

**feed**  
nova scotia



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**  
2025 - 2026

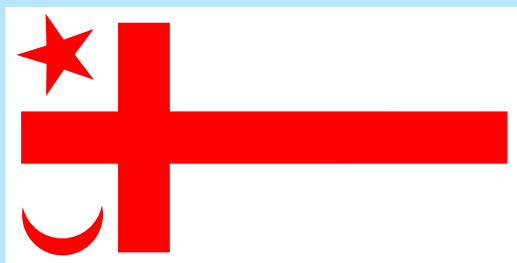
# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 Peoples, 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, Wəlastəkwiyyik (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 Wəlastəkwiyyik (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 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.





# A MESSAGE

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD

This year has made one thing unmistakably clear: food insecurity in Nova Scotia has reached its highest level on record. Across the province, more individuals and families than ever before are being pushed to make impossible choices between rent, heat, and groceries. The cost of living—whether housing, utilities, or food—has become profoundly misaligned with income, and employment alone is no longer a reliable pathway out of poverty for many households.

At Feed Nova Scotia, we continue to see firsthand what the data confirms: food insecurity is a direct consequence of poverty. While our network of community partners works every day to ensure people can access free, dignified food support close to home, we know that emergency food alone cannot resolve a crisis of this scale or complexity.

In response, our focus remains twofold. We are strengthening the community-based systems that meet immediate need while also advancing longer-term solutions aimed at reducing food insecurity at its root. This includes deepening our policy and public dialogue work, supporting shifts within the food system, and investing in community-driven partnerships that are testing creative and locally-grounded approaches across Nova Scotia.

Guided by our commitment to justice, equity, decolonization, diversity, and inclusion, Feed Nova Scotia continues to evolve how we show up provincially – not only as a distributor of food, but also as a partner in building more just, resilient, and community-led responses to poverty and food insecurity.

To the agencies, volunteers, partners, but also as community members who continue to lead with care, urgency, and compassion: **your work matters deeply in this moment.** Thank you for the leadership you show in communities across Nova Scotia every day. To our donors and funders, know that your support is essential to the work we do and to enabling the impact Feed Nova Scotia has across the province.

We cannot thank you enough.

**Ash Avery, Executive Director and Roddy Macdonald, Board Chair**

## Board

*Anita Basque, Duma Bernard, Patricia Bradshaw, Kim Burns, Barbara Campbell, Cynthia Dorrington, Joe Fraser, Mark Fullerton, Mary Ellen Greenough, Jenny Hackney, April Howe, Roddy Macdonald, Corey Mattie, Miranda Mavhunga, Crystal Nicholas, Mohammad Ali Raza.*

A very special thank you to the following board members **Mohammad Ali Raza, Patricia Bradshaw, Anita Basque, Kim Burns, and Duma Bernard.**

These five board members have played an invaluable part of Feed Nova Scotia's work. Duma and Kim both came to us as member representatives from the

network and have provided immeasurable insight into the front lines of food insecurity over the years. When Anita joined the board, she brought a powerful and grounded voice that will be missed, while Patricia's feminist and social justice lens played an essential role in the work to shape and strengthen our governance model. Mohammad's guidance and leadership was indispensable throughout his time as both Chair and Past Chair.

We are very fortunate to have had their support, guidance, and contributions and are grateful for the time and effort they have contributed throughout their time with the board.

# WHERE DO YOUR DONATIONS GO?



# THE MEMBERS

**Your donations do a lot.** Each dollar directly impacts food insecure Nova Scotians, either through immediate food support, through capacity building for the member network, or through advocating for a better tomorrow for all. The member organizations listed below play a large role in making sure many of these initiatives and programs happen. Not only are they on the frontlines of food insecurity, but they're also helping to build programs that bring about dignity and choice while supporting their communities in countless ways. Check out the rest of the annual report to see the member network in action.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Adsum Court</b>                                      | <b>CAW Louisbourg Food Bank Society</b>                 | <b>Family SOS Association</b>                              |
| <b>Adsum House</b>                                      | <b>CMHA – Dartmouth Among Friends</b>                   | <b>Feeding Others of Dartmouth – Margaret’s House</b>      |
| <b>Adsum Sunflower</b>                                  | <b>CMHA – Halifax Caring &amp; Sharing</b>              | <b>Freedom Foundation of Nova Scotia</b>                   |
| <b>Alice House</b>                                      | <b>Cape Breton Southwestern Food Bank</b>               | <b>Fundy Interchurch Food Bank</b>                         |
| <b>Allison Bernard Memorial High School</b>             | <b>Christ Church Food Bank</b>                          | <b>Gateway Community Church Food Bank</b>                  |
| <b>Amherst Food Assistance Network Association</b>      | <b>Clare Food Bank</b>                                  | <b>Glace Bay Food Bank Society (Page 14)</b>               |
| <b>Annapolis Royal Area Food Bank Society</b>           | <b>Colchester Food Network</b>                          | <b>Guysborough &amp; Area Food Bank</b>                    |
| <b>Antigonish Community Food Bank</b>                   | <b>Cole Harbour/Woodside United Church Food Bank</b>    | <b>Halifax Transition House Association – Bryony House</b> |
| <b>Ark Outreach</b>                                     | <b>Community Food Room</b>                              | <b>Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank</b>                   |
| <b>BFEC – Bedford Education Centre</b>                  | <b>Connections Dartmouth</b>                            | <b>Hants North Community Food Bank</b>                     |
| <b>BFEC – Forsyth Education Centre</b>                  | <b>Connections Halifax</b>                              | <b>Hantsport &amp; Area Community Food Bank</b>            |
| <b>Barra Food Bank Society</b>                          | <b>Dalhousie University Student Union Food Bank</b>     | <b>Harvest House Community Outreach</b>                    |
| <b>Bayers Westwood Family Resource Centre</b>           | <b>Dartmouth North Christian Food Bank</b>              | <b>Helping Hands South of Smokey</b>                       |
| <b>Beacon House Interfaith Society</b>                  | <b>David’s Place of St. David’s Presbyterian Church</b> | <b>Highland Park Junior High School</b>                    |
| <b>Berwick Food Bank</b>                                | <b>Demetrious Lane Food Bank</b>                        | <b>Inner City Churches – Loaves and Fishes</b>             |
| <b>Bridgetown &amp; Area Food Bank</b>                  | <b>East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank</b>               | <b>Isle Madame Food Bank</b>                               |
| <b>Bridgewater &amp; Area Interchurch Food Bank</b>     | <b>Eastern Shore Volunteer Food Bank</b>                | <b>Jesus House Halifax</b>                                 |
| <b>Bridgewater Junior High School Breakfast Program</b> | <b>Elizabeth Fry Society (Page 20)</b>                  | <b>John Martin Junior High School Breakfast Program</b>    |
| <b>Brunswick Street Mission Breakfast Program</b>       | <b>Emmanuel Anglican Church Food Bank</b>               | <b>Kevin’s Corner Student Food Resource Centre</b>         |
| <b>Brunswick Street Mission Food Bank</b>               | <b>Encounter Community Church of The Salvation Army</b> | <b>Laing House Association</b>                             |

