



Autism Nova Scotia
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2018-2019

Building a *Brighter* Future



Building a *Brighter* Future

Our vision is a society where autistic individuals and their families can live their lives to the fullest. This vision informs all of our programming and advocacy efforts, and provides a foundational philosophy that revolves around person-focused supports, strength-based approaches, and community-oriented learning opportunities.



**ADVOCACY &
GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS**



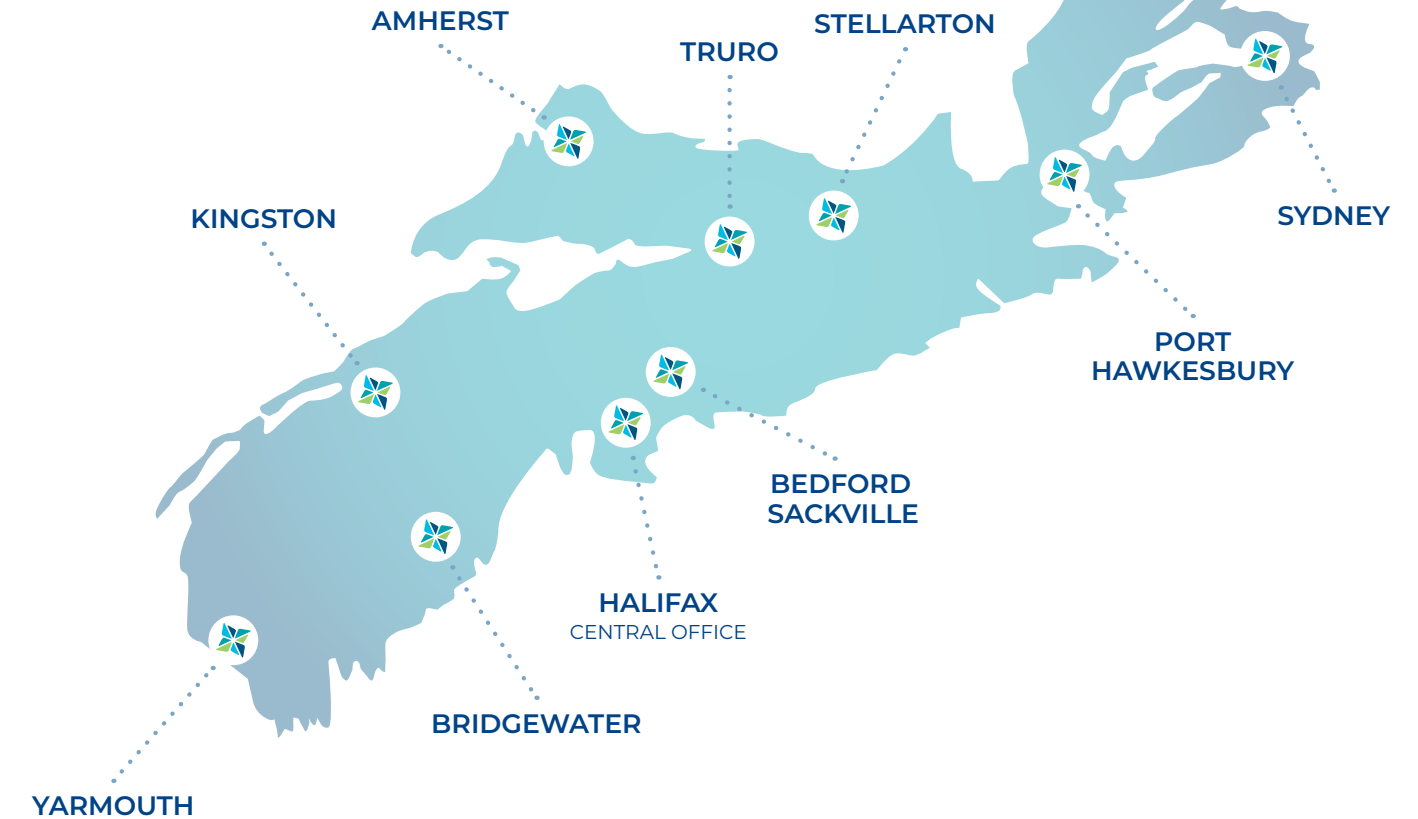
**SOCIAL
INCLUSION
PROGRAMMING**



**FAMILY
SUPPORT
RESOURCES**



**EMPLOYMENT
SUPPORT
PROGRAMS**



autismnovascotia.ca



Understanding  Acceptance  Inclusion

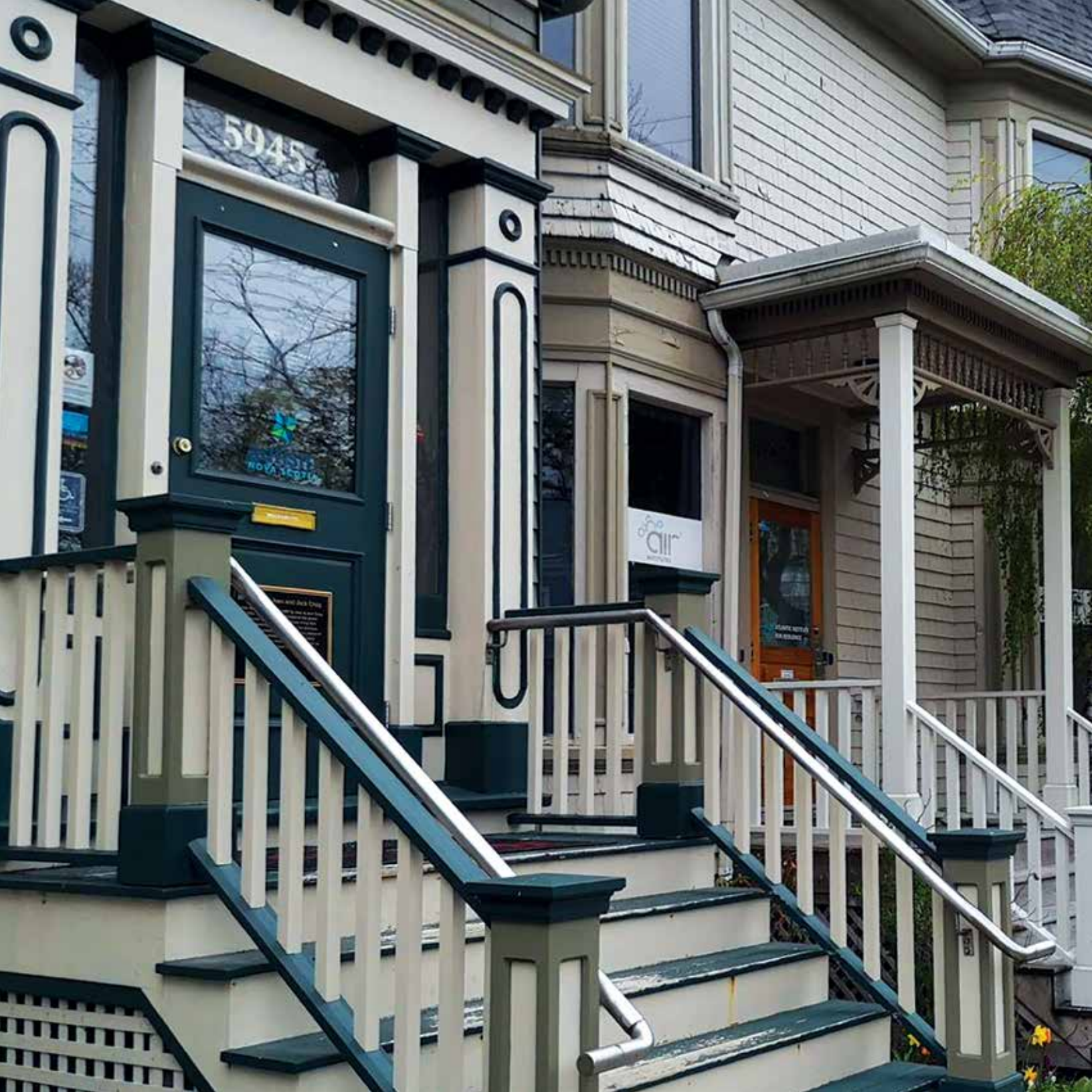


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Autism Consultant
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Parent

Building a Brighter Future Together

Since our founding in 2002, Autism Nova Scotia has become the second largest community-based autism organization in Canada. In that time, Autism Nova Scotia has emerged as a national leader in providing social, educational, and employment supports for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), their families, caregivers, and professionals.

Autism Nova Scotia delivers programming in Halifax and in nine communities across Nova Scotia through our Regional Autism Centres. Our three program divisions are: Social & Community Inclusion; Employment Support; and Family & Caregiver Support.



Living a Good Life

The original vision of Autism Nova Scotia – the vision of Joan and Jack Craig – was to create a world where all people with autism can live their lives fully supported by communities that accept them for who they are, invite them to contribute, and nurture that fundamental human aspiration we all share – to live a good life. It is this vision that remains at the forefront of all that we do. Our community is composed of a diverse group of people all with their own unique ambitions, hopes, and dreams, and it is this diversity that continues to inform how we support and advocate for the autism community.

Individuals on the autism spectrum and their families have historically enjoyed fewer options than other Nova Scotians with respect to where they could live, travel, work, and play. Fundamental to accessing a good life is choice

and the freedom to choose where we live, how we contribute to our communities, and with whom we spend our time. Autism Nova Scotia continues to work with our partners in government, business, and the non-profit sector to break down societal and systemic barriers that have traditionally limited the ability of autistics and their families to make basic life choices. We continue to develop new programs and support government and other community initiatives that expand the life choices available to those on the autism spectrum.

In 2019, Autism Nova Scotia embarked on multiple initiatives to enhance services and options for autistics and their families in our province. From a new Healthy Relationships, Sexuality, and Autism program that supports autistic adults create and maintain healthy

