

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



feed
nova scotia



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that Feed Nova Scotia and its network of members are located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People, and we acknowledge them as past, present, and future caretakers of this land. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq, Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet), and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. We are all Treaty people.

Feed Nova Scotia collectively recognizes the importance of righting relations with Indigenous peoples and collectively commits to Truth and Reconciliation. We commit to work with Indigenous peoples with open hearts and minds. We commit to learning the truth to understand and inform our active participation in reconciliation.

Acknowledgement of African Nova Scotians

Feed Nova Scotia acknowledges that African Nova Scotians have existed and persisted on the traditional land of the Mi'kmaq for more than 400 hundred years. Their significant presence and contributions have contributed to the existence of Nova Scotia where they have founded 52 historical African Nova Scotian communities. This acknowledgement also brings with it a call to action to reconcile the harms acted upon African Nova Scotians, as a distinct People.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been an incredible honour to join Feed Nova Scotia as Executive Director in September of 2024. From day one, I've been deeply moved by the passion, skill, and heart that this team brings to our work every single day. This is an organization built on compassion and community—and it's clear that we are ready to rise to meet this moment with both courage and clarity.

As we look ahead, we are embracing a bold evolution in our mandate—one that recognizes the urgent need to provide immediate food support while also addressing the root causes of food insecurity through systemic change. Guided by a renewed focus on justice, equity, decolonization, diversity, and inclusion, we are deepening our commitment to food justice and food sovereignty.

This shift calls us to reimagine how we work, who we work with, and what we set out to achieve. It requires us to challenge old systems, build new partnerships, and center the voices and leadership of people with lived experience. Our strategic pillars—Organizational Capacity, Ecosystems, Innovation and Learning, and Changing Public Dialogue and Advocacy—are the foundation for this work. Together, they reflect our drive to build stronger local capacity, advocate for lasting policy change, and equip our network, partners, and communities with the tools they need to thrive.

To the communities at the heart of this work, the member agencies and partners, who deliver support with care and consistency, and the individuals with lived experience who continue to shape our understanding and direction—thank you. I am deeply grateful to be part of this journey with you.

Ash Avery - Executive Director

NOTE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The Board and I were ecstatic to have Ash join Feed Nova Scotia in September. Her leadership, passion for Feed Nova Scotia's mission, and commitment to the principles of justice, equity, decolonization, diversity, and inclusion have been instrumental to the organization during a time of growth, transformation, and opportunity.

As Feed Nova Scotia continues to address systemic inequalities through advocacy, collaboration, and innovation, the relationships with the member network and community partners are more important than ever before. As we work towards a food secure Nova Scotia, we look forward to seeing what can be accomplished, together.

The Board of Feed Nova Scotia is immensely grateful to the members, community partners, and the staff for their continuing support and commitment to the mission.

Mohammad Ali Raza

Board Chair on behalf of the Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Duma Bernard, Patricia Bradshaw, Kim Burns, Barbara Campbell, Cynthia Dorrington, Joe Fraser, Mark Fullerton, Mary Ellen Greenough, Jenny Hackney, Roddy Macdonald, Corey Mattie, Miranda Mavhunga, Sylvia Parris-Drummond, Mohammad Ali Raza.

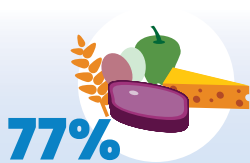
A special thank you to Sylvia Parris-Drummond, who has been a member of the Feed Nova Scotia Board since 2017. Over the past eight years, she has held a variety of positions, including Chair, and has been involved with several committees within the board. We are so grateful for the time and effort Sylvia has given to Feed Nova Scotia.

2024 saw an increase in demand – both in the amount of people accessing support, and the amount of times individual households required support. Given the levels of need across Nova Scotia, the Warehouse and Logistics team focused on finding innovative ways to support the member network.

3,248,755 kgs of food distributed to the member network



of distributed food was perishable



of distributed food was made up of main meal components



We were able to provide **8.5-10 kg** of food per client per month, approx. **6.5 to 7 days** worth of food



70%

of purchased food came from Nova Scotia farmers, and accounted for 50% of total money spent.



77%

of purchased food was perishable food, including 75,000 litres of milk, and over 56,000 dozen eggs.