Lake Echo Community Food Bank  
 Lighthouse Food Bank  
 Lockview High School Food Bank  
 Mahone Bay Area Food Bank Association  
 Mainline Needle Exchange  
 Manna For Health  
 Marine Communities Food Bank  
 Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Society  
 MSVU Students' Union Wellness Pantry  
 Mulgrave Park Tenants Association  
 NSCC Annapolis Valley Campus  
 Neighbours Helping Neighbours Society  
 New Germany & Area Food Bank Society  
 New Waterford Food Bank  
 North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre Society  
 North Sydney Food Bank Society  
 Our Eskasoni Community Food Bank  
 Oxford & Area Food Bank Association  
 Parrsboro & Area Food Bank Society  
 Phoenix Youth Programs—Centre for Youth  
 Phoenix Youth Programs—Supportive Housing  
 Phoenix Youth Programs—Youth Shelter  
 Pictou County (East) Food Bank  
 Pictou West Food Bank  
 Port Hawkesbury Food Bank Society  
 Pugwash Open Hamper Food Bank  
 Queens County Food Bank  
 Rainbow Food Bank  
 Regional Independent Students Association – (Page 20)

SHYM – Supportive Housing for Young Mothers  
 SUNSCAD  
 Salvation Army Community and Family Services (Halifax)  
 Salvation Army Family Services (Truro)  
 Salvation Army Halifax Centre of Hope  
 Salvation Army Springhill Community Church  
 Salvation Army Sydney Community Church  
 Salvation Army Westville Corps  
 Shelburne Loyalist Food Bank  
 Shelter Nova Scotia (Barry House)  
 Shelter Nova Scotia (Metro Turning Point)  
 Shelter Nova Scotia (Nehiley House)  
 Shelter Nova Scotia (Sir Sandford Flemming House)  
 Shumilacke Food Bank Society  
 Sipekne'katik Food Bank  
 SSVF - St. Clement Conference  
 South Shore Family Resource Association  
 St. Agnes Junior High School  
 St. George's Soup Kitchen  
 St. George's YouthNet  
 St. James United Church Food Bank  
 St. Margaret's Bay Food Bank  
 St. Mark's Food Bank  
 St. Matthew's United Church Breakfast Program  
 St. Paul's Family Resources Institute Inc.  
 St. Theresa's Food Bank  
 Stepping Stone Association  
 Sunday Supper Program  
 Sydney Mines Food Bank Society

2 Denarii Society  
 The Alders by Adsum  
 The Ally Centre of Cape Breton  
 The Lunenburg Food Bank Society  
 The Marguerite Centre  
 The North Grove  
 Twelve Baskets Food Bank  
 Unama'Ki Training & Education Centre  
 Upper Room Food Bank Association  
 Victoria Road Baptist Church Food Bank  
 Welcome Housing and Support Services (Dartmouth)  
 Welcome Housing and Support Services (Halifax)  
 Westend Community Food Bank  
 Weymouth Area Food Bank  
 Windsor & District Food Bank  
 Wolfville Area Food Bank  
 Woodlawn High School Youth Centre  
 YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth  
 Yarmouth Food Bank Society



At Feed Nova Scotia, strong financial stewardship, operational excellence, and reliable technology systems ensure that every dollar entrusted to us, along with every piece of information we manage, supports our mission and strengthens our impact. Together, these functions provide the foundation that allows our organization to work towards a food secure Nova Scotia.

We spent the last year improving our financial planning, strengthening reporting systems, and focusing on system building for staff, volunteers, and partners. As a result of these improvements, we're prepared for the usual and ready for the unexpected.

Focusing on these key factors further has allowed us to build stability for the long-term. Over the last year, we not only strengthened operating reserves as a precaution for uncertain economic conditions but also enhanced internal policies and governance. Investing in these avenues allows us to keep up with (and streamline) essential day-to-day operations and also support future innovation in the fight against food insecurity.



# PROJECTS

The focus on people, systems, and planning has allowed us to invest in community-based partnerships that are focused on finding innovative solutions to food insecurity. This includes...