relationships, to promoting inclusive hiring, to an inclusive Supported Housing Summit focused on improving disability housing options, we have made a concentrated effort to educate, build capacity, and affect change in priority areas we know are important to the autism community.

Change is coming to Nova Scotia. The broader community is becoming more aware and more accepting of neurological differences like autism and, over time, our communities are becoming more inclusive. This year, more than any other, we are seeing signs that our partners in government, the business community, and the non-profit sector are recognizing the need to rethink their approach to including autistics and their families in our communities.

For the first time in Canadian history, political consensus is building at the federal level around the need for a National Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategy. With every passing month, we are hearing from more businesses looking to include regular sensory-friendly shopping hours; with every passing week, more schools are reaching out asking how they can educate their students about autism; and with every passing day – whether they connect with Autism Nova Scotia or not – countless self-advocates, family members, and allies are empowered and emboldened to say

‘yes, we are here, and we belong’.

Autism Nova Scotia is so incredibly proud of our autism community and all we have accomplished together this past year. To our staff, board members, volunteers, partners, members, advocates, and allies; thank-you for your amazing efforts to help make Nova Scotia a more inclusive province. Your commitment to building inclusive communities has taken us further than we ever thought possible and will see us go further than we ever dared dream.

And we’re just getting started.

Sincerely,

Ian Sutherland
Board Chair



Cynthia Carroll
CFRE, Executive Director



A Canadian Responsibility

As a national leader in autism supports and advocacy, we made great strides this year to engage the government to advocate for the needs of individuals with autism.

On a federal level, Autism Nova Scotia worked alongside the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance (CASDA) to launch a blueprint for a National Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategy. In advance of the federal election in 2019, CASDA and Autism Nova Scotia began advocating for a national strategy to be developed in partnership with provincial and territorial governments to lead a coordinated approach to address the complex needs pertaining to autism across the lifespan.

The complex needs facing autistic individuals and families are often complicated by siloes in services, geographical spread, outdated provincial and federal policies, limited resources, and a competitive landscape, which is exactly why Canada needs a national strategy that drives real action and ensures all autistic Canadians and families have full and equitable access to the resources they need.

