



**LAW FOUNDATION
OF NOVA SCOTIA**

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23

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Law Foundation of Nova Scotia

The Law Foundation of Nova Scotia was established in 1976 by amendment to the *Barristers and Solicitors Act* (now the *Legal Profession Act*, 2004, c. 28, s. 1). Its central purpose is to receive and distribute interest earned on lawyers' pooled trust accounts in accordance with its mandate. It is the only foundation in Nova Scotia devoted solely to community law-related initiatives and legal education.

The objects of the Law Foundation are "to establish and maintain a fund to be used for the examination, research, revision and reform of and public access to the law, legal education, the administration of justice in the Province and other purposes incidental or conducive to or consequential upon the attainment of any such objects."

The Foundation is administered by a board of up to nine members. The Governor in Council appoints up to five members. The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society appoints four. There were six board member reappointments in 2022-2023 and one new board member appointed March 2, 2023 to fill a vacancy. Thus, by year end, there was a full complement of nine members of the board with no vacancies awaiting appointment.

Appointed by the Governor in Council:

Paulette Anderson
Laura Broz
Lee-Ann Conrod
Tokunbo Omisade
Jenna Shaddock

Appointed by the Council of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society:

Robert G. MacKeigan, KC, CHAIR
Margaret M. MacKenzie, SECRETARY
Dwight Rudderham, KC, VICE-CHAIR
Douglas G. Ruck, KC, TREASURER

The Governor in Council appoints the chair from the members of the board, upon the joint recommendation of the Attorney General and the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society.

The board meets 3 – 4 times per year and reviews grant applications for the following fiscal year at its winter meeting.

During 2022 – 2023 the Foundation employed one part-time staff member at eighty per cent time
Mary D. Hamblin, Executive Director

Please visit nslawfd.ca for more information on the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia.

Chair's Message

The *Legal Profession Act* states that the objects of the Law Foundation are “to establish and maintain a fund to be used for the examination, research, revision and reform of and public access to the law, legal education, the administration of justice in the Province and any other purposes incidental or conducive to or consequential upon the attainment of any such objects.”

The fund maintained for this purpose arises from the payment by financial institutions of interest accrued on lawyers pooled trust accounts, which interest is based on the prime rate of the banks and other institutions. These monies are then paid as grants to organizations who further the objects of the Law Foundation.

Grants Approved

In January 2023 the Foundation approved twenty-five grants for the fiscal year April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024, totalling \$1,655,310, an increase of \$585,286 over the previous year. The prime rate increased to 6.7 per cent on January 26, 2023, following six rate hikes by the banks and financial institutions in response to the Bank of Canada's increases in the overnight rate since the beginning of the fiscal year when the prime rate was set at 2.7 per cent. The increase in the prime rate over the course of the fiscal year, along with healthy balances in lawyers' pooled trust accounts, positively affected revenue so that grants could increase for the first time in two years. Grants support a wide range of work including direct services such as the provision of legal information, assistance with navigation of legal systems, and services and training for staff and intermediaries who help vulnerable individuals and marginalized populations.

The grants approved by the Foundation support valuable work in the community, work that strives to meet legal needs, particularly the legal needs of individuals who face barriers to accessing justice. The Foundation also funds projects targeted to address specific priority unmet needs identified in our research; research such as the Grants Review and Future Directions Report (2017). This report assessed the impact of current grants and identified gaps which the board continues to prioritize in hopes of attracting targeted projects worthy of support. It is my hope that as revenues improve we will continue to sustain and grow the Foundation's grants program well into the future.

Considerations in Approving Grants

The 2017 *Grants Review and Future Directions Report* continues to fulfill its mandate to help the board evaluate the current distribution of funds and to provide a roadmap for the future. It identifies specific barriers to access to justice and highlights certain populations' unmet needs, suggesting priority directions to address legal vulnerabilities identified during the research, vulnerabilities such as:

- the prohibitive cost of legal services;
- rural inaccessibility;
- lack of cultural competency;
- the growing need for family law information;
- the plight of self-represented litigants, including their effect on the legal system; and,
- the need for pro bono and alternate dispute resolution services

Foundation grantees state the report has shed light on the critical aspects of their work toward improved access to justice. They continue to leverage the findings of the report at community and board meetings as well as in their research programs to raise awareness. The legal community and the general public also have an interest in improving access to justice in Nova Scotia. The Foundation will continue to respond to these calls for action through its granting program.

Revenue and Grants

A reserve fund is maintained by the Foundation to ensure sustainability of its grants mandate. Declining interest rates in past years forced the Foundation to call upon the reserve to pay for grants, while this year's strong revenues have allowed for growth in the reserve. Currently with higher interest rates and stronger revenues, the strategy is to replenish the reserve fund to ensure a hedge against the potential for future challenging economic times, including reductions in interest rates. In 2022-2023, Law Foundation revenue allowed for payment of grants and an increase to the Foundation's reserve.

Trust Interest Revenue Tracking

The Foundation works with financial institutions and lawyers in an effort to ensure that the financial institutions are reporting on all lawyers' pooled trust accounts. We focus on ensuring accurate payments from all accounts. The Nova Scotia Barristers' Society provides the Foundation with a list of the pooled trust accounts reported by lawyers and firms on Annual Trust Account Reports. This allows the Foundation to identify accounts which may have not been included in the remittance reports received from the financial institutions. Tracking of this nature began in earnest in 2014 resulting in recovery to date of \$219,492 in retroactive interest owing on trust accounts that had not been included on monthly remittance reports.

Interest Rate Changes and Covid-19 March 2020 to date

The prime rate in Canada fell from 3.95% to 3.45% on March 6, 2020, following the Bank of Canada's decision to drop its overnight target by 0.5% to 1.25% the day before. Similar decreases in the prime rate followed on March 18 (to 2.95%) and on March 31 when the prime rate decreased to 2.45%. In the meantime, the Province declared a State of Emergency on March 22, 2020 in response to COVID-19 which lasted until March 21, 2022. The prime rate increased on March 3, 2022 to 2.7% and, subsequent to that fiscal year end, to 3.2% on April 14, 2022, to 3.7% on June 2nd, to 4.7% on July 14th, to 5.45% on September 7th, to 5.95% on October 26th, to 6.45% on December 7th and to 6.7% on February 1, 2023 where it remained until fiscal year end March 31, 2023.

Nova Scotia State of Emergency

The State of Emergency lasting from March 22, 2020 until March 21, 2022 with various amendments and additions, had a significant impact on the Foundation's 2021-2022 fiscal year when conditions presented significant challenges to the operations of both the Foundation and its grantees. During most of that fiscal year, the staff of the Foundation worked remotely from home. In 2022-2023 the State of Emergency was lifted, and staff returned to the office, for the most part, but some challenges remained such as pandemic protocols which led the Board to continue meeting virtually rather than in person. In the new fiscal year commencing April 1, 2023 the Board will revert to its previous practice of meeting in person, with the possibility of hybrid virtual access through an online platform.

Recognition of The Board, Staff and Trustees

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the board for volunteering their time and generously contributing to the work of the Foundation and access to justice in Nova Scotia. All board members show great dedication and commitment, and their service to the community in this manner is greatly appreciated.

In the day-to-day administration I would like to recognize Mary Hamblin as executive director who has skillfully provided the core operations that are so important to the success of the work of the Law Foundation. All members of the board appreciate her assistance in meeting the continuing economic and administrative challenges resulting from the pandemic caused by COVID-19.