Feed Nova Scotia was honoured to receive the Divert NS Mobius Award for Community Project of the Year. This award recognizes Nova Scotians working towards waste reduction through innovative environmental actions.

Our warehouse staff and volunteers diverted 1.8 million kgs of food from landfills over the past year with help from manufacturers, producers, and farmers. Because of this work, 1.7 million kgs of fresh, safe, consumable food was distributed across Nova Scotia instead of filling landfills, while the remaining food was recycled or repurposed for composting and livestock.

We are so proud of our environmental and waste reduction work, and are grateful for the support of our partners!

In 2024, 5.5% of the population of Nova Scotia (59,757 individuals) was served by a member foodbank

24.4%

The number of people accessing food banks with employment income as their primary source of income is increasing (24.4%, compared to 17.5% in 2019).

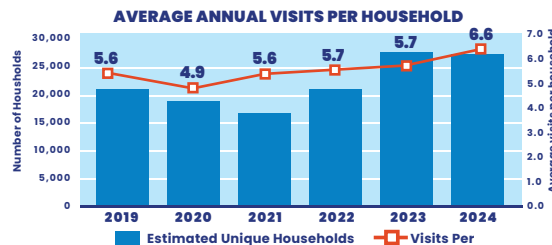
87.9%

People can't afford the basics; 87.9% of people stated their main reason for accessing food banks were related to the cost of living, and a majority specifically referenced the cost of food.



We are continuing to see a steady rise in the number of Nova Scotians accessing food services. In 2024, 5.5% of the population of Nova Scotia (59,757 individuals) was served by a member food bank, the highest percentage ever. Accounting for repeat visits, this means that food banks provided support for the equivalent of 156,977 people.

More and more, food bank support is something people are relying on to meet their day-to-day food needs, not just in times of temporary crisis.



Households visiting food banks regularly (13 or more times) accounted for 36% of total visits, despite only making up 10% of total households. This includes the 2.6% of households that received support 25 or more times, accounting for 16.4% of all visits.

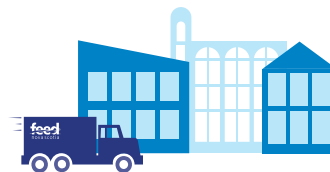
Holiday Fund

This year we introduced a new funding program, the Holiday Fund, aimed at allowing members to offer support or activities to recognize the holidays and occasions most important to the people they support.

The Holiday Fund allowed the member network to be more inclusive and creative in their offerings, including the purchase of halal turkeys and children's birthday boxes. Some members chose to use the money to provide gift cards for their clients, which was very well received:

"I'm going to use my gift card at Needs to buy gas so I can travel to Cape Breton to have Christmas Dinner with my family."

"We heard from our guests that the cards would help with food security, the ability to afford a few extras, and to assist our guests in gifting their families. These cards showed our guests that they are valued and cared for. They also provided our guests the dignity of making their own choices."



Capacity Fund

The Capacity Fund was able to offer 45 capacity-building grants to organizations across the province, totaling \$74,600 in funding. Projects included new shelving and food storage equipment, handwashing sinks, fridges & stoves, and even a delivery service for those unable to get to the food bank!

We're so proud of all
the Feed Nova Scotia
members who gained
accreditation in 2024!

Food Banks Canada

This past year, we focused on supporting and resourcing the member network as they work to achieve accreditation through the Food Banks Canada Standards of Excellence. Having an accredited status helps food banks attract volunteers, signal integrity, accountability, and operational excellence to potential volunteers and donors.

These standards reduce risk, promote accountability, continuous improvement and innovation, and consistency across the network. They ensure that food banks provide high-quality, dignified support to clients while fostering a stronger, more united approach to tackling food insecurity.

We're so proud of all the Feed Nova Scotia members who gained accreditation in 2024, and we are looking forward to supporting those working towards accreditation in 2025.

- 1 **Pictou County (East) Food Bank**
- 2 **Guysborough & Area Food Bank Society**
- 3 **Berwick Food Bank**
- 4 **Salvation Army Family Services Truro**
- 5 **Salvation Army – Sydney Community Church**



Innovation and Learning Grant

In 2024, we were able to fund 19 community-led initiatives through this grant stream. These projects aimed to test new ideas and explore different approaches to food insecurity, food sovereignty, and food systems. **Some project highlights include:**

► **The POSSE Project and Sipekne'katik First Nations**

An Indigenous youth leadership program that integrated cooking skills, facilitated a connection to traditional food and culture, and provided communal food access for participants.