Today, an estimate of 1 in 66 Canadian youth (aged 5 to 17) are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), equivalent to approximately 500,000 individuals of all ages across Canada. Autistic Canadians face significant barriers to adequate health, employment, housing, and quality of life.

Focusing on the most prevalent issues and priorities facing the autism community, we will continue to call on the government, both provincially and federally, to develop and implement solutions that serves and improves the lives of autistic Canadians, as well as their families and communities.



Autism Nova Scotia was voted Halifax's 2nd Best Activist Organization by The Coast in 2018

Supported community living is a priority issue in Nova Scotia. On April 24th, Autism Nova Scotia hosted the Supported Housing Summit to explore supported housing ideas and brainstorm potential solutions to the service gaps within our province. The objectives of the Supported Housing Summit were to create a historical document to act as a touchstone for future housing models and supports; build a framework for collaboration between all levels of government; and unite the community.

The summit will reconvene on October 18th to present the final draft of the Supported Housing White Paper and provide a series



of community resources to help individuals, families, and service providers navigate the next steps in their supported housing journey. The Supported Housing Summit was a crucial first-step to ignite a cross-community, collaborative conversation about the future of housing for persons with disabilities in Nova Scotia.

Special thanks to our disability partners who made this summit possible: Community Homes Action Group (CHAG), Nova Scotia Association of Community Living (NSACL), Nova Scotia League for Equal Opportunities (NSLEO), Independent Living Nova Scotia, and Breton Ability Centre.



Building an Inclusive Province

This year, Nova Scotians saw a surge of inclusive and accessible accommodations from businesses and organizations who made conscious decisions to make their space more sensory friendly and accessible.

Most of these changes came about through community partnerships where Autism Nova Scotia worked alongside our partners to educate them about autism and design supports for autistic individuals, caregivers, and family members to make them feel more welcomed and included.

One of our most successful initiatives this year involved the grocery chain Sobeys and their commitment to offering a weekly sensory-friendly shopping hour at 73 stores province-wide.

We also continued our partnership with Sunnyside Shopping Mall and Halifax Shopping Centre to offer sensory friendly initiatives like the Silent Bunny and Silent Santa.

Our innovative Autism Aviators program, built in partnership with Halifax Stanfield International

Airport, saw continued growth this year. The program that makes air travel more accessible for autistic individuals and their loved ones is currently being replicated in four other airports across Canada.

At Neptune Theatre and Dalhousie's Fountain School of Performing Arts, our Social and Community Inclusion team partnered with the directors and stage managers to offer sensory-friendly performances to audiences at select shows.

In collaboration with the Halifax Public Library, we launched the newest addition to the Autism Lending Library, a Communication Tools Kit.

Special thank you to our growing list of community partners including: the Museum of Natural History, Ice Patch Hollow, Museum of Industry, Dartmouth Heritage Museum, the Spryfield Sewing Club, the Discovery Centre, the Military Family Resource Centre, Pier 21, FIN Atlantic Film Festival, and many more. With the invaluable support of our partners, we are creating an inclusive province for everyone.



Top Left: Our Community Outreach and Events Coordinator, Jenny Tyler is all smiles at Queen Street's Sobeys to celebrate the location's very first sensory-friendly shopping hour.

Top Right: Autism Nova Scotia receives beautiful handmade weighted sensory pads from the Spryfield Sewing Club.



Bottom Left: Autism Aviators program opens up air travel for autistic individuals and their families. Bottom Right: Autism Nova Scotia partners with Halifax Public Library to bolster available autism resources.



“Volunteering with Autism Nova Scotia allowed me to witness the value of inclusive programming and provided me with an experience that was both rewarding and enjoyable!”

– **Colette Van Woerkens**, *volunteer*



“During my eight-month term, I was warmly welcomed into the Autism Nova Scotia family. My placement with the Social and Community Inclusion Programs team allowed me to build my skills and grow as a professional. My experience was incredibly valuable and unforgettable.”

– **Kimberley Dunphy**, *social work student*

“I have been volunteering with Autism Nova Scotia for almost four years now, and there is nothing I am more excited to do on a Saturday than to volunteer with the Autism Arts program at the art gallery. It is an amazing experience to see the participants grow in their confidence and create wonderful art pieces in a supportive and encouraging environment.”

– **Rigel Biscione Cruz**, *volunteer*

Volunteers

Our dedicated volunteers and students are our strongest resources when it comes to building our mission and helping us support our community. Autism Nova Scotia’s innovative programs and hands-on experiences creates an excellent choice for students and volunteers to hone their skills and build their professional goals in an encouraging non-profit setting.

Whether it is helping facilitate social and community inclusion programs, acting as job supports within our employment division, or even supporting our development and administrative team, we are truly grateful to the students and volunteers who worked tirelessly this year to ensure our autism community feels understood, accepted, and included.

In the past year, we had 15 students who tracked 3,218 hours of student placement hours.

We also had 201 volunteers based out of Halifax clock in over 3,830 hours.



2,444 hrs	Social & Community Inclusion
920 hrs	Administrative Support
173 hrs	CommunityWorks
157 hrs	TRAACE Program
136 hrs	The Pearl

OUR SOCIAL & COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Teens & Adult Social Group, Supported Social Group, Autism Arts, Healthy Relationships, Sexuality & Autism, Dungeons & Dragons Club, Video Project Club, Chat N Chill, Girl Strong Program, Life Skills Program, summer camps, therapeutic horseback riding, swim programs, yoga, curling, cooking, and more.

Breakthroughs in Supports: Innovative Programs

Autism Nova Scotia is known for delivering many innovative social and community inclusion programs such as Video Project, Dungeons & Dragons and Autism Aviators. This year, our organization launched three new programs to help address service gaps within the autism community, specifically to meet our community's increased needs for access to person-centered supports across the lifespan.



In late 2018, the QuickStart NS program received the green light to develop a parent-mediated coaching program for toddlers (12 - 36 months) suspected or diagnosed with autism. The program is overseen by two board certified behaviour analysts, and supported by a speech language pathologist, an occupational therapist, and four parent coaches.