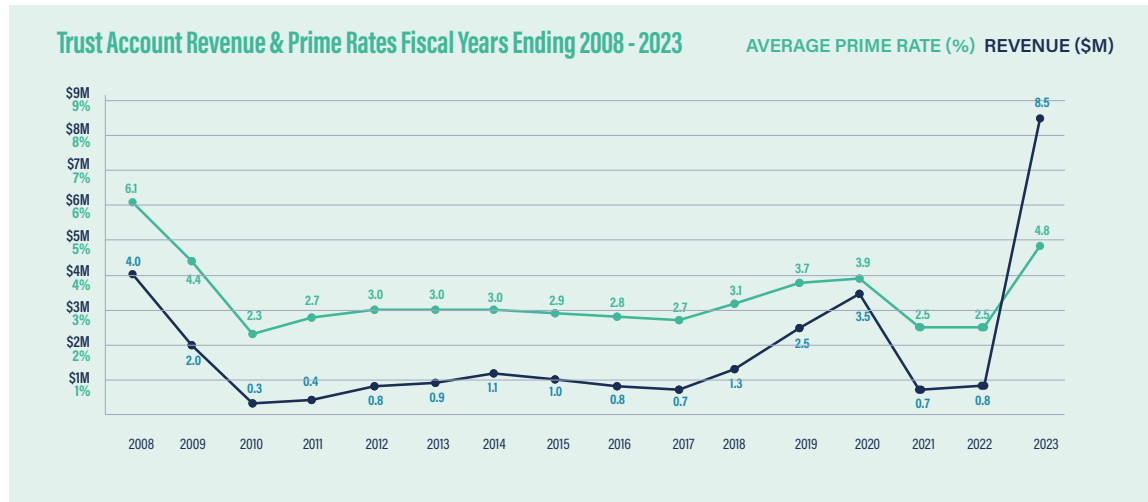
I also wish to recognize and thank those who have acted with me as co-trustees of the Law Foundation Scholarship Fund, Dwight Rudderham KC, who also serves as Vice Chair of the Foundation, and R. Camille Cameron KC, Dean of the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University, who acted as the third trustee.



Robert G. MacKeigan, KC Chair

Revenue

The Foundation's main source of revenue is interest earned on lawyers' pooled and Service Nova Scotia trust accounts in the province. Trust account revenue fluctuates with the balances in the trust accounts and with the prime rate of interest. Financial institutions remit interest based upon "prime - X" formulas negotiated with each law foundation in Canada; changes in the prime rate can produce dramatic results. The Foundation experienced highs and lows between 2008 and 2010, seeing trust account revenue top the \$4 million mark and then drop to \$331,560. Trust account revenue remained steady at about \$1 million for the next 3 years but that changed in 2015 - 2016. After holding the target for the overnight rate at 1 per cent for several years, the Bank of Canada reduced it unexpectedly to ¾ per cent in January 2015 and then again to ½ per cent in July.

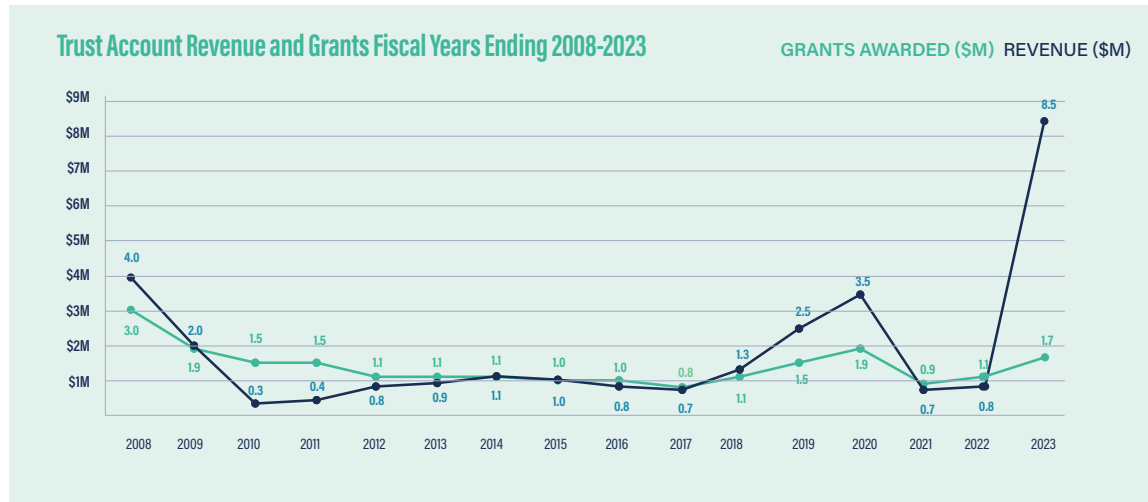


Financial institutions followed by dropping their prime rates to 2.85 per cent and 2.7 per cent, resulting in a drop in the Foundation's trust account revenue from \$1,054,754 in 2015 to \$766,388 for the year ending March 2016, then declining to \$703,059 for the year ending March 2017. In a turn-around, then, financial institutions followed the Bank of Canada's three successive increases in the overnight rate between July 2017 and January 2018 resulting in the prime rate jumping from 2.7 per cent, to 2.95 per cent, to 3.2 per cent, and, by March 31, 2018, to 3.45 per cent. After that, for a period of time revenues continued to improve. In July of 2018, the prime rate increased to 3.7 per cent, followed by another increase in October to 3.95 per cent. The average prime rate in the fiscal year 2018-2019 was 3.7 per cent, with the pattern of growth continuing into 2019-2020 when the prime rate remained steady at 3.95 per cent. Unfortunately, rates took a turn downward, then. The prime rate plummeted with 3 rate drops in March 2020. On March 1st the prime rate was 3.95 per cent and it dropped to but by March 30th it was 2.45 per cent, negatively affecting the following fiscal year which began on April 1, 2020. The prime rate remained at 2.45 per cent throughout that fiscal year which ended March 31, 2021, and stayed at that level until March 3, 2022 when the prime rate increased to 2.7 per cent. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year there were seven more increases so that by year end March 31, 2023, the prime rate rose to 6.7 percent. The seven increases were as follows: The prime rate rose to 3.2 percent on April 14th, to 3.7 percent on June 2nd, to 4.7 percent on July 14th, to 5.45 percent on September 8th, to 5.95 percent on October 27th, to 6.45 percent on December 8, 2022, and, finally, to 6.7 per cent on January 26th, 2023.

Historically, dramatic interest rate swings, coupled with different methods of calculating interest paid by financial institutions and higher or lower trust account balances, have produced interesting results. For instance, the prime rate peaked at 22.75 per cent in August 1981 but trust account revenue was under \$300,000. By 1993 - 1994, a different formula for calculating interest payments produced the same amount of trust account revenue with an average prime rate of 5.7 per cent. An average prime rate of 7.4 per cent in 2001 resulted in trust account revenue of \$1.9 million, whereas, in comparison, an average prime rate of 6 per cent in 2008 yielded over \$4 million. In 2019-2020 the average prime rate of 3.95 per cent resulted in trust account revenue of \$3,501,146. In 2020-2021 the prime rate of 2.45 per cent resulted in trust account revenue of \$664,959 whereas in 2021-2022, with the same prime rate of 2.45%, trust account revenue was slightly higher at \$750,853, most likely due to higher balances in lawyers' pooled trust accounts. In 2022-2023 the seven successive prime rate increases that brought the prime rate up to 6.7 percent by March 31, 2023, along with strong balances in lawyers' pooled trust accounts, resulted in annual trust revenue of \$8,451,177, a record high. Primarily, this increase has served to offset losses in recent years which had been an economic disaster due to the 82 percent drop in revenue that the Law Foundation faced due to the low prime rate of 2.45 per cent.

Reserve Fund Supports Grant Levels

It was recognized early in the Foundation's history that a severe decline in the prime rate could severely reduce trust interest revenue and force the board to reduce or eliminate grants. To help protect against this risk, the Foundation established a prudent investment fund as a reserve in 1986 to be used to maintain grants in periods when low interest rates result in insufficient income to fund them. The Foundation was, in 2019-2020, able to increase the investment which was a saving grace in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 when annual revenues declined to less than \$750,760 from \$3,501,146 in 2019-2020. In both years the Foundation was forced to resort to making withdrawals from the reserve fund to provide grant funding approved each January for the grantees' 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 years.