► **Akoma**

Designed and ran a summer camp for African Nova Scotian youth. The camp focused on innovative growing technology, directly growing food for community, advocacy, and education on the history of African Nova Scotian farming.

► **The Cape Breton Youth Project**

Funded the building and operation of a youth-led food pantry at a 2SLGBTQIA+ safe organization to increase dignified food access for queer and trans community members.



Community Partnerships

This year, we continued to build new community partnerships focused on the design and testing of new approaches and models to increase dignified, secure, and just food access. Some of the **2024 highlights included:**

JustFOOD and the Musquodoboit Family Resource Centre

This project was focused on rolling out a community-designed rural food access program that was focused on selling shelf-stable product at wholesale prices. The program ran for six months in 2024 and provided a basis for which to inform future programs and services in rural contexts.

Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU)

This work is building on previous research done in collaboration with MSVU which revealed gaps in service for 2SLGBTQIA+ people seeking food support. We're excited to be moving into the next phase of the project, which will focus on the design of a queer and trans-centered food access service model.

Island Food Network

The Island Food Network Partnership focused on engaging the community, and designing two food focused models focused on community-powered, people-centered, and responsive approach to food access in Cape Breton. The collaboratively designed community cookout series and an Indigenous-focused youth food leadership model will be rolled out in 2025.

First Voice Advisory Committee

In 2024, the First Voice Advisory Committee continued to work with Feed Nova Scotia to provide feedback and advice during the grantee application assessments for the Innovation and Learning Grant.

The 18-member committee was also focused on input and feedback into the design of a community advocacy toolkit, which will be rolled out later in 2025.

Shipping Container Giveaway

In August of 2024, we put out a call for the Shipping Container Pitch project. We had generously received a re-purposed shipping container that was fully equipped with power, air conditioning, and automatic doors and were looking to pass it on to a community organization in Nova Scotia that was focused on advancing community food security and/or food sovereignty.

EduHaus Inc. answered our call – as a Black-led social enterprise, they are working towards increasing access to STEM education, programs, and pathways to underrepresented communities.



Dr. Simone Le Gendre

& Chukwuka Orji

EduHaus Inc.



Volunteer Service Awards

This year, we rolled out a Service Awards program to recognize those in our dedicated volunteer community. In December of 2024, Nancy Fullerton achieved the incredible milestone of 25 years of volunteer service, supporting our warehouse operations for over two and a half decades.

Nancy's unwavering commitment, hard work, and compassion have made a lasting impact on our organization and the community we serve. She has touched the lives of countless people and is truly at the heart of our volunteer community. A huge thank you to Nancy for her continued dedication!



Norma Searle Award

In 2005, Delores Smith laid the foundation for the Hunters Helping the Hungry Program. For 20 years, hunters have been supporting food insecure Nova Scotians through their generous donations, which have totaled over 16 thousand kilograms of wild game! This is all possible thanks to Delores' leadership and stewardship of the program.

Delores was the recipient of the Norma Searle Award for Volunteer Excellence in 2024, and it's thanks to her dedication and attention to detail that the Hunters Helping the Hungry Program has continued for over two decades. We are so thankful for the time and energy Delores has put into this program!



Feed Nova Scotia was the recipient of three community awards in 2024, taking home the award for "Best Walking Group" in the Pride Parade, and the Best of Halifax's Gold Award for "Best Place to Volunteer" and "Best Activist Organization". These achievements would not be possible without the presence of our vibrant volunteer community. Thank you for making Feed Nova Scotia such a wonderful place to be!

Individuals and groups across the province held over 500 events on our behalf in 2024. These events and the people putting them on are integral to Feed Nova Scotia. Not only do they spread awareness across the province, but they also raised a whopping \$1,696,532 in 2024, along with 62,463 kilograms of food brought into the warehouse.

We're so thankful for the amazing support we receive from Nova Scotians who are continuing to show up for one another.