**The Jane Paul Indigenous Resource Centre in Sydney, Cape Breton**, who Feed Nova Scotia built a partnership with in 2025 and began to supply its food bag program in early 2026. We are currently working to identify additional Indigenous communities and organizations interested in receiving food from Feed Nova Scotia and plan to build additional partnerships through 2026-27.



**The Lavender Kitchen**, an initiative where we supported the Loaded Ladle and the Youth Project in designing and implementing a community food program that brings 2SLGBTQIA+ community members together to cook, connect, learn about food practices, and share meals.

**The Bike Brigade Halifax**, a partner organization we supported by helping to increase their bike fleet, while further supporting its efforts to connect and build alliances with other grassroots groups in Halifax that are focused on addressing food insecurity through mutual aid and solidarity.



## Atlantic Food Hub Pilot

Through this pilot program, we've been working with Food Banks Canada to develop plans for a centralized hub for food banks across the Atlantic provinces. While Food Banks Canada covers the coordination and procurement of produce from across Atlantic Canada and parts of Quebec, we've focused on coordinating distribution of produce to the provincial agencies in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

# STATS

The Feed Nova Scotia member network consists of 138 food banks, meal programs, and shelters, all of which provide different services to many clients. To the right is a snapshot of some of the work done by these frontline organizations over the last year.

While food banks began as an emergency response to immediate hunger needs, they've now become commonplace throughout the country, with Nova Scotia being no exception.

Food banks are no longer the response to a temporary crisis. Instead, people are relying on them to survive. Based on the data we received, 56,013 individuals, or over 5% of the population, accessed support from a food bank in Feed Nova Scotia's member network in 2025. When counting each person in a household each time they visited a food bank, support was provided to 445,067 Nova Scotians. These numbers don't tell the full story—they don't include organizations who might not be collecting data, those that are accessing food support through programs other than food banks, or those accessing food banks outside the Feed Nova Scotia member network.

Food banks within Feed Nova Scotia's member network are not only seeing large numbers of first-time users but are also seeing households visiting more regularly than ever before, with 37% of households visiting food banks seven times or more each year.

With this increase in the frequency of which households are accessing food banks, we're hearing about additional strain from the member network. They've had to accommodate and adapt to try to meet demand – through opening additional hours, providing more flexibility for access, and in many cases, even decreasing the amount of food provided per visit to ensure everyone leaves with something.



**23,631 households** registered at one of 82 member food banks, with an additional 14,699 anonymous visits recorded.



**Countless meals** were provided through 56 meal and snack programs in 2025.



**88.7% of registered food bank visits** can be attributed to the cost of living (food, housing, utilities).



**24.4% of registered households** identified their primary source of income as income from employment.

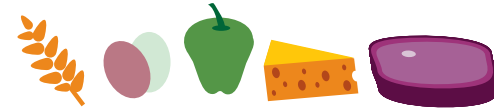
# WAREHOUSE AND LOGISTICS

Five days a week, from Glace Bay to Yarmouth and everywhere in between, our trucks were on the road, bringing support to organizations. Over the 2025/26 fiscal year we distributed 7,276,293 pounds of food to food banks, meal programs, and shelters across the province.

As we continue to see a rise in the number of people accessing food support and the frequency with which they require it, the Warehouse and Logistics team along with the member network, have worked to manage the increased demand and adapt to new opportunities.

Thanks to the work of our Warehouse and Logistics team, member organizations, and our volunteers, plus relationships with farmers, retail partners, community organizations, corporate donors, and so much more, we were able to provide 18 pounds of food per registered food bank client, which equals approximately 6 days worth of food per month. Although the majority of food banks within the member network track data, this statistic isn't representative of each and every food bank user or a complete picture of the support provided.

As we look towards the future, we're continuing to focus on increasing protein procurement, but also ensuring that diverse dietary needs are being met, including introducing more gluten free and culturally appropriate options.