It is not new that the Foundation has had to rely upon its reserve fund. For example, although trust interest revenue dropped dramatically in 2010 due to the reduction in the prime rate of interest, the decision to maintain grant allocations at \$1.5 million, higher than the revenue stream, forced the Foundation to, then, rely upon the reserve fund. In subsequent years, although revenues climbed slightly, the Foundation continued to provide grants equal to, or incrementally higher than, revenues, which meant that it often had to use reserve funds for the grants.

As the years progressed and revenues continued to remain low, the Foundation decided to slightly reduce grants, hovering at the \$11 - \$1 million mark for several years. In 2015 the prime rate dropped further, which, ultimately, resulted in a reduction of most grants by 15% for 2017-2018, and an increasing draw upon the reserve fund. There were concerns that this may be unsustainable if revenues continued to falter.

The downward trend reversed when the prime rate increased in fiscal year 2017-2018 starting in July (from 2.7 to 2.95 per cent); then, September (to 3.2 percent); and, finally, in January when it climbed to 3.45 per cent, allowing the Foundation to increase grants for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to \$1,086,056, higher than the previous year's \$798,529 grants budget. Prime rate increases in 2018-2019 (to 3.7 percent in July and 3.95 per cent in October) further allowed the Foundation to increase grant levels to \$1,493,359 in 2019-2020, and to increase grants again in 2020-2021 to \$1,976,237.

However, the prime rate plummeted to 2.45% by April 2020, causing a dramatic drop in revenue which forced the Foundation to draw from the reserve fund in 2020-2021 and, again, in 2021-2022, to fund grants. In response to the prime rate drop, the board reduced grants to \$937,094 for 2021-2022, which was mostly drawn from the reserve fund. In 2022-2023, the board slightly increased grants to \$1,070,024 with an expectation that the reserve fund, once again, would be used. Prime rate increases in 2022-2023 (in seven successive steps from 2.7 percent to 6.7 percent by March 31, 2023) further allowed the Foundation to increase grant levels for 2023-2024 to \$1,655,310.

By March 31, 2023, the reserve fund level was \$10,338,546. While it continues to serve as a reserve for challenging economic times which are forecast to continue in the near future, its sustainability is precarious and the board takes great care in its granting to ensure optimum stability for the Foundation.

Grants

Law Foundation Scholarship Fund

Separate from its annual project grants, the Law Foundation established a trust fund in 1981 to provide scholarships to students attending the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University. The fund supports scholarships valued at \$21,500 for four students entering first year. The scholarships are renewable in their second and third years provided the recipient maintains a B+ average. Two Fellowships of \$20,000 at the graduate level are also available. During the past 41 years, the Law Foundation Scholarship Fund has provided \$4.9 million in scholarships to support 427 law students.

2022-2023 Law Foundation Scholarship recipients were:

Entering 1st Year:	Lucas Barsi, Michaela Hill, Matthew Williams, Graci Young
Entering 2nd Year:	Michael Cormier, Amelia Eaton, Samuel Eisner, and Harper Metler
Entering 3rd Year:	Grace Bryson, Daniel Campbell, Liam Gilbert-Walsh, and Patrick Sheppard
Graduate Fellowships:	LLM candidate Gulnoza Abdurakhmonova* and PhD candidate Morris Odeh

**Deferred to 2023-2024 by approval of the Trustees and Board*

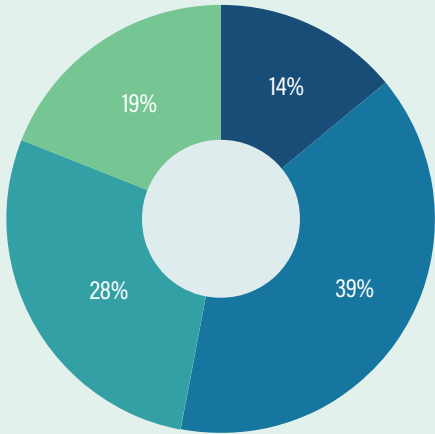
The 2022-2023 scholarships included four entrance, four second year, four third year students, and two graduate fellowships. Scholarship payments for the year totalled \$278,000 which includes accounting for one deferral to 2023-2024.

Project Grants To Be Disbursed In 2023 - 2024

Since its creation in 1976, the Foundation has received approximately \$59.1 million in revenue from interest on lawyers' trust accounts and has awarded over \$47.7 million in grants. These grants have made it possible for community organizations to help Nova Scotians understand the law and to use it to improve their lives while also promoting improvements in the law and excellence within the profession. During the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year, the Foundation awarded grants totaling \$1,655,310 to be disbursed during 2023-2024. Grants are categorized according to the Foundation's four mandated objectives. Activities of many of the funded organizations fall under more than one of the objectives.

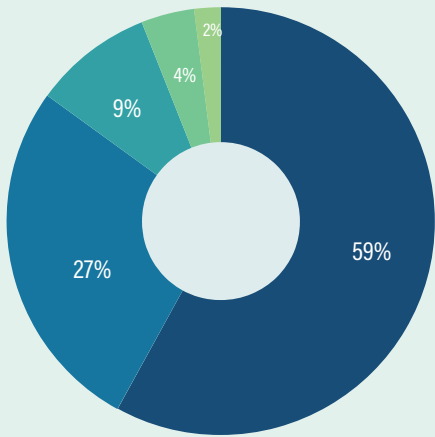
Funding Guidelines And Application Procedures

The board strives to be accountable in the distribution of funds received by the Foundation. The board also endeavours to be transparent and consistent in its evaluation of applications. It takes into consideration where programs will operate and who will benefit from them, as well as whether they fit within the Foundation's mandate. Accountability extends to the careful assessment and consistent monitoring of programs that receive funding. Funding guidelines and grant application procedures may be obtained by contacting the executive director, and, or by visiting the Foundation's website at nslawfd.ca.



Grants Awarded By Mandate

Research and Reform	14%	\$229,558
Public Access	39%	\$642,119
Legal Education	28%	\$457,098
Administration of Justice	19%	\$326,535



Grants Awarded By Region

Province Wide	59%	\$970,330
HRM	27%	\$452,286
Cape Breton	9%	\$144,458
Antigonish Pictou Guys	4%	\$60,436
King's County	2%	\$27,600

TOTAL AWARDED
IN 2023-2024
\$1,655,310

Grants To Be Disbursed In 2023-2024

Access to Justice and Law Reform Institute of Nova Scotia	\$130,000
Access to justice research and reform, review of provincial laws & recommendations for improvement, modernization and reform	
Antigonish Women's Resource Centre	\$52,836
Justice Matters for Women – Rural Outreach in Antigonish and Guysborough Counties - a rural outreach program providing law-related information and support for women and adolescent girls in rural counties and the Strait area	
Avalon Sexual Assault Centre	\$36,528
Prevention, Intervention, and Awareness (PIA) Program - legal information and education, professional training workshops, support services and policy development aimed at improving the criminal justice process for victims of sexual violence	
Concilio Prison Ministry	\$45,000
St. Luke's Renewal Centre – for inmates at Springhill Institution and their families an innovative approach to re-integration of long-term offenders into the community as productive citizens, addressing issues of barriers to justice	
Coverdale Courtwork Services	\$80,000
Information and support for women in the criminal court process; counseling and support at parole hearings & pre-release planning; life skills programs to prevent recidivism	
Dalhousie Legal Aid	\$120,000
Pro bono legal services for marginalized populations; community development and law reform; an educational experience for 3rd year law students	
East Coast Environmental Law Association	\$75,000
Collaboration among students, academics & practitioners responding to environmental law issues such as environmental racism, discrimination; environmental legislation and policy review; environmental law education	
Elizabeth Fry Cape Breton	\$91,858
Support for women in prison; programs & services for women charged with offences or at risk in the community; law reform & community education	
Elizabeth Fry Mainland	\$97,600
Support Services for Vulnerable, Criminalized Women and Girls help women charged with offences or at risk in the community; law reform & community education	
EPIC Society	\$45,000
After school and specialized programs for youth in conflict with the law & support for parents; reduces recidivism amongst at-risk youth; outreach to marginalized youth in rural areas of Cape Breton	
Halifax Refugee Clinic	\$145,000
A pro bono legal clinic to assist financially eligible refugee claimants before the Immigration & Refugee Board & in related matters	
IB&M Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq Dalhousie Law School	\$150,000
A legal education initiative to increase the representation of Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq people in the legal profession	