Autism Nova Scotia is pleased to partner with Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centers,

Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development Intervention Services, IWK, and Nova Scotia Health Authority in the delivery of this pilot program. QuickStart NS will see its first toddlers in May 2019, with the goal of a provincial expansion in 2020.



Post-Secondary Autism Support Services (PASS) is a program designed to support students with autism reach their post-secondary goals and build important life skills while working collaboratively with post-secondary institutions.

Each academic semester, learning strategists work with students to provide individualized support in non-academic subject matters such as initiation and communication, organization and time management, campus navigation, various life and social skills that empowers students to recognize their true potential and achieve success in many different areas of their life.

Between 2018 to 2019, we piloted a very successful academic year of PASS and maintained an average participants' satisfactory score of 88%, while providing individualized, one-to-one support to 15 students. Commencing September 2019, the PASS

program will increase its support to 32 students at campuses in Amherst, Annapolis Valley, Halifax, South Shore, Sydney, and Truro.



Healthy Relationships, Sexuality and Autism Program

Recognizing the unique needs at different points of an autistic person's life, the Healthy Relationships, Sexuality, & Autism (HRSA) program was developed to create tangible learning opportunities for autistic adults to improve their sexual health, quality of life, and long-term well-being.

With three successful cohorts this past year, the program supports adults with autism by introducing concepts of sexuality and social skills through interactive and inclusive education lessons.



Healthy relationships and sexuality are social indicators that impact a person's quality of life.

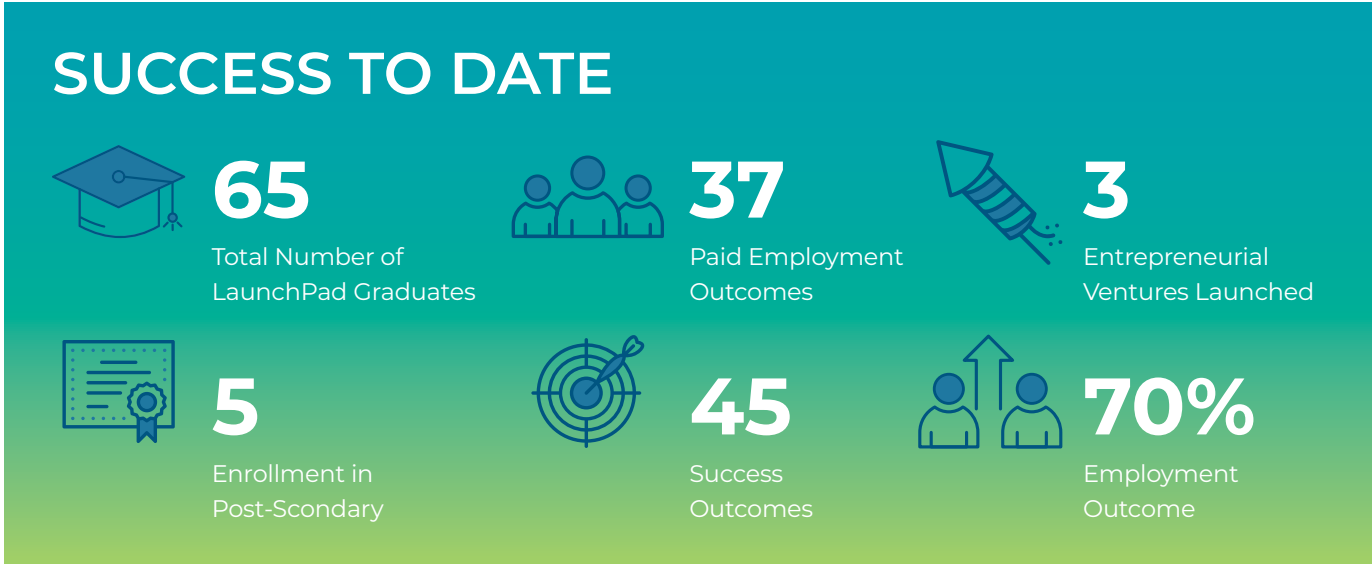
In 2019, Autism Nova Scotia received the support of \$600,000 through the Government of Canada's Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategic Fund to scale up the HRSA Program across Atlantic Canada. This innovative program will increase the capacity of autism service providers to serve as a hub for the autism community to access sexuality education resources.

Thank you to our community partners and chapters across Atlantic Canada for joining with us to expand this important program. Our community partners include: Autism Connections Fredericton, Autism Society Newfoundland & Labrador, Stars for Life Foundation for Autism, Autism Society of Prince Edward Island, and Moncton's Autism Resource Centre. Our participating chapters include Annapolis Valley, South Shore, and Truro.

Building Skills & Independence

The road to employment for adults with autism after high school is not always easy. LaunchPad is a comprehensive program that teaches essential skills for the workforce. Working in tandem with Autism Nova Scotia's social enterprise The Pearl, participants build professional experience in areas such as: customer service, money management, and communication.

70% of LaunchPad participants are successful in attaching to the labour market upon completion of the program, with 100% of participants gaining essential social and employment skills. With a national employment rate of autistic adults at 15 to 20%, LaunchPad is actively changing the inclusive labour market and helping adults gain meaningful employment.



In November 2018, Holly Nauss, jewellery artist for The Pearl, was voted **2nd Best crafter in Halifax** by The Coast.



“The Pearl has helped me gain confidence in the workplace and in talking with customers.”