Oscar Arab

Oscar has been a proud supporter of Feed Nova Scotia since 2023. A tour of the Feed Nova Scotia warehouse broadened his understanding of community needs and inspired him to launch a GoFundMe focused on hygiene items. His continued support of local food banks and initiatives demonstrate that anyone, regardless of age, can create meaningful change.



Sunnyside Mall

Sunnyside Mall has demonstrated unwavering support and dedication to Feed Nova Scotia for over 20 years and has consistently provided valuable fundraising and volunteer opportunities. This holiday season's Santa and Grinch photo donations raised an incredible \$10,445 for Feed Nova Scotia. We are so lucky to have partners like the Sunnyside Mall working alongside us!



Potikki's & Build Nova Scotia

This year's Evergreen Festival opened up a new fundraising opportunity for Feed Nova Scotia. Wade Bruce, owner of Potikki's and Smokes Poutinerie, donated his signature apple fries in exchange for direct donations for Feed Nova Scotia. Between his generosity and Build Nova Scotia's provision of the Pop Can space, we successfully raised \$5,728.75 and 20 kgs of food!



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS



**STELLA & SCOTT
BALFOUR**



**MS. BETH
NEWMAN**

**NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES**



**BLACK FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



**NSP MARITIME
LINK INC**



**THE EDWARDS
FAMILY CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**



**FLEMMING
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**



**HOLLY
MURPHY-STENTON
AND TED STENTON**

**MS. YOLANDE
SAMSON**



**GRANT THORNTON
FOUNDATION**

**HALIFAX YOUTH
FOUNDATION**



**PAULINE & ELLIOTT
SUTOW**

**DR. JOHN
HIMMELMAN**



**MARION
FUND**



**MS. JOANNE
MCCREA**

**HEATHER JEAN
MCINNES**



**MS. DOROTHY
MORRISON**



Thank you, also, to those who prefer anonymity or haven't consented to recognition.



OUTSTANDING FOOD DONORS

50,000+ kg

Atlantic Superstore
Costco Wholesalers
Food Banks Canada
Global Medic
Sobeys Inc
Walmart

25,000 - 49,999 kg

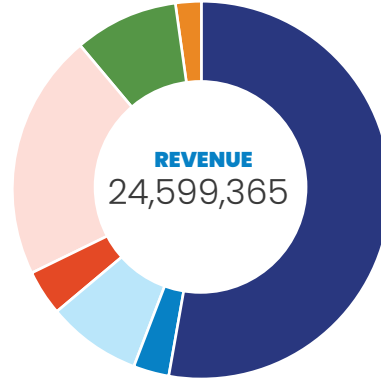
Charles Keddy Farms Ltd
Coca Cola Canada Ltd
Nova Agri Inc
Van Meekeren Farms Ltd

5,000-24,999 kg

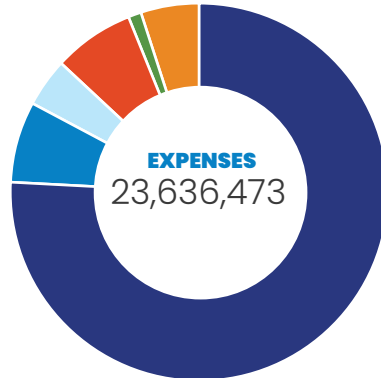
5000 Farms
Agropur - Farmers Co-Operative Dairy Ltd
Apple Valley Foods Inc
Basinview Farms Ltd
Canada Bread
den Haan Enterprises Ltd
Dylan's No Frills
Eden Valley Poultry
Egg Farmers of Canada
GFS - Gordon Food Service
High Liner Foods Incorporated
Lawtons Drugs Wholesale Division
Ocean Crisp Apple Company Inc
Saputo Dairy Products Canada
Sawler Gardens
Stokdijk Greenhouses
Sysco Foods Services of Atlantic Canada
Vermeulen Farms Ltd

FINANCIALS

In kind Food	53%	●
in Kind other Donations	3%	●
Individual Donations	8%	●
Corporate Donations	4%	●
Donations by and through other Charities	21%	●
Government Grants	9%	●
Investment Income	2%	●



Warehouse and Logistics	76%	●
Network Programs and Services	7%	●
Philanthropy and Engagement	4%	●
Human Resources and Finance	7%	●
Occupancy	1%	●
Community Partnerships Innovation and Advocacy	5%	●



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