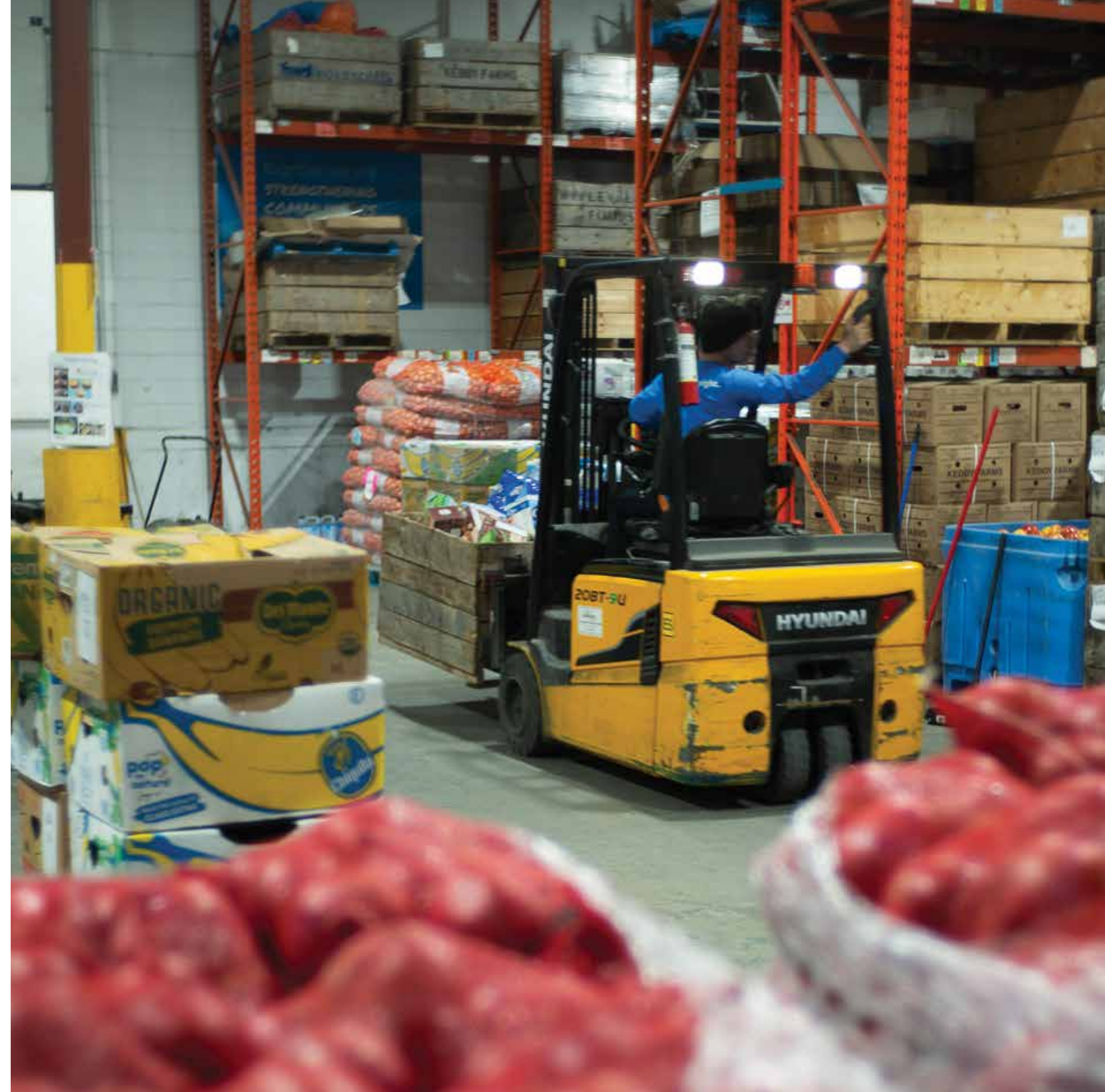
**87% of distributed food made up of main meal components.** Of these main meal components, we've made a special effort to focus on meat and other protein.



**In 2025/26 fresh, perishable food consisted of 61% of distributed food with frozen food being another 9%.** 25% was purchased from Nova Scotian farmers, making up 52% of total food procurement.



**132,332 pounds** of non-consumable/non-distributable food diverted from landfills.



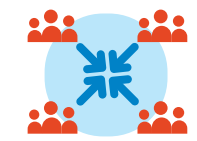


# ENGAGEMENT

The organizations that make up the Feed Nova Scotia member network are often pillars of their communities, working the frontlines of food insecurity, poverty, and homelessness. Every day, Feed Nova Scotia works to ensure member organizations feel supported in their work, not only by us but also by each other. In order to encourage further partnership and collaboration between organizations, Feed Nova Scotia connects with the member network through large in-person events twice a year.

## Regional Meetings

Throughout the spring, Feed Nova Scotia staff toured the province, visiting and engaging with member organizations through seven in-person meetings. The purpose of these regional meetings is to create space for dialogue, connect in person, and learn from one another.



133 people from 61 organizations attended

From these meetings, we found that many member organizations were focusing on relationships between one another to ensure that resource sharing was at the forefront of all work. Recurring themes included community connection and coordination, as many organizations collaborate to support people who are facing multiple challenges, not just food insecurity.

Every visit brought new insights and invaluable information that helps guide the work we do at Feed Nova Scotia—and we’ve been working to implement what was shared, including introducing mental health and well-being training for the member network.

## Day of Sharing

Each year, representatives from member organizations gather from across the province to attend our annual Day of Sharing. It’s a day meant for connecting, learning, sharing, and inspiration. It not only gives member organizations the chance to further connect with staff members, Board Members, and one another, but also gives them the opportunity to hear from external experts, speakers, and other food industry professionals.

In 2025, our theme was “Thinking Outside the (Food) Box”, with speakers and sessions focused on ways that member organizations are innovating, evolving, and doing more than simply providing food. We had 85 representatives from 44 member organizations in attendance, as well as guests from Food Banks Canada, Second Harvest, and the Department of Opportunities and Social Development. We left the day feeling inspired, energized, and hopeful for the future!



“I very much appreciate all the time and energy that goes into planning these events. I enjoy attending them as I feel I walk away more connected and informed.”  
-Feed NS Member Representative

“I especially valued the informal moments to connect with Feed Nova Scotia members. Those conversations often lead to the most meaningful relationships.”  
-Feed NS Member Representative



## Capacity Fund

While food distribution has long been a key part of Feed Nova Scotia's mandate, we've also been focused on supporting the member network through a variety of capacity building projects. In total, \$71,000 was distributed to 38 member organizations throughout 2025.

The scope of the projects varied; some of the organizations used the funding for equipment and upgrading, while others put the funding towards projects such as better storage solutions and new computers. The funding also supported member-led skill development initiatives. This included offering classes on basic cooking skills and nutrition-focused meal preparation using accessible home cooking tools.

### Air Fryer Cooking Class

The Glace Bay Food Bank Society used the funding to support clients who may not have regular access to stoves by offering air fryer cooking lessons, complete with recipe books and cooking times. After the program ended, each client was given an air fryer and a grocery store gift card, allowing them to continue using the skills they learned.

### Shopping Model & Points System Launch

Food banks across the country are shifting towards food programs that prioritize dignity. The North Sydney Food Bank was no exception, using capacity funding to adopt a shopping-model service delivery program! Through this model, clients are now able to shop for their own groceries using a point system. Not only are they the first food bank in Cape Breton to adopt this model, but they are also paving the way towards more dignified food support for all.