King's County Seniors' Safety Program	\$20,000
A program to provide legal, safety & security information on an individual and group basis to seniors in King's County	
Leave Out Violence (LOVE)	\$20,000
Youth who have experienced violence are trained to be peer educators to deter and reduce violent behavior	
Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia (LISNS)	\$172,000
Programs providing Nova Scotians with pro bono access to legal information & resources to increase access to justice	
Mainline Needle Exchange	\$36,575
A legal education program to reduce recidivism; help for drug users and service providers in court & correctional institutions	
Pro Bono Students Association	\$11,000
Law students volunteer their time to provide legal services to public interest community organizations	
reachAbility	\$27,555
Access to legal services & plain language information for persons with disabilities across Nova Scotia	
Stepping Stone	\$50,000
Court support & assistance for current or former sex trade workers; workshops for sex trade workers and the legal community; community education	
Dalhousie Black Law Students Society (DBLAS)	\$19,000
National conference support for black law students attending the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University.	
East Coast Prison Justice Society (ECPJS)	\$32,084
Research and programs in Nova Scotia prisons seeking to improve conditions and to provide inmates with legal information & resources to increase access to justice	
LEVEL Justice - Indigenous and Black Youth Project	\$35,500
A legal education program to reach Indigenous and Black Youth in the education system in Nova Scotia	
Marguerite Centre Project	\$16,578
Pilot project for women in recovery from substance abuse aimed to improve lives and reduce conflict with the law	
National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ) Project	\$6,200
Development of and access to plain language information for persons with criminal records in Nova Scotia	
Nova Scotia Legal Aid - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Project	\$140,000
Project to implement recommended changes for greater Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the legal aid system in Nova Scotia	

Total 2023-2024 Grants: \$1,655,310

Grantee Stories

Access To Justice and Law Reform Institute of Nova Scotia

Here at the A2J & Law Reform Institute we have been busy travelling around the province undertaking consultations on our Parentage Act project, presenting on the family and civil justice systems, and even updating lawyers on recent family law amendments.

We provided research support on such diverse issues as trusted intermediaries, community land trusts, parental alienation, participation of the child in family law proceedings and online dispute resolution.

"Without support from the Law Foundation the Access to Justice and Law Reform Institute of Nova Scotia would not have been able to expand its work program to undertake not only the law reform program, but also the access to justice program, as well. Allowing us to transition our work program has helped to ensure that our research and reports remain responsive to the needs of Nova Scotians."

Check out our A2J Directory for Nova Scotia! lawreform.ns.ca/navigate-a2j

Ilana Dodi Luther, Executive Director, Access to Justice & Law Reform Institute of Nova Scotia

For more information go to lawreform.ns.ca

Antigonish Women's Resource Centre

The outreach worker continues to support her clients helping them to navigate and understand the various supports available to women and their children. The Nova Scotia Law Foundation's generous funding allowed the rural outreach support worker who runs the Justice Matters for Women Program to provide support to many marginalized women and to assist them with legal matters, to provide advice in finding full-time employment, to help in the application processes for subsidies for heat funds and to navigate many government programs.

She also continues to provide her clients with much needed emotional support and provides resources available as they may pertain to mental health and well-being. The Justice Matters for Women Program is an invaluable service to many.

Anita Stewart Co-Director, Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association

Marcia Connolly, Outreach Worker, Justice Matters for Women, Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association
Justice Matters for Women extends the services of the AWRC&SASA

For more information go to awrcsasa.ca



From left to right Emily Tallon & Ilana Luther at the A2J&Law Reform Institute 2022



DBLSA law students at the national Annual Conference Gala February 2023



From right: Leandra Bouman (3rd year student and President of DBLSA) hosting "Being Black in Atlantic Canada: Perspectives of Black Lawyers!"



DBLSA law students at the national Annual Conference held in Halifax in February 2023

Avalon Sexual Assault Centre

Avalon greatly appreciates the support of the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia. Many thanks to the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia for investing in Avalon's programs for survivors!

"The community legal support worker is here to help people navigate incredibly complex systems around sexualized violence by providing information, practical support, accompaniment, and a safe space to discuss experiences and challenges navigating the legal system. In the future, I hope this program continues to grow in order to provide more all-encompassing support for people who have experienced sexualized violence navigating complex, intersecting systems."

Dr. Sarah Rodiman, Executive Director, Avalon Sexual Assault Centre

For more information go to avaloncentre.ca

Dalhousie Black Law Students Association (DBLSA)

A MESSAGE FROM THE DBLSA PRESIDENT

The Dalhousie Black Law Students' Association ("DLBSA") is part of a larger network of Black law students across Canada and it falls under the umbrella organisation of the Black Law Students' Association of Canada. There are now just about as many chapters of this national body as there are Canadian law schools.

The DBLSA is among the largest chapters, with over 40 registered members at this time. Every year, the different chapters have the opportunity to gather at the annual National Conference. This conference takes place in a different Canadian city each year. For example, this year, the National Conference took place in the DBLSA's home city of Halifax, whereas last year it was held in Vancouver.

Effectively, our mission can be organised around three themes: The DBLSA is committed to supporting Black law students at the Schulich School of Law academically, professionally, and socially; enhancing the culture at the Schulich School of Law; and contributing to bridging the gap between local Black communities and the legal community.

Attendance at the National Conference is a key part of the DBLSA's yearly activities as The National Conference presents an opportunity to meet each part of this mission. In attending the conference, our members can broaden their professional networks, by interacting with both students and practitioners from across the country. They have the opportunity to attend panels on unique topics, such as law and technology, or legal entrepreneurship, and engage with specialists in relevant areas. The conference also brings in distinguished speakers from the Black community, who share their experience and wisdom.

The Law Foundation of Nova Scotia's support of the DBLSA's attendance at the National Conference has a direct positive impact on our members' professional paths and their well-being in the legal profession. For this, I would like to extend a thank you to the Nova Scotia Law Foundation, on behalf of our membership, and I hope that we can continue this fruitful relationship into the future.

Leandra Bouman, DBLSA President at the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University

Dalhousie Black Law Students Association "Dedicated to promoting and assisting African-Canadian students in the pursuit of legal education"

"I am grateful for the incredible experience I had at the 32nd Black Law Students' Association of Canada's Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia. As a law student at Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law, I was proud to see the conference showcase the legacy of African Scotians, an integral part of Canada's legal history."

Donna Mbamy-Conci, 2nd year student & VP of DBLSA

For more information go to Dalhousie Black Law Students Association.

Twitter: [@DBLSA_DAL](https://twitter.com/DBLSA_DAL) | Instagram: [@dblsa](https://www.instagram.com/dblsa) | Facebook: [DBLSA2020](https://www.facebook.com/DBLSA2020)

Coverdale Courtwork Services

Coverdale provides court support, community bail services, programming and supportive housing to hundreds of vulnerable women and gender diverse folks in the community each year. At Coverdale, we stand with our community as we collectively navigate multiple crises at the intersections of justice, housing, and health.