– **Julia**, LaunchPad participant



OUR EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

LaunchPad, EmploymentWorks, CommunityWorks Canada, Transition Readiness and Autism Community Employment (TRAACE), Career Quest, Post-Secondary Autism Support Services (PASS), Ready, Willing and Able (RWA), and The Pearl



Building Inclusive Workplaces

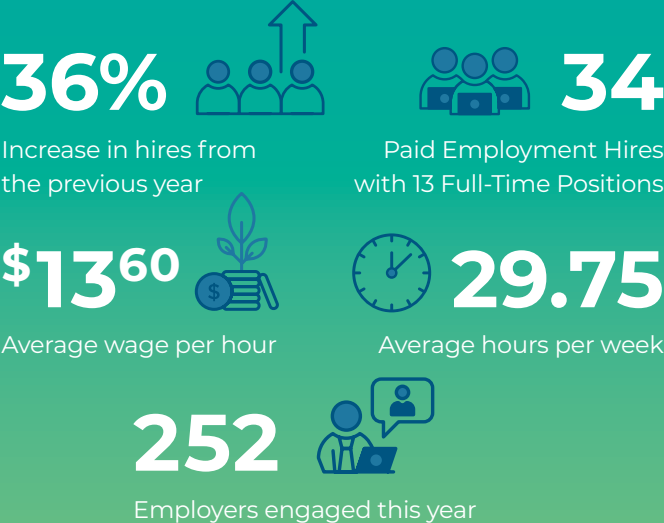
Autism Nova Scotia offers a variety of employment readiness programs, including educating and supporting employers in meeting their inclusive hiring needs. Ready, Willing and Able (RWA), a national partnership between Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance (CASDA) and the Canadian Association of Community Living (CACL), has provided employers with access to a talented source of skilled workers with autism and intellectual disabilities.

Adults on the spectrum looking for employment upload their resumes to our Autism Job Seekers Database. As jobs become available through our RWA employers, successful matches have led to life-changing opportunities and a more diverse workforce in Nova Scotia. Special thanks to our local RWA community partner, Nova Scotia's Association of Community Living (NSACL). Together, our organizations are working to enhance employment outcomes for adults with autism and intellectual disabilities.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 21 New Employers that hired inclusively through our partnership with RWA
- 9 Employers that hired again after hiring in previous years
- 75 New job seekers on the Autism Job Seekers Database

New Taxable Income from participants supported this year:	\$342,875
Total Income generated in 2018-2019 from previously supported participants:	\$673,584



FAST FACT

Since our partnership with RWA began in 2015, our employment supports have helped job seekers on our database generate **\$1,934,571 in total taxable income** within Nova Scotia.



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Success Spotlight

This year, Joe Gnemmi and the team at Public Services and Procurement Canada Atlantic (PSPC) reached out in hopes of building a diverse public service that reflects Canadian society and serves as a model of inclusion for both public and private sector employers.

Autism Nova Scotia supported PSPC throughout the recruitment and selection process and organized information sessions for PSPC's employees. These information sessions helped their staff gain a better understanding of autism and outlined how to best support their new employees for the best employment outcome.

Bringing their unique skillset and high level of professional integrity to their new roles, Stephen Penney, Alex Melvin, and Melinda Cadarette were candidates who found perfect fits at the PSPC team.

“Stephen adds tremendous value to our workplace. He is always ready to help anyone and brings a great skill set to the table and has a keen eye for detail, which is essential for his role.”

– Matthew Smith, Stephen's Supervisor

PSPC's partnership with us resulted in three valuable hires, earned Joe recognition by the Regional Executive Committee for his role in fostering an inclusive workplace, and inspired PSPC to remain committed to creating a more inclusive workforce.

This year, the Government of Canada invested \$12 million to continue the RWA program. This investment signals the government's commitment to an inclusive and effective labour market where job seekers with autism and intellectual disability have access to the support they need to reach their full potential in the workplace.

Exploring the Autistic Canadian Identity


Autism Nova Scotia is proud to deliver *Autistics Aloud*, an innovative first-voice magazine written and edited entirely by autistic individuals. In 2018, we saw a great shift in the magazine's growth with the introduction of a project titled, *LifeSpans*.

Over the span of three years and 10 editions, *LifeSpans* will endeavor to collect and assemble the very diverse stories, lived experiences, hopes, fears, dreams, wants, and needs of autistic Canadians, while upholding the disability rights mantra: **'Nothing About Us, Without Us.'**

Strengthened by the contribution of first-person voices from across Canada, *Autistics Aloud* will explore themes and tell stories around the central question: **"What is the autistic Canadian identity?"**



Volumes 1 - 9



Autistics Aloud is a print and digital grassroots publication based in Nova Scotia, Canada.

It's been supported by Autism Nova Scotia since it began in 2005 as a Newsletter and was started by first person voice, Danny Melvin, who saw a need for Autistic led expression.

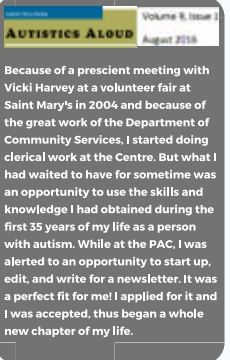
Until Danny stepped aside In 2016 he and M. Keith were the newsletters sole Editors. In this final Edition he expressed a hope that someone on the Autism Spectrum would continue with Autistics Aloud and expand but stay true to the original values.

Danny Melvin shared this advice for Editors to come:

One more thing that a journalist requires is a quest for truth, and that is something that people on the spectrum tend to crave. Truth. But what it comes down to is this: you have to be an artist (not necessarily a painter) at heart, and have a fair amount of knowledge about yourself (which is definitely something we have trouble doing for the early part of our lives), and an understanding of your intended audience, and to have some understanding of artistic vision.

In April 2017, Canadian Disability Rights Autistic activist and artist Patricia George-Zwicker accepted the position of Editor.

Patricia wanted to take the newsletter to a magazine format - a big change after 11 years, but done keeping the original values in mind. So Patricia took on that new challenge and put out a "Call For Submissions" in the Spring of 2017; a pioneering step that took Autistics Aloud into new unexplored territory.



Because of a prescient meeting with Vicki Harvey at a volunteer fair at Saint Mary's in 2004 and because of the great work of the Department of Community Services, I started doing clerical work at the Centre. But what I had waited to have for sometime was an opportunity to use the skills and knowledge I had obtained during the first 35 years of my life as a person with autism. While at the PAC, I was alerted to an opportunity to start up, edit, and write for a newsletter. It was a perfect fit for me! I applied for it and I was accepted, thus began a whole new chapter of my life.

Volume 10


On June 23, 2017 Autistics Aloud was published as a Magazine for the first time. It was 18 pages long, and the Autumn edition that followed doubled to 36 pages. The Winter edition was a whopping 48 pages.