## Holiday Fund

It's well documented that Black people, Indigenous people, and people of colour have higher rates of food insecurity than their white counterparts. As we work towards a more inclusive Nova Scotia, we've been focusing on ways to make an impact for everyone as the member network continues to diversify. The Warehouse and Logistics team has been focused on purchasing safe, culturally relevant foods, including expanding our halal offerings and providing more diverse options. The Network Programs and Services team is working with the member organizations to ensure they are supporting their communities in the best possible way. One of the ways they do is through the Holiday Fund.

Established as a way to allow member organizations to recognize and celebrate the holidays and events that matter most to their communities, the Holiday Fund had another year filled with joy, inclusivity, and fun! Communities across the province were able to celebrate occasions such as Eid, Thanksgiving, and the end of summer, with the funds going towards the purchase of grocery gift cards and ordering food for celebrations, to name a few. This year's fund saw \$412,200 distributed to the member network, and with every \$1 in funding, member organizations spent \$2.75, which resulted in 35,000 Nova Scotians being impacted.

"Newcomers told us the [holiday] hampers made them feel genuinely welcomed into the community, and for transient residents, simply being seen and cared for made a meaningful difference."

-Feed NS Member Organization

"We have so many clients from different countries and we thought it would be nice to support them in some of their traditions. This included support from Diwali and Ramadan along with Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The clients were all so happy – they weren't sure if we could help with their festivals, but we did and it was a success!"

-Feed NS Member Organization

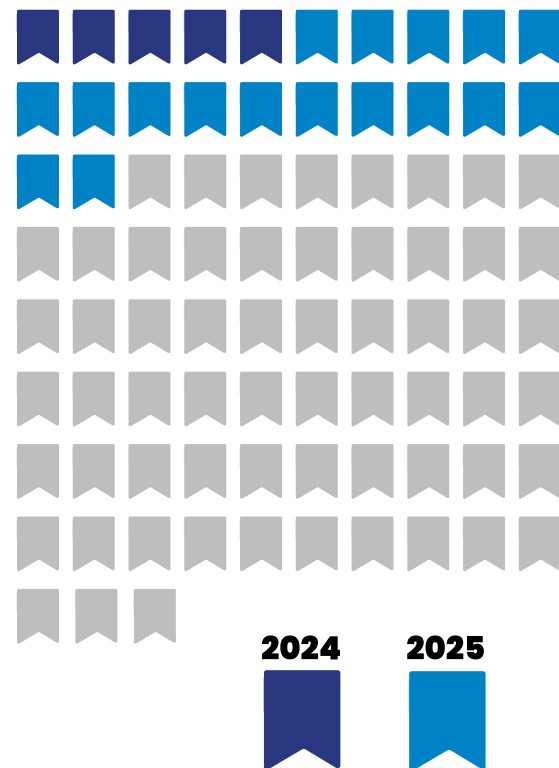
# STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The Standards of Excellence Accreditation Program was established in 2024 when the food banking network recognized the need for a set of standards for food banks that focused on integrity, financial responsibility, and best practices. While many organizations were already demonstrating these approaches, the goal was to provide guidance for those working to such standards.

The purpose of these standards was to give food banks a baseline of best practices, allow for continuous improvement, and promote transparency and accountability.

When Food Banks Canada initially introduced the standards, Feed Nova Scotia and food banks within the member network answered the call, with five member organizations achieving accreditation in the first year alone.

In 2025, 17 members achieved accreditation, bringing our total up to 22 members! We're so proud of the work each of the members has put into reaching this standard and are ready to keep supporting those still working towards accreditation.



As the rest of the food banks within the member network work towards achieving the Standards, we're focused on supporting them through one-on-one guidance, document review, and application support.

This year, we introduced the PACK, a cohort-based capacity building program. Through this program, we've been especially focused on helping members as they navigate governance and financial statement requirements of the Standards of Excellence. These cohorts have provided structured, step-by-step guidance to members, helping them move from understanding the standards to fully implementing them.

The PACK has brought a sense of peer learning, strengthened confidence, and further teamwork opportunities to the members and has been an essential part of the standards program.

## Mental Health First Aid:

One of the ways we're supporting the member network is through the introduction of mental health and well-being training for member organization staff and volunteers. Our members are often working in high-demand environments with several external factors affecting how their work is performed. The training programs have been focused on resilience, stress management, and the navigation of emotionally complex interactions. With the introduction of this training, we're working towards a more secure member network with the capacity to respond compassionately and sustainably to rising rates of food insecurity across the province.





We know that more food isn't the solution to food insecurity – instead, ending food insecurity means policy and systemic change, community partnerships, and the work of many people coming together.

# INNOVATION

## SERVICE MODELS

### Morris Street Market

While their Square Roots Market originally sold fresh fruits and vegetables, Spencer House decided they wanted more for their market and began looking into expanding offerings to become a social supermarket model. Together, we worked and supported Spencer House as they transformed their Square Roots Market into the Morris Street Market, which now allows community members to access a large number of food at an accessible price, including produce, dairy, baked goods, frozen meals, and even pantry staples. Seniors, students, and the general South End of Halifax are benefitting from this market, which includes a social corner where market shoppers can connect over a hot drink.

### Island Food Network Community Cook Outs

In 2025, Feed Nova Scotia supported Selkie's Diner, the Cape Breton Youth Project, and the Island Food Network to put on a series of food pop-ups across Downtown/North Sydney that focused on community food access, community mindedness, and resourcefulness and connection. Following Cape Breton's traditions of cooking and eating together, these pop-ups were real examples of communities looking out for one another and prioritizing grassroots movements. All in all, 14 pop-ups were hosted across the area and 1,370 meals were enjoyed. These pop-ups were also noticed by other communities, with many interested in offering their own versions!