Coverdale continues to expand services and advance our expertise in serving criminalized, victimized, and incarcerated folks with harm reduction, trauma responsive and restorative approaches.

In the last year, we have provided a bail release and support plan and supportive housing with wrap around supports to 39 women. Our court support worker has walked alongside 85 women as they navigate the criminal and family courts, and our support staff have provided thousands of hours of intensive services to over 220 people who turned to us for help.

We're grateful to all of our funders for supporting our mission and making this work possible.

Ashley Avery, Executive Director, Coverdale Courtwork Society

For more information go to coverdale.ca

Dalhousie Legal Aid Services

Residential Tenancy Work – Bluenose Case

Dalhousie Legal Aid Service is proud of the work we do for tenants in Nova Scotia. We had the pleasure of assisting tenant Brandy McGuire win her case against Bluenose Inn and Suites, where it was found that the landlord had failed to comply with the requirements of the Residential Tenancies Act. Brandy was awarded \$13, 662.15 in compensation.

On the landmark win for tenants, Community Legal Worker, Katie Brousseau, commented, "Owners and developers of large properties in Halifax, like the owners of the Bluenose Inn and Suites, have a responsibility to follow the law and when they don't, they should understand that there are legislated penalties.

We are also grateful for the support of the Nova Scotia Law Foundation, who supports our work in the community.

For more information: Landlord loses Bluenose Inn and Suites renovation case in small claims (halifaxexaminer.ca)
<https://huddle.today/2023/02/16/halifax-tenant-wins-13000-after-illegal-renoviction/>

Megan Longley, KC, Executive Director, Dalhousie Legal Aid Service

For more information go to
dal.ca/faculty/law/dlas/about-dalhousie-legal-aid



Coverdale annual professional development conference for Coverdale employees, students and volunteers



Coverdale annual professional development conference for Coverdale employees, students and volunteers



Dalhousie Legal Aid Service's space since 2020



DLAS Community Legal Worker Katie Brousseau

East Coast Environmental Law (ECE Law)

Funding by the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia in 2022-2023 supported The East Coast Environmental Law's core programs and enabled ECE Law to provide educational resources and direct support to individuals, community groups, and organizations in Nova Scotia who asked for help navigating Nova Scotia's complex system of environmental laws. We are thankful to have funding that builds capacity and enhances access to justice for Nova Scotians who need our support to prevent or redress environmental harms.

Lisa Mitchell, Executive Director and Kostantina Northrup, Staff Lawyer, East Coast Environmental Law

For more information go to ecelaw.ca

East Coast Prison Justice Society (ECPJS) Visitors Committee (VC) Project

The East Coast Prison Justice Society (ECPJS) received a grant of \$48,654 in 2020-2021 from the project stream of the LFNS for a volunteer human rights monitoring initiative in Nova Scotia provincial jails. The project was in part for a "visiting committee" VC to visit persons incarcerated in the jails. Subsequently, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, when face to face interaction was no longer allowed, the project was delayed and the Law Foundation Board made a special exception to carry over the funding into 2021-2022-2023 rather than to require the surplus to be returned, which is the normal procedure.

The ECPJS reports that in a span of approximately 3 years, the ECPJS VC Project has brought forward human rights-related interests of persons incarcerated in Nova Scotia jails. The Visiting Committee project has for the past 3 years liaised with people incarcerated in provincial correctional facilities and provincial correctional and health authorities on conditions of confinement in provincial jails. The work of the Visiting Committee has made extraordinary contributions to one of the most pressing legal and social justice issues arising in our province -- the need for transparency and accountability of correctional authority. Failure to subject correctional authority to independent oversight imperils the fundamental human rights of Nova Scotia's most vulnerable and marginalized individuals and communities.

As related in their July 2021 annual report they say that while certain public bodies (The NS Ombudsman and NS Human Rights Commission) have been given special statutory powers with respect to communications with prisoners the ECPJS feels they have not used those power to advance correctional accountability in a manner that is transparent to prisoners or the general public. They cite that lack of correctional system accountability raised concerns on the part of the NS Auditor General in 2018 and concerns have only grown during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic period as provincial jails have been effectively sealed off from public scrutiny.

ECPJS's mandate is to improve the system and they have stepped in as volunteers to assert the legitimacy and effectiveness of civil society oversight. They have developed a number of initiatives toward that end.

Conditions of confinement in men's provincial jails in Nova Scotia (East Coast Prison Justice Society, July 2021) available at: eastcoastprisonjustice.ca/conditions-of-confinement-report.html, nsadvocate.org/2021/07/26/21917 and pressreader.com/canada/the-chronicle-heraldprovincial/20210727/281547998923026

Sheila Wildeman, Co-chair, East Coast Prison Justice Society & member, VC Steering Committee and Associate Professor, Schulich School of Law; also, Founding Fellow, MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance, Dalhousie University

For more information go to eastcoastprisonjustice.ca

Elizabeth Fry Cape Breton

Our goal at The Elizabeth Fry Society of Cape Breton is to enhance public awareness and education regarding the circumstances of marginalized, victimized, and criminalized women involved in the social and criminal justice systems and to help those women in their difficult circumstances. We are grateful for the support provided by the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia which allows for work we might, otherwise, not be able to do.

"Funding from the Law Foundation has provided the Elizabeth Fry Society of Cape Breton the financial stability to assist criminalized women island-wide in specialized courts, and to offer a wide range of services and outreach making a positive impact on the lives of so many marginalized individuals."

For more information go to efrycb.com

Elizabeth Fry Mainland

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia has three core priorities: 1) housing, 2) programming, and 3) prison law advocacy, navigation and triage

Thanks to funding from the Nova Scotia Law Foundation, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia (EFMNS) is able to provide legal advocacy and support to women and gender-diverse individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system. Last year, the Law Foundation's support allowed us to assist our clients in navigating a range of legal challenges, including police complaints, peace bonds, parole and bail release planning, court proceedings, and more. We were even able to offer limited scope representation to some clients on novel matters such as the enforceability of contracts pertaining to sexual services. In collaboration with community partners and lawyers, we ensured that our clients received wrap-around and interdisciplinary support. Our legal team also oversaw two pro bono projects through the Schulich School of Law. Without the Law Foundation's support, none of this would have been possible.

Emma Halpern, Executive Director,
The Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia

For more information go to efrymns.ca

Educational Programs Innovations Charity (EPIC) Society

The Law Foundation of Nova Scotia continues to be EPIC's largest and longest source of support to promote internalized social adaptation and academic advancement by high-risk youth. This has enabled EPIC to slowly expand the Youth Peer Program to five different Cape Breton communities with referrals from 25+ different schools and 12 community agencies. Throughout the school year, EPIC now matches 116 marginalized youth 1-to-1 with secondary / post-secondary tutor-mentor volunteers.

Youth Peer in Sydney operates daily transporting kids from most Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education (CBVRCE) schools, including under-served rural communities 40 minutes away. EPIC provides weekly Youth Peer programs in Whitney Pier, Northside, New Waterford, and Glace Bay. The EPIC program is transformative for youth participants and deeply gratifying for youth volunteers.

In response to increasing post-pandemic requests for Youth Peer services, EPIC, in November 2022, partnered with Boys & Girls Club and SchoolsPlus to deliver Youth Peer Sackville 5 hours away. By April 2023, plans are also to deliver Youth Peer in rural Iona one hour away. Youth Peer continues to prioritize partner referrals of the most marginalized youth with the result that 95% have been assessed as socially and academically at high risk, 75% live in poverty, and Youth Peer is twice as culturally diverse as in the service area.

A Grade 7 youth had been suspended from school on multiple occasions in the year before starting Youth Peer. In his first 3 months attending Youth Peer, "CC" continued the pattern of provoking conflict with other youth and being disrespectful



Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia (EFMNS) is connected to the community.



