Watts and Wind
- Royal Bank of Canada
- American Eagle
- Tribune Seafood
- B.D Stevens Limited
- Eliot and Vine
- The Landings Surgical Centre
- Red Door Realty
- Guardian Drugs Spryfield
- Lawtons Spryfield
- Macdonalds Spryfield
- Black Diamond Builders
- Maclellan
- Allstar Rebar
- EUI Limited
- Purcells Cove Club
- Christina Hedley Ivany Foundation
- Office Interiors



IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

Volunteers are an essential part of what makes Chebucto Connections possible. They contribute their time, skills, and energy across our programs and community initiatives, helping us reach more people and create opportunities that would not be possible through staff capacity alone. From supporting food programs and community events to sharing their knowledge and building connections with residents, volunteers play an important role in strengthening our work. We are grateful for the many people who choose to give their time to our organization and help make our community stronger.





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