## Advocacy

In late 2024, the Community Partnerships, Innovation, and Advocacy team took over the advocacy portfolio. After significant research, survey, and community engagement, a full advocacy platform, complete with our advocacy priorities, was released in 2025.

These priorities were chosen based on advocacy gaps in the province, our own capabilities, and the impact.

**Income** – We're advocating for income support reform and supporting organizations fighting for higher wages and Basic Income Guarantees.

**Food access** – Through this priority, we're focusing on addressing gaps in community food access and asking the government to invest in community food spaces and networks.

**Food sovereignty** – A food secure Nova Scotia means a province where everyone can access safe, culturally relevant food. Food sovereignty is a key part of this, and we're looking for investment in local food systems, consultation with marginalized communities, and more.

Along with the creation of our platform and policy recommendations, we have worked to lobby both the provincial and federal governments through budget submissions. The 2025 federal budget saw the implementation of a policy recommendation from food security-based organizations across the country – including Feed Nova Scotia – showing that advocacy does indeed work!

### Advocacy Micro-Grant

We also introduced a new pilot grant program: the advocacy micro-grant. The purpose of this grant is to support community groups to mobilize and advocate for change. We received applications from both rural and urban communities across the province. In total, 24 projects were funded, representing a total investment of \$45,600. Granted streams included those focused on learning and furthering dialogue about the root causes of food insecurity, direct advocacy actions that address systemic barriers, and long-term initiatives working toward sustained, community-led systemic change.

Advocacy, community partnerships, and different service models all play a role in achieving Feed Nova Scotia's vision of a province where everyone has the ability to choose and access the food they want and need. We know that change is possible and we are looking forward to continuing this essential work in the fight against food insecurity.



# GRANT PROGRAM

Now in its fourth year, Feed Nova Scotia's Grant Program has become a staple in our mission to create systemic change. Last year, almost \$500,000 was granted to 22 different projects. These projects took place across the province and ranged from ideas focused on food access, community-led production of food, and supporting the coordination of food services. In 2025, we also launched a new funding stream focused on adapting two successful initiatives from past grant cycles, the Caja Growing Containers Project and the Frozen Soup Distribution Project.

The First Voice Advisory Council, which is made up of people with lived food insecurity experience from across Nova Scotia, helped to select these grantees!



- Prototype:**  
**Increasing access, availability, and/or choice of food**
- 1 Cape Breton Food Hub
  - 2 Pictou Landing First Nation
  - 3 Cole Harbour Community Fridge
  - 4 YMCA of Cumberland
  - 5 Station Learning Farm Society
  - 6 Food Share Association of Shelburne County
  - 7 Fairview Food Pantry
- Increasing community-led production of food**
- 8 North Grove
  - 9 Regional Independent Student Association
  - 10 Elizabeth Fry of Mainland Nova Scotia
  - 11 Believing in Transformation
- Supporting service/system coordination**
- 12 Island Food Network



- Adaptation:**
- Caja Container:**
- 13 East Preston Daycare Centre
  - 14 Metro Community Housing
  - 15 Annapolis Valley Frugal Moms
  - 16 Schools Plus Celtic Family
- Frozen Soup:**
- 17 Halifax Brewery Farmers Market
  - 18 POSSE Sipekne'katik
  - 19 Multicultural Association of Cape Breton
  - 20 We Feed Lunenburg
  - 21 Belle's Pantry
  - 22 Acts of Kindness

# GENEROSITY THAT FUELS COMMUNITIES

As a registered charity, Feed Nova Scotia relies on the generosity of our community to help us support tens of thousands of food insecure Nova Scotians. This last year was no exception - thanks to the incredible generosity of Nova Scotians far and wide.

Every dollar makes a difference. Contributions came from a wide range of donors, from individuals and families to corporate partners, with each playing a vital role in shaping the impact across the province. These donations make a difference every day, helping to distribute food across the province, support programs, create new solutions, and bring hope to individuals and families in need.



## Gateway Business Intermediaries

Since 2023, Gateway Business Intermediaries has helped inspire community generosity through their annual Set the Table matching campaign, contributing a \$35,000 match each year. As the campaign has grown, the support expanded in 2025 to include Gateway Business Intermediaries matching donations up to \$35,000 during the Summer Appeal, amplifying the impact of gifts made during the campaign.

## Edwards Foundation (pictured right)

The Edwards Family Charitable Foundation has been a committed partner of Feed Nova Scotia over the past 25 years, demonstrating a shared belief in collaboration and lasting impact. Since 2001, the Foundation has contributed \$187,000, supporting our work to respond to the immediate need for dignified, secure and just access to food across Nova Scotia. Their ongoing generosity has helped strengthen our capacity to work alongside communities and partners as we advance food sovereignty and food justice throughout the province.



## Susan C.

For 25 years, Susan has been a steadfast champion in the fight against food insecurity, contributing nearly \$700,000 to Feed Nova Scotia's work. With generosity rooted in deep empathy, Susan works to truly understand the impact of her giving.

From riding in the food recovery truck with staff to regular volunteering at one of the organizations in Feed Nova Scotia's member network, Susan has gained an understanding of the vital roles that food distributors and the member agencies play in the lives of those accessing food support.

We are deeply appreciative to Susan for the remarkable legacy she is building—one grounded in compassion, curiosity, and a long standing commitment to ensuring everyone has access to food.