EPIC helps youth in Cape Breton, improving lives and reducing conflict with the law.

towards staff. Youth Peer assigned 2 tutors to reign in his loud abrasiveness and instigation of conflict. In one session, his behaviour was so disruptive that he was asked to leave the program early and take a one-week break before returning. However, the staff followed up and strongly encouraged him to return. When he came back after his one-week timeout, he began behaving differently. Now, after several weeks back, "CC" is compliant with staff, interacting with youth and staff more respectfully, and only requires one tutor. His trajectory changed when Youth Peer called out his unacceptable behaviour but refused to give up on him and made him feel welcome to be back.

Barry Waldman, volunteer Executive Director, Educational Program Innovations Charity (EPIC)

For more information go to epiccharity.com

The Halifax Refugee Clinic

In July 2022 The Halifax Refugee Clinic currently had 188 active client files for a total of 281 people. There were 12 files undergoing intake and assessment to be onboarded as clients. Since January 2022, they were contacted by 64 people who completed full intake (some of whom went on to become active clients, some of whom were not financially eligible after assessment and referred on, and some of whom, then decided against making a refugee claim.)

Also, there were 37 overseas dependents and 39 Canadian children of active clients (who were not counted in the active client number above).

Of the active client files, there were three pending applications for Leave and Judicial Review at the Federal court, nine Humanitarian and Compassionate Applications (4 submitted, 5 still to be submitted), nine "other": Danger Opinions, Cessation file, RPD Re-openings, TRPs (for domestic violence and to overcome inadmissibility), three Health care workers permanent residence pathway applications still pending PR, twelve PRRAs (including 3 "enhanced" PRRAs with mandatory interview), seven Refugee Appeal Division appeals, twenty-two refugee claims for 26 people that were in the process of being submitted or pre-eligibility stage, forty-eight files for 72 people waiting for hearing (not counting the above ref claims at eligibility stage or to be submitted imminently), seventy-one applications for permanent residence for protected persons in Canada in progress for 124 people (in Canada) plus 7 overseas dependents waiting to be reunited, and, with regard to Detention work there were four detention review hearings attended and completed (as counsel or as DR, in the case of mental health complexities).

Examples of active client files presenting complexities which require additional care and expertise are as follows: Allegations of 1fa exclusion in 3 cases, Allegations of 1fb exclusion in 3 cases (potentially more to come when screening takes place prior to RPD hearing), Ministerial interventions for identity in 2 cases, Criminality intersection in 10 cases, Serious mental health intersections in 11 cases, Claims based on SOGIE in 14 cases, Claims based directly on family violence in 10 cases (for 18 people), Claims intersecting with possible statelessness issues in 4 cases (for 8 people), and, Claims with multiple source countries of persecution/1E exclusion issues in 8 files (for 24 people).

Countries of origin of the July 2022 HRC clients* were: Afghanistan (1), Albania (3), Algeria (1), Angola (1), Argentina (3), Bahamas (14), Bahrain (3), Bangladesh (4), Cameroon (5), Chad (1), Chile (4), China, including Hong Kong (3), Colombia (16), Congo (2), Cuba (4), Dominican Republic (4), DRC (7), Egypt (3), Ethiopia (16), Gambia (4), Guinea (1), Guyana (1), Honduras (4), India (6), Iran (6), Iraq (7), Jamaica (3), Japan (1), Jordan (5), Kenya (4), Kosovo (4), Lebanon (11), Liberia (1), Libya (8), Mali (1), Mexico (12), Mongolia (1), Morocco (2), Nepal (4), Nigeria (37), Pakistan (6), Palestine (10), Russia (3), Rwanda (11), Saudi Arabia (9), Sierra Leone (1), South Korea (3), Sri Lanka (1), St. Vincent (1), Sudan (2), Syria (4), Turkey (1), Uganda (2), Venezuela (1), Yemen (2), Zambia (1), and Zimbabwe (3).

* Some clients are dual nationals or may hold residency in other countries but in this listing the primary country of persecution for the person is listed.

Much of the valuable work of the Halifax Refugee Clinic is made possible through generous project funding from the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia.

Julie Chamagne, Executive Director, Halifax Refugee Clinic

For more information go to halifaxrefugeeclinic.org

Indigenous Blacks And Mi'kmaq Initiative (IB & M)

The Indigenous Blacks and Mi'kmaq (IB&M) Initiative is designed to increase the representation of Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq people in the legal profession. The IB&M Initiative continues to work to increase the representation of indigenous black and Mi'kmaq individuals in the legal profession through education at the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University.

The (IB&M) Initiative is grateful for the generous grant support provided by the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia. The Initiative is located at the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University. With the support of the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, the IB&M Initiative was able to continue to provide the supports and resources that help Black and Indigenous students thrive while at law school. Some of the supports IB&M Initiative students have access to are no-cost Tutoring, Peer Support, Elder-in-Residence, Culturally Responsive Counselling, Black and Indigenous Mentorship, Networking and Cultural Events, Career Development opportunities, and a dedicated IB&M student and study space.

Kelsey Jones, BA, JD, Director, Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq Initiative, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University

For more information go to www.dal.ca > **Schulich School of Law** or ibandm.law.dal.ca

Kings County Seniors' Safety Society (KCSSS)

The Kings County Senior Safety Society Program appreciates grant funding from the Law Foundation in order to help seniors avoid crime, improve their safety and understand legal issues as they affect seniors.

Kings County Seniors' Safety Society leads a province wide initiative to create awareness of seniors' vulnerabilities and needs in society. This year has seen major changes as long time Coordinator Michelle Parker has taken a LOA to pursue an opportunity to support the local Homeless Shelter Open Arm's as they expand their space and program. The new coordinator Trishe Colman has brought new energy to the program and is renewing KCSSS programs while continuing to keep a focus on the safety and security needs of Kings County Seniors, including programs such as education about how to avoid being a victim of fraud.

March was Fraud Prevention Month. In 2022/23 the KCSSS Program also completed the Seniors Rural Connection Project which provided video presentations for seniors on safety and security. This included work to prepare tool kits (videos and written resources) to be distributed to 21 communities and to be supported by trained Community Champions.

Johanna Kwakernaak, Board Treasurer, Kings County Seniors' Safety Society

For more information go to kingsseiorsafety.com



Left to right IB&M law students Kire McKese, Lorenze Crowmwell, Zindzi Azubuike, and Andrew Paul.



KCSSS Board members and Sunrise Rotarians on May 18, 2022, collecting documents for shredding, helping seniors with their security.

The Love Program



This photo from Sipekne'katik Leadership is a fun one that one of the youth at LOVE put a spin on after it was taken.



The group photo with the roses and certificates is our Leadership group on their first night back this year (2022-2023) welcoming new graduates from our MAP group into the Leadership group. Dalhousie Legal Aid Service's space since 2020



This is from the LOVE Halloween party with the MAP Program.



LOVE staff changing the world for the better - Finley, Dennis and Liz. That is Finley Tolliver, Liz Boitteaux and Dennis Adams, RSW

Leave Out Violence (LOVE)

At LOVE, youth who have experienced violence are trained to become educators about the root causes, effects & alternatives to violent behavior. Dennis Adams, Executive Director, Leave Out Violence (LOVE)

What the youth like about the LOVE program:

"At LOVE, I can be honest with myself, and I love hearing how other people around me think."

"My favourite part is the people, the group is like family to me. It's a very supportive environment."

"LOVE is a safe place that feels like a family."

In terms of news, LOVE has started a new program in North Preston and has staff dedicated to outreach in North and East Dartmouth in this 2022-2023 program year.

In the Succeed and Proceed program youth who have graduated from our Leadership and Outreach and are now building their own careers are in this program. They regularly return and volunteer as guest speakers to youth who are a little younger than them as a visual representation that yes, it is possible to overcome serious challenges and live without violence.