That's 102 pages of content ranging from poetry to reviews; feature articles that take on topics like autism and addiction, making a case for an Autistic Neanderthal, and Autistic identity! We highlighted artists, woodworkers, bakers, photographers, plumbers, original music, and original cartoons. We signal boosted organizations that promote autism friendly events and gave space to anyone on the Autism Spectrum who have a business they'd like to promote.

Both digital and print copies made their way around the world. 250+ paper copies were distributed at the groundbreaking CONNECT Project Summit in Shediac, N.B. 2017, and the CASDA Leadership Summit, Ottawa 2018.

Autistics Aloud Volume 10 made it all the way to Question Period at the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in April 2018. Copies were personally presented to MP's, Senators and Leaders in various stakeholder Autism Communities all throughout Canada.





31 unique first person perspectives were shared

After such a successful and busy first year as a Magazine, it was time to regroup and make a plan for what was next for Autistics Aloud.

Autistics Aloud LifeSpans

August 29, 2018 a group of Canadian Autistic activists met at the Library on Spring Garden Road in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to discuss where to go next with Autistics Aloud. Sitting on the rooftop on one of the hottest days of the Summer a magazine shifting conversation happened and the next phase of Autistics Aloud began.

LifeSpans is a 3 year, 10 Edition look into the hopes, fears, dreams, wants and needs of Autistic Canadians while upholding the disability rights mantra, "Nothing About Us, Without Us". Together, we will explore themes and tell stories around the central question: "What is the Autistic Canadian identity?"

Volume 11

2019

- Edition 1: What is Autism, as shared from Autistic/ASD people's point of view?
- Edition 2: Mind, Body, & Spirit: mental health & physical health
- Edition 3: Diagnosis: formal, self-diagnosis and the spaces in between

2020

- Edition 4: Neurodiversity & Intersectionality
- Edition 5: Pride: gender, sexuality, dating & relationships
- Edition 6: Siblings, cousins, mentors & best friends
- Edition 7: Education, Housing, & Employment

2021

- Edition 8: TDB! Autistic contributors will choose the theme!
- Edition 9: Also TDB! We are building our themes as a collective :)
- Edition 10: Lifespans: advice to younger/older autistics and the world

By Autistics for Everyone!

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 **Instagram:** @autisticsaloud
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 **WEBSITE**
autisticsaloud.ca
 autismnovascotia.ca/autistics-aloud



Casda for AALS, March, 2019 | 72" x 36" Poster by Patricia George-Zwicker

Building Provincial Capacity

Autism Nova Scotia continues to expand its provincial reach this year by increasing the supports and services available to Nova Scotians through our regional chapters.

Building equitable access to support and programs in each chapter region, Autism Nova Scotia spent the last year strengthening our delivery of evidence-based services across the province through:

- 1 **Identifying and addressing the needs of each regional chapter’s autism community through a needs assessment survey and community consultation.**
- 2 **Planning and delivering more programs in regions, directed by the community’s expressed needs.**
- 3 **Building social inclusion in chapter regions through enhanced community partnerships and supporting resource navigation for individuals and families.**

Events Across Regional Chapters



From April 2018 to March 2019, our regional chapters put on 646 events across the province with 6,155 attendees, of which 5,174 were represented by individuals with autism.

This year, we also welcomed the newest chapter to the Autism Nova Scotia family: Cape Breton Region Chapter. Formally Autism Cape Breton, the Cape Breton Region Chapter was founded in 1976 and has been a long-time partner of Autism Nova Scotia, including participating annually in our Walk the Walk for Autism events. With a mandate that aligns closely with Autism Nova Scotia, there is no doubt that we are better together. Autism Nova Scotia looks forward to the ongoing growth of our newest chapter and supporting individuals and families in the Cape Breton region.



Autism Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Region Chapter celebrates Autism Acceptance Month (above).



Truro Chapter receives generous donation from local company, Enter The Bunker.

Spotlight Feature: Truro Chapter

Since July of 2018, our Truro Chapter has grown tremendously with the help of a new autism support coordinator, Leah Poirier. Leah has increased the chapter’s programs offering from a parent support group to a regional autism centre that offers and coordinates programs such as music therapy, swimming, information workshops, and a healthy relationships & sexuality education for autistic adults.

The Truro Chapter also moved into a new office space this year to improve the chapter’s reach in supporting more individuals and families at a more convenient location.

Increasing the resources and access to support in all our regional chapters requires dedication and hard work from all our regional autism support coordinators and chapter navigators, and we thank every one of them for their commitment to serving the autistic population of Nova Scotia.

Meeting Growing Community Needs



INCREASED INBOUND CALLS

Autism Nova Scotia receives over 100 calls each month from individuals and families in need of services and assistance. In the last year, support calls have increased by 30.5% from 1300 to 1697.

2017-2018

1300

2018-2019

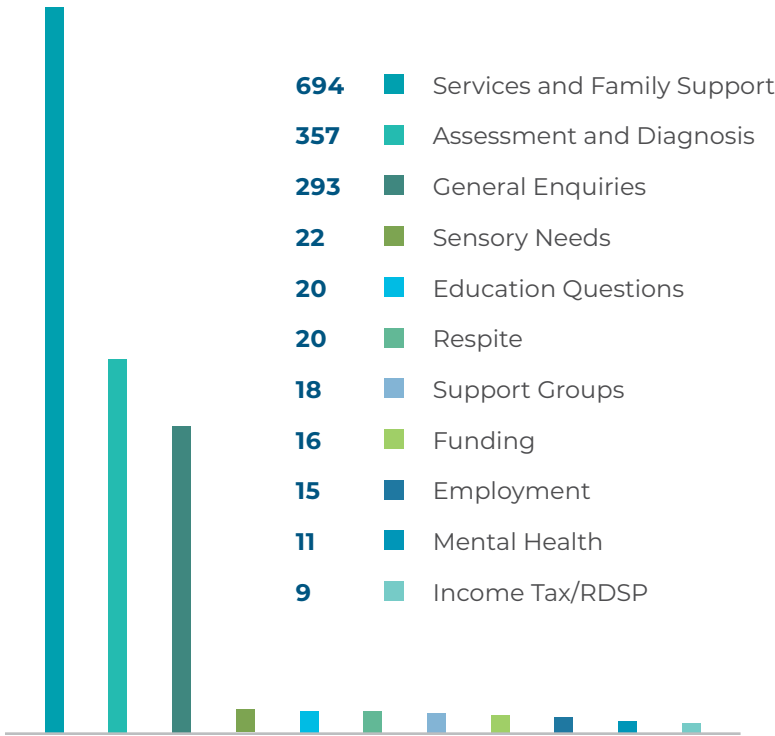
1697

30.5%

Increase in volume of calls

Regional Autism Centres

Breakdown of Enquiries:



6,786

Total calls & general community inputs including partners, professionals, media and general public*

*combined estimate of daily calls volume.