**Your support matters. Every dollar donated impacts the lives of food insecure Nova Scotians. We hope you will continue to join us as we work together towards a food secure Nova Scotia.**

# THROUGH THE YEARS



## 2001 Victorian Christmas

For over 35 years, Victorian Christmas has been a holiday staple around Halifax—and a regular Feed Nova Scotia donor for over 25 years. With visits from Father Christmas, 19th century holiday decorations, and more, this event has brought in \$44,429 and over 31,000 pounds of food donations over the years. Amazing!



## 2003 This Hour Has 22 Minutes

While they're known for making Canadians from coast to coast laugh out loud, they're also known as one of Feed Nova Scotia's most consistent donors! Since 2003, This Hour Has 22 Minutes has been a supporter of Feed Nova Scotia. Through their ask for admission donations during live tapings, they have raised an incredible \$85,715, along with more than 25,000 pounds of food,

## 2011 Citco Fund Services

Since 2011, Citco Fund Services have put on the We Feed Nova Scotia Competition. Throughout this competition, businesses from across the downtown Halifax core compete with one another to see who can bring in the biggest food and cash donations in support of Feed Nova Scotia. The competition must be stiff – in 15 years, they've raised over \$38,400 and brought in almost 39,000 pounds of food!



In 2015, Andy had the wonderful idea of creating an advent calendar in support of Feed Nova Scotia, and thus AndyVent was born! Each year, Andy approached local businesses across the HRM asking for prize donations and compiled them into an advent calendar. Tickets were then sold for the chance to win all of the amazing prizes listed.

This annual event ended in 2025, but over the past 10 years, Andy and his fun and innovative fundraising idea brought in an incredible \$251,646.25! Thank you, Andy!

## 2015 Andyvent



# JEDDI

We know that when people feel seen, respected, and valued, stronger communities follow. Because of this, we've continued to centre justice, equity, diversity, decolonization, and inclusion (JEDDI) in our work to achieve food sovereignty and advance social equity.

Feed Nova Scotia and the member network represent and support a wide range of people with different lived experiences, cultures, and realities, with these diversities shaping how we listen, respond, and grow.

Over the past year, our commitment to JEDDI principles has shown up in all sorts of ways. It played a role in the questions we asked, the partnerships we built, and the intentional efforts we put in to better understand the barriers people face when accessing food. It showed up in creating space for different perspectives within the organization, and in challenging ourselves to rethink traditional practices in favor of "wise practices" that may have unintentionally excluded or disadvantaged others.

We also continued to reflect on the systems we operate within; recognizing that food insecurity does not impact everyone equally, and that meaningful change requires us to address those inequities with care and accountability.

The diversity of our people remains one of our greatest strengths. This year, we placed greater focus not only on representation, but on belonging; working toward a workplace where everyone feels safe, supported, and empowered to contribute fully.

This is ongoing work. And as we continue learning, listening, and evolving, JEDDI will remain at the heart of how we serve our communities and each other.

# VOLUNTEERS

Feed Nova Scotia is a great place to volunteer. And we're not the only ones who think so. In early 2026, we were once again recognized as one of the best places to volunteer in the HRM, taking home silver in The Coast's Best of Halifax Awards.

## Volunteer Service Awards

Marion M. can also vouch for the volunteering community we've built at Feed Nova Scotia. In 2025, she became the second volunteer to reach 25 years of service at the annual Volunteer Service Awards. A pillar of our volunteer team, Marion's generosity of time, energy, and spirit has touched countless staff and fellow volunteers. Over the years, her dedication has reflected a deep commitment to community, to compassion, and to our mission – all in all, Marion has over 3,300 hours of volunteering under her belt! It's people like her that make a difference in the world, and especially a difference at Feed Nova Scotia, as we work to support food programs across the province. Thank you, Marion!



## The Norma Searle Award for Volunteer Excellence

Back in 2022, we introduced the Norma Searle Award for Volunteer Excellence. This award is handed out annually to a volunteer who goes above and beyond in supporting Feed Nova Scotia's mission and truly embodies our values through their service.

The 2025 recipient of the award was none other than the amazing Pam C.! With an impact that's nothing short of extraordinary, and contributions that match her impact, Pam has been a shining light at Feed Nova Scotia ever since she started volunteering with the organization.

Between working the front desk, sorting food in the warehouse, helping out with special projects, or starting new initiatives, Pam always shows up with warmth, kindness, and empathy. We're so grateful to have her as part of the team!



**In total, over the last year, we had 407 individual volunteers who contributed 19,629 hours of their time. These volunteers helped support:**

- ♡ around the office, taking calls and handling monetary donations
- ♡ at various events around the HRM, acting as representatives for Feed Nova Scotia
- ♡ in the warehouse, sorting food and packing it up for member agencies

**We also had 61 corporate groups who volunteered their time in the warehouse, helping to build order and sort countless pounds of food.**



# IN THE COMMUNITY

Community means the world to us. It's because of our wonderful community filled with donors, members, partners, volunteers, and friends that in turn allow us to help support our communities as a whole.

At Feed Nova Scotia, we work hard every day to make a difference in our community, and this last year was no exception.

### Business Awards

In early 2026, we had the honour of being the recipient of the Not for Profit of the Year award during the Halifax Chamber of Commerce Business Awards.

This award was a major milestone for Feed Nova Scotia and acts as a reminder to the importance of the work we do every day. Having a community that believes in us, our mission, and the work we do is invaluable. Being recognized in this way means the world to us!

### Stuff-A-Bus

The 34th year of Stuff-A-Bus was one for the ages, with a grand total of nine buses filled, over 39,680 pounds of food collected, and \$8,838.57 raised! This event wouldn't be possible without the support of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 508, Halifax Transit, and Halifax's Move, and we're so lucky to have them on our side, spreading holiday cheer across the HRM!