"Support from the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia has been highly valuable to LOVE Nova Scotia's programs with 24/7 on-call support. We are thankful for the Foundation's ongoing belief in our work."

Dennis Adams, Executive Director

Steph Zubrski, MSc. (They/Them), Director of Research and Fund Development
Leave Out Violence (LOVE)

For more information go to novascotia.leaveoutviolence.org

Legal Information Society Of Nova Scotia (LISNS)

The Legal Information Society has accomplished a great deal this past year to improve access to justice for Nova Scotians and also impacted national best practices. This work is only possible due to the support received from the Nova Scotia Law Foundation. We are so appreciative of their continued support and recognition of the services and tools that are provided through LISNS.

In 2022-23 we are proud to have been able to produce many new publications that aim to provide inclusive, accessible, and sustainable legal information and learning experiences. The Employer Best Practices Toolkit and Training aims to help employers address and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. Many organizations have provided this resource to their membership and clientele, including Cape Breton Partnerships, IGNITE Business Hub, Halifax Chamber of Commerce, My Momentum Strategies, and more.

This has been a year of ongoing collaboration and partnership to deliver access to justice to the public and across workplaces and education centres through our large and diverse network of stakeholders. LISNS has partnered with AJFENE to translate the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace training materials and resources, increasing their value and reach and providing the Acadian/ Francophone community with valuable resources to help shape and strengthen work environments to be safer and more inclusive.

LISNS responded to strong demand locally, provincially, and nationally, by continuing to provide the Moving Beyond the Binary Workshop, A Guide for Employers to Creating Inclusive Workplaces, based on the materials in the previously published Moving Beyond the Binary Guide. We have successfully

delivered this workshop to 650+ people throughout Canada. Thank you to Shila LeBlanc and Restorative Approaches for continuing this important work in collaboration with LISNS.

We are delighted that Acadia University, in partnership with the Legal Information Society, is the first university in Nova Scotia to implement the Moving Beyond the Binary (MBB) policy template in the form of our Workplace Gender Diversity Inclusion Policy: https://hr.acadiau.ca/files/sites/hr/Policies%20and%20Procedures/Gender_Diversity_Workplace.Inclusion.Policy.2022.pdf

In addition to the 650+ attendance, Acadia has delivered the workshop to various departments, including the Safety and Security team (15 people), frontline staff and librarians at our university library (approximately 20 people), staff in Student Services (approximately 50 people), administrative assistants across the university (approximately 25 people), Human Resources team (14 people), and staff and student volunteers at the Athletics Complex (12 people). This resulted in concrete changes to the way that various departments navigate forms, language use, collecting info, onboarding, or other relevant interactions with diverse staff and students. The Equity Office also hosted the MBB book club over the summer of 2022 with about 20 people registered (students and faculty members).

In addition to MBB, we have also released Let Me Be Me: a Guide to Canada's Conversion Therapy* Ban. This series of resources aims to educate on the impacts of conversion therapy* and the new legislation banning conversion therapy practices. This guide provides insightful information, and survivor stories, communicating the detrimental impacts of exclusionary communities.

*Feedback from MBB:

'It was excellent and very beneficial for all!' - Anonymous

'Great and very clear presentation for an individual who does not know much on the subject. Thank you!' - Anonymous

'Thank you for sharing your resources with us and prompting us to think about the ways we can be more gender inclusive not just as an org, but as people.' - Anonymous

'The lack of cost barrier was so appreciated. The tone and engagement of the session felt very open - it was okay to 'get it wrong,' there wasn't an assumption that we would already know the material.' - Anonymous

'Thank you, I learned so much and gained a lot of insight during the presentation. The (LISNS) group never fails to have their finger on the pulse and offers timely, relevant presentations. Good job to all who helped put this together.' - Anonymous

LISNS is also empowering youth through increasing access to legal information by reaching youth through their choice of communication through the launch of the youth Legal Information Texting Service. Available for those who are 25 and under, the Youth Legal Info Texting Service provides youth with an accessible platform to receive legal information quickly. A helpful tool in service providers' toolkits, the Texting Service has been praised as a valuable service that will empower youth in their own advocacy. We are very pleased to be working in collaboration with Nova Scotia Legal Aid and the IWK Health Centre on this work.



LISNS Navigator Project at the Nova Scotia Legislature



Mainline's peers Thomas (left) and Morty (right) heading out for the weekly court support in partnership with PALS



The Law Foundation grant funding helps LISNS to continue to be well positioned to help Nova Scotians at an early point with their legal issues and to avoid expensive costly and stressful legal processes that often result in greater cost to individuals, society, and Government.

Heather de Berdt Romilly, B.Comm., LL.B., LL.M., Executive Director,
Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia (LISNS)

For more information go to legalinfo.org

Mainline Needle Exchange

With funding from the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, Mainline is working to provide support for individuals who are involved with the criminal and civil justice system, to provide access to legal information and education and help individuals to make informed decisions about their legal issues. In partnership with Direction 180's PALS program, we offer peer support at the courthouse every Monday, as well as working with clients every day at our main office and on outreach. We support individuals to improve their well-being, e.g., to secure safe and affordable housing, income assistance and/or addiction treatment, and to achieve success in the community and reduce recidivism.

As one example, with funding received from the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia for the "Community Based Legal Support & Education Project", project staff supported and helped a client receive a conditional sentence due to his involvement in Mainline's peer navigator project. This client had spent multiple years incarcerated, and has a long outstanding involvement with police, justice and the courts.

And, Mainline moved as of March 1, 2022 to their new address which is 5367 Cogswell Street, Halifax – a great move!

"We are so grateful for the support from the Law Foundation which allows us to provide much-needed assistance and advocacy for so many individuals who have lived or living experience of drug use as well as involvement with the civil and criminal justice systems. Most of the people we support face numerous barriers to accessing supportive services, accurate information, and critical referrals. In addition, our staff are able to provide information, support and encouragement in a comfortable and non-judgmental manner, ensuring that the support provided meets the needs of the clients we serve. The project continues to meet its intended goals: to increase knowledge and life skills; to provide access to legal information and education; to provide a continuity of care and support for individuals who are involved with the criminal and civil justice system; to help individuals to make informed decisions about their legal issues; to make lifestyle choices leading to improved well-being; to provide support for clients to secure safe and affordable housing, income assistance and/or addiction treatment; to provide support for individuals to achieve success in the community and reduce recidivism."

Jo Parker, Program Coordinator, Mainline Distribution and Disposal Program
Diane Bailey, Program Director, Community Based Legal Support and Education Project,
Mainline Needle Exchange

For more information go to mainlineneedleexchange.ca

Pro Bono Dalhousie

Pro Bono Dalhousie has benefitted from the generous support of the Law Foundation for nearly two decades. Their support has directly increased access to justice in Nova Scotia and provided generations of law students the opportunity to have hands-on learning experience, while directly contributing to the local community.

The direct support of the Law Foundation facilitates access to justice through these community partnerships. This year alone, with the support of the Law Foundation, Pro Bono Dalhousie has been able to place over 145 students with over 32 organizations across Nova Scotia. The projects touch on nearly every aspect of the law including, animal rights, international human rights, prisoner rights, environmental law, family law, immigration and refugee law and Indigenous law. The programs also cover nearly every aspect of legal practice, from advocacy, research, client relationships, to legal community education.

As we begin to prepare for our 23rd year as an active organization, we cannot help but feel immensely grateful to the Law Foundation for their generosity and look forward to many more years of partnership.

Joanna Skrajny and Liz Marr, Pro Bono Dalhousie Co-coordinators, 2022/2023
Pro Bono Dalhousie - Schulich School of Law

For more information go to dal.ca/faculty/law/current-students/pro-bono

REACHABILITY

The reachAbility Association appreciates the funding provided by the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia for our Legal Services. With this funding we are able to assist vulnerable individuals and marginalized populations with access to justice and legal education across the province.