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Wilsons Fuels
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FRIENDS

A1 Refuse
Amherst Fire Department
Amherst Preschool
Annapolis County Resource Centre
Armour Transportation Systems
BDC Concrete
Beau's Seafood
Big 8 Beverages Ltd
Bright Beginnings Child Care Centre
Canadian Linen & Uniform Services

Cape Breton Hearing Services
CCT Consulting Ltd
Comfort & Joy Weighted Blankets
Credit Union Centre
Custom Spring and Welding
Dairy Queen
DLR Excavation Ltd
Doreen's Hair Studio
E&R Langille Contracting Ltd
East Coast International Trucks Inc
George F. MacDonald & Sons
Juliette Landry
Kaiser Marine Inc
Kent Building Supplies
King Freight Lines
Little Lambs Child Care Centre
Lyons Brook Piping & Welding Ltd
M.U.Rhino Renovations
MacDonald & Murphy Inc
MacKay's Truck & Trailer Center Ltd
Maggie's Place Family Resource Centre
Manser's Bike Shop
McDonald's Family Restaurant : New Glasgow
Medicine Shoppe
Money Mart
Moore's Fabrication
Murphys Fish and Chips
Nissan
Northwinds Construction Inc
Nova Imprint Business Solutions
NS Radiator & Heat Exchange Ltd
Parts for Trucks
Power, Leefe, Reddy, & Rafuse
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Sam's Restaurant Stellarton
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SPECIAL THANKS TO



Making a Difference

We could not achieve what we did this year without the support of generous individuals, families, and business leaders like you!

However you choose to give, you are a valued part of building understanding, acceptance, and inclusion for Nova Scotians with autism and their families.



3,600+
Gifts



3,300+
Supporters

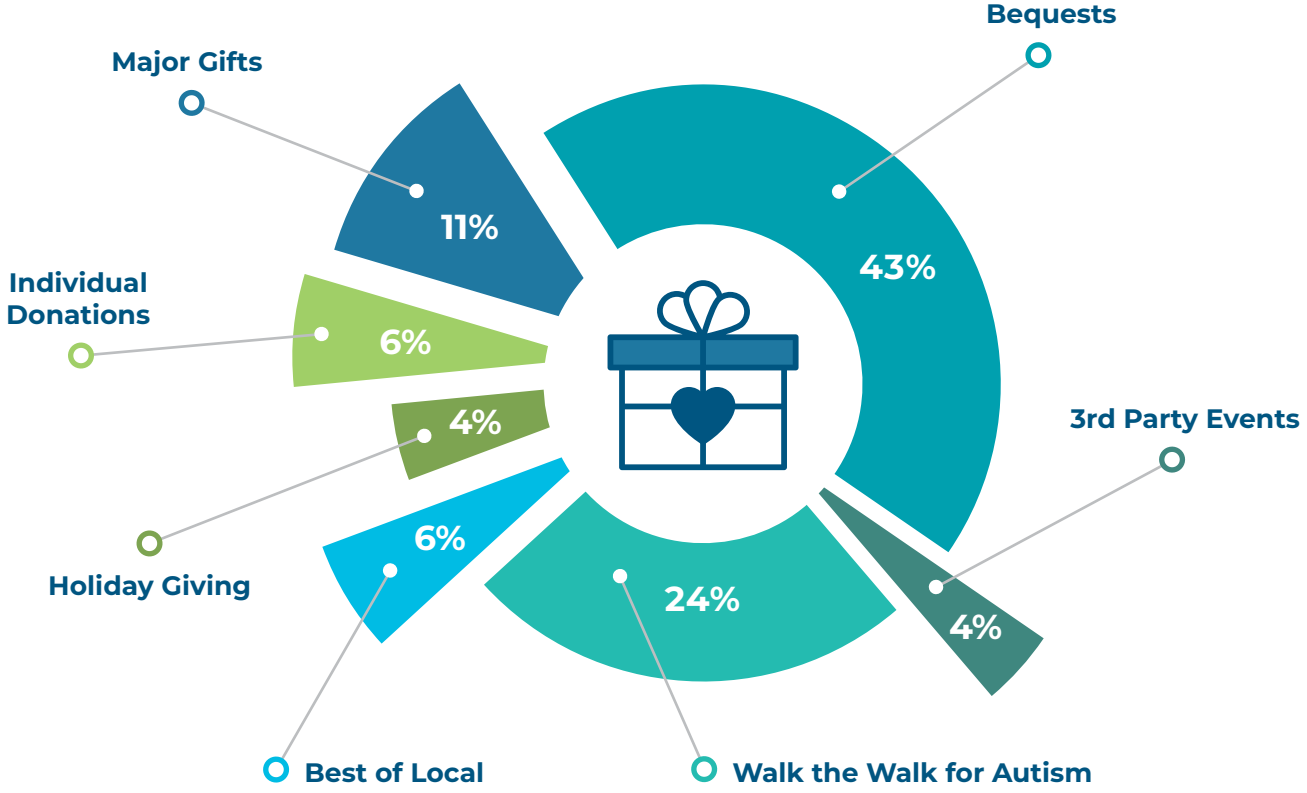
\$850,000

Raised for programs
& services across
the province



This year, we received bequests from the estates of Laura Bowser, Dorothy Gwendolyn Jones, and Thomas Roache. To honour their memories, portions of these funds have been directed to the Cynthia Carroll Endowment for Autism. The principal amount of their gifts will be maintained intact, while investment income will provide a source of annual revenue for Autism Nova Scotia for many years to come.