### Pride Parade

We serve a diverse community and believe in the importance of showing our continued commitment to the principles of justice, equity, diversity, decolonization, and inclusion both in our workspaces and in our communities.

For the fourth year in a row, our staff and volunteers proudly marched in the Pride Parade, standing together in celebration, solidarity, and support of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. It was incredible to participate in such a beautiful event!

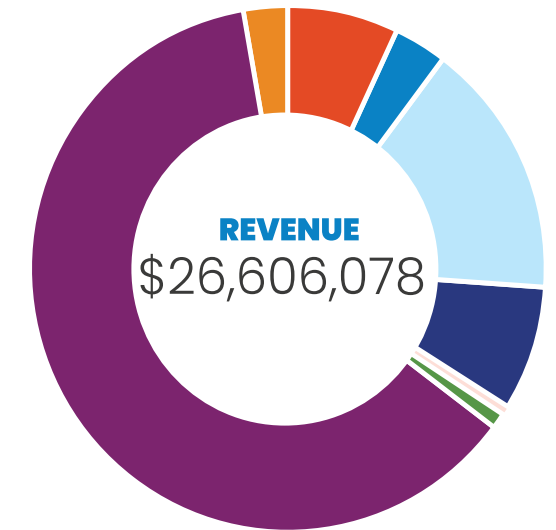
### Parade of Lights

2025 marked our 30th year walking in the Parade of Lights and it was another amazing community event! Staff and volunteers braved the cold to celebrate and collect donations in support of the community. Altogether, we raised \$8,573 and 1,649 pounds of food, plus a generous donation from Nova Scotia Power.

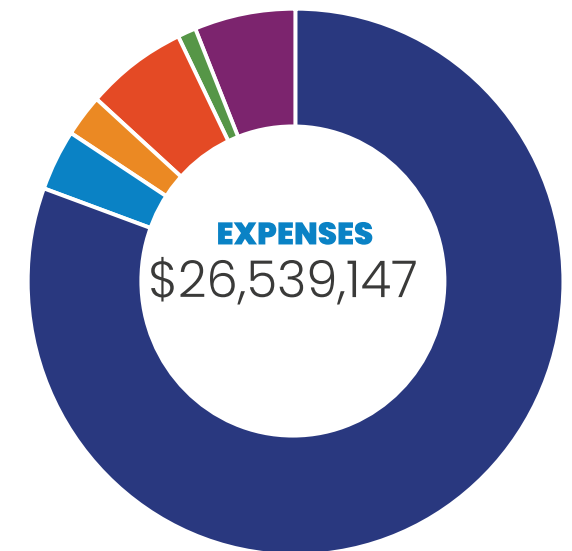


# FINANCIALS

● Individual donations	1,911,773
● Corporate donations	922,342
● Donations by and through other charities	4,188,854
● Government grants	2,188,180
● Other income	76,839
● Investment income	287,293
● In kind food	16,586,782
● In kind other donations	731,308



● Warehouse & Logistics	21,364,831
● Network Programs & Services	958,564
● Philanthropy & Engagement	665,709
● Human Resources & Finance	1,673,385
● Occupancy	277,197
● Community Partnerships, Innovation, and Advocacy	1,599,461



# OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

Agri Growers

Agropur - Farmers Co-Operative Dairy Ltd.

Atlantic Subway Ltd.

Atlantic Superstore

Barbara Davis

Basinview Farms Ltd.

Bishop's Cellar Limited

Black Family Foundation

Bluehaze Holdings Ltd.

Canada Bread

Charles Keddy Farms Ltd

Charles L. Belliveau

Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia

Costco Wholesalers

Cynthia MacDonald Holdings Inc.

Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia

Daniel P. O'Halloran

den Haan Enterprises Ltd

Department of Surgery Research and Development

Doane Grant Thornton LLP

Dorothy Morrison

Dr. Anthony Otley and Dr. Beth Cummings

Dylan's No Frills

Eassons Transportation Group

Egg Farmers of Canada

F. M. McCulloch

Farm Credit Canada

Flemming Charitable Foundation

Food Banks Canada

Gateway Business Intermediaries

Gestion Maurice et Donna Assh Inc.

Global Medic

Gordon Food Service

Government of Nova Scotia

Halifax Port Authority - Port of Halifax

Halifax Regional Municipality

Halifax Youth Foundation

Heartland Mutual Insurance

Heather McInnes

High Liner Foods Incorporated

J and B Millen Farms

John Himmelman

Kraft Heinz Canada

Lawtons Drugs Wholesale Division

Loblaws Inc.

McCarthy-Boyle Charitable Gift Fund

Nova Agri Inc.

Nova Scotia Association of Realtors

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation

Nova Scotia Power Inc

Novagevity Inc.

NSP Maritime Link Inc.

Ocean Crisp Apple Company Inc

Oleschuk Family Foundation

Pete's Frootique & Fine Foods

Phyllis C. Roy

Reuven International Limited

Saputo Dairy Products Canada

Scotia Investments Ltd

Scotiabank

Servant, Dunbrack, McKenzie & MacDonald

Sobeys Inc.

Stella Balfour

Stericycle

Stokdijk Greenhouses

Storage Vault - Management Services Division

Sunnyside Mall

Tate Engineering Inc.

The Edwards Family Charitable Foundation

The John and Jeanne Eyking Family Foundation

Tim Hortons

Walker Wood Foundation

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





**Accredited**  
IMAGINE CANADA



67 Wright Ave Dartmouth, NS B3B 1H2

[feednovascotia.ca](http://feednovascotia.ca)