Individual & Corporate Giving



How to Give

Everyone makes a difference! Autism Nova Scotia is a registered charity that relies on individual and corporate giving to continue our mission. The growth and evolution of our organization is a testament to the generous supporters who have helped us along the way.

WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

- One-time donations
- Recurring monthly gift
- Make a pledged annual gift
- Sponsor or host an event
- Give to the chapter in your region
- Designate your gift to your favourite program

autismnovascotia.ca/donate



Building a Legacy *Together*

“As I reflect on the dream Jack and I shared, the work we have done, and the continuing needs of the autism community, I am proud to support the Cynthia Carroll Endowment for Autism – a dedicated fund to help Autism Nova Scotia provide programs and services for many years to come. Please consider supporting the Endowment with a gift or bequest in your will and, like me, leave a legacy you can be proud of.”

– **Joan M. Craig**, *Founder, Autism Nova Scotia*

“We have enjoyed a long association with Jack and Joan Craig, and from them we learned the importance of addressing the challenges of individuals with autism and their families. Now, our family includes a child affected by autism.”

– **Edwin C. Harris**, *In memory of Patricia Harris*

Leaving a gift in your will or estate plan makes a lasting difference for children, youth, and adults with autism in this province.

Legacy gifts can be invested in the Cynthia Carroll Endowment for Autism, where the principal amount of your gift will always remain intact. Investment income from the Endowment provides a sustainable source of income for Autism Nova Scotia for many years and generations to come.

For more information about the Leave a Legacy program, please contact Donor Relations Facilitator, Robyn Bradshaw at 902-446-4995, ext. 62.

“Over the years of my association with Autism Nova Scotia, I have come to appreciate the importance of giving back. Autism Nova Scotia provides much-needed support to families with autism, and I believe, by leaving a gift in my will, I can help sustain this important work.”

– **Dave Martin**

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Tribute Donors

Giving a kind donation in honour of or in memory of someone special is a thoughtful way to recognize those you care about and make a meaningful difference.

Our gratitude goes out to the generous donors who gave tribute gifts on behalf of loved ones and everyone who donated in their names between March 31, 2018 and April 1, 2019.

IN HONOUR

Jennifer Aalders
Alan Allen
Anonymous
Annette & Randy Anstey
Ronald Ashley
Sheila Banks
Janet Braunstein
Diane Bungay
Gloria Carter
William & Iris Cluett
Barbara Cochrane
Natasha Connors
Debbie Curry
Jane & David Jane Hay
Emily King
Tony Lavallee
Jodie & Rob MacIlreith
James MacKay
Eileen MacKintosh
Rochelle MacLaren
Mary Morrison
Wayne & Helen Moser
Lori Murphy

John Murray
Glenna Paynter-Parsons
Ronald & Joan Pink
Catherine Rahey
Renate Sutherland
Valda Wiseman
Doreen Worden

IN MEMORY

Annette & Randy Anstey
Stephen Anthony
John & Valerie Arnold
Sue Bain
William & Pamela Barron
Anne Bauld
Roger & Adeline Blatt
Alfred Boudreau
Gary Boudreau
Jessica & Lionel Boudreau
Terry & Darlene Boudreau
Rona Bowers
Sandra Bowers
Wenda Bradley
Brown Offshore (1997) Inc.

Sawyer Buchanan
Curtis & Brenda Budd
Lori Burgess
Centreville Good Neighbor Club
David & Janice Chadwick
Andrea Conrad
Ira Conrad
John & Marjorie Cooper
Robert Cottreau
Joan Craig
Judy Crann
Norma & Nelson Cutler
Elizabeth Daley
Evelyn Delaney
Mary Delorey
Digby Annapolis Christmas Daddies
Fund Committee
Norman & Elizabeth Donovan
Gina Dunham
Jamie & Liz Durning
Janet & Clyde Evans
Tanya Evans
Alan Fahey
Linda & Muredach Finnerty

Arnold & Susan Fralick
Ruth Fraser
Dawn Giffin
Robert Goyetche
Jean Granville
Greenpark Coffee Group
Walter & Olive Guitard
Tami Guthro
Monty & Margaret Hall
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Ken & Esther Hicks
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Jean Joudrey
Frances Joy
Susan Kennedy
Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal
Canadian Legion
Marie & Clarence Landry
Gail & Robert Large
Mike LeBlanc
Bert Livingstone
Sandra & Darrell Lohnes
Clifford MacAskill
Barbara MacClure
Grace MacDermid
Mary MacDonald
Bill & Irene MacIsaac
Clyde & Lorraine MacKenzie
Allan & Joanne MacKinnon
Anne MacLaren
Linda & Ian MacLean
Mary Jane Mallett-Longley
Allan & Lynda Manning

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Sheila & Charlie McInnis
Bruce McKay
Kevin McKay
Lou McNamara
Gary Molloy
Rosalind Moreau
Bridget Moser
Patricia Mutch
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North River School Reunion
Committee
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Elliott & Helen Pellerin
Esther Pellerin
Gary & Margaret Pellerin
Kerri Lynn Power
Joan & William Ramsay
Mary & Brian Richard
Andrew & Anita Robertson
Marjorie Robertson
Bridget & Arthur Rudge
Jennifer & Dave Rushing
Rae Ruttle
Bobby Sampson
Elizabeth Sampson
Paul & Eileen Sampson
Bobby & Debbie Samson
Geraldine Samson
Frank & Mae Shelley
Karen & Bob Smith
Rebecca Smith
Staff of G. R. Saunders Elementary

School
Rita & Sandy Stevens
Erika Stokes
Paul Stone & Sharon Guitard Stone
Breton Tellum
The Craig Foundation
Theresa & Roy Thornhill
Gerald Tucker
Jaan Vahtra
Tara Walsh
Verna & Don Ward
Carson Way
Cheryl Whyte-wood
Valda Wiseman
Leslie Worden