We have been able to establish partnerships with Pro Bono Dalhousie and Halifax Public Libraries where first- and second-year law students help individuals with Plain Language Form Filling at clinics, located at Alderney Gate Public Library and Halifax North Memorial Public Library.

We continue to reach out for volunteer lawyers across Nova Scotia for help with our Legal Referral Service, where we are able to connect a client in need for a one-hour legal consultation.

We plan to continue our mission to help those in need with access to justice and are lucky to be so generously funded through the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia.

We also have videos for our Legal Referral Service and the Plain Language Form Filling Clinics available on our YouTube channel at the following links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eb_Bx9tajgl,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQycqZh_mvq

Karri Kroeger, Legal Services Coordinator, reachAbility Association

"reachAbility is an organization dedicated to equalizing the playing field for people facing barriers. We sincerely thank the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia for this grant, which helps to equalize the playing field for all Nova Scotians in the legal system."

reachAbility volunteer Jane Warren (1st year law student at Dal) and Form Filling Client Lana - Alderney Gate Clinic. reachAbility helped this client with her form IMM5710E to extend her stay to remain in Canada as a worker.

View her testimonial here: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Q15HF6hyx28>

Tova Sherman CEO, reachAbility Association

For more information go to reachability.org



Jane Warren (reachability volunteer and 1st year law student at Dal) and Form Filling Client Lana - Alderney Gate Clinic - We helped this client with her form IMM5710E to extend her stay to remain in Canada as a worker. Testimonial at: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Q15HF6hyx28>



photo: Megan Chambers (2nd year law student at Dal), Hogan Ingram (2nd year law student at Dal), Karri Kroeger (Legal Services Coordinator, reachAbility Association), Jane Warren (1st year law student at Dal) and Lara McAllister (Community Navigator, Halifax Public Libraries)
Photo taken at the Alderney Gate Public Library

STEPPING STONE

Stepping Stone's "Tipping the Scales" program is funded by the Law Foundation and the key person providing the services is Linda Grandy who celebrated 20 years with the program in 2021. "Tipping the Scales" provides current and former sex workers who have come into contact with the Criminal Justice System with direct support and assistance, including a legal navigation service.

In 2020 a pandemic hit and seemed to have slowed everyone down, except Linda Grandy! Linda quickly figured out how she was going to continue to provide support to Stepping Stone clients. In the pandemic shut down the court dockets from across Nova Scotia were emailed to Linda Grandy first thing in the morning. She would review the docket and make sure all the Stepping Stone clients were accurately documented and represented. Now that many restrictions have been lifted, Linda continues to apply the same care and attention to detail as she always has to help her clients.

Linda supports the clients by filling out their applications for legal aid and by setting up their phone appointments, ensuring that the clients receive proper legal services and representation.

With Linda and her program "Tipping the Scales", Stepping Stone increases access to justice in Nova Scotia. Thank you to the Law Foundation for funding such programs and to the tireless work of dedicated persons such as Linda Grandy,

Alex MacDonnell, Executive Director
Linda Grandy, Court Support and Corrections worker
Stepping Stone – RE Tipping the Scales

For more information go to steppingstonens.ca



Financial Statements

Law Foundation of Nova Scotia

March 31, 2023

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Independent auditor's report

To the Members of the Board of the
Law Foundation of Nova Scotia

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Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Law Foundation of Nova Scotia (the "Foundation"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, the statements of operations, changes in fund balances, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Law Foundation of Nova Scotia as at March 31, 2023, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The Law Foundation of Nova Scotia derives substantially all of its revenue from interest credited by financial institutions of Nova Scotia Barristers' Society members' mixed trust funds which is not susceptible to complete audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of revenue from this source was limited to accounting for the amounts received from financial institutions and recorded in the records of the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia. Therefore, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary for revenue, excess of revenue over expenses, and cash flow from operations for the years ended March 31, 2023 and 2022, assets as at March 31, 2023 and 2022 and net assets as at April 1, 2023 and 2022 and March 31, 2023 and 2022. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2022 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Foundation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Foundation's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Halifax, Canada
May 26, 2023

The logo for Grant Thornton LLP, featuring the company name in a stylized, cursive script font.

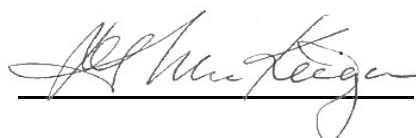
Chartered Professional Accountants

Law Foundation of Nova Scotia Statement of financial position

March 31	2023	2022
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 155,257	\$ 397,971
Prepays	<u>805</u>	<u>805</u>
	156,062	398,776
Investments (Note 3)	11,929,956	4,737,058
Equipment (Note 4)	<u>485</u>	<u>751</u>
	\$ <u>12,086,503</u>	\$ <u>5,136,585</u>
Liabilities		
Current		
Payables and accruals (Note 5)	\$ 32,647	\$ 31,084
Designated grants payable (Note 6)	1,655,310	1,070,024
Current portion of long term debt (Note 7)	<u>60,000</u>	-
	1,747,957	1,101,108
Long term debt (Note 7)	<u>-</u>	<u>60,000</u>
	<u>1,747,957</u>	<u>1,161,108</u>
Fund balances		
Unrestricted reserve fund	2,338,546	3,975,477
Grant stabilization reserve fund	6,000,000	-
Scholarship stabilization reserve fund	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>10,338,546</u>	<u>3,975,477</u>
	\$ <u>12,086,503</u>	\$ <u>5,136,585</u>

Commitment (Note 8)

On behalf of the Board

 Director

 Director

Law Foundation of Nova Scotia Statement of operations

Year ended March 31	General Fund	Reserve Fund	2023	2022
Revenue				
Interest on trust accounts	\$ 8,451,177	\$ -	\$ 8,451,177	\$ 750,854
Interest on operating account	8,750	-	8,750	671
Interest on investments	-	91,554	91,554	49,421
Dividend income	-	149,013	149,013	119,727
Change in market value	-	(435,491)	(435,491)	416,887
	<u>8,459,927</u>	<u>(194,924)</u>	<u>8,265,003</u>	<u>1,337,560</u>
Grants disbursed	<u>1,655,310</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,655,310</u>	<u>1,059,490</u>
	<u>6,804,617</u>	<u>(194,924)</u>	<u>6,609,693</u>	<u>278,070</u>
Expenditures				
Accounting and audit	52,829	-	52,829	29,962
Amortization	267	-	267	443
Bank charges	653	-	653	1,122
Consulting	994	-	994	5,421
Director's insurance	2,563	-	2,563	2,131
Investment fees	-	43,864	43,864	33,566
Miscellaneous	4,857	-	4,857	4,127
Office	7,643	-	7,643	9,270
Rent and common area	20,853	-	20,853	17,544
Salaries and benefits	105,354	-	105,354	109,132
Telephone	1,171	-	1,171	1,485
Travel and meetings	5,576	-	5,576	-
	<u>202,760</u>	<u>43,864</u>	<u>246,624</u>	<u>210,542</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ <u>6,601,857</u>	\$ <u>(238,788)</u>	\$ <u>6,363,069</u>	\$ <u>67,528</u>

**Law Foundation of Nova Scotia
Statement of changes in fund balances**

Year ended March 31	General Fund	Unrestricted Reserve Fund	Grant Stabilization Reserve Fund	Scholarship Stabilization Reserve Fund	Total
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 3,975,477	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,975,477
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	6,601,857	(238,788)	-	-	6,363,069
Interfund Transfers (Note 9)	(6,601,857)	(1,398,143)	6,000,000	2,000,000	-
Net assets, end of year	\$ -	\$ 2,338,546	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 10,338,536
					\$ 3,975,477
					67,528

Law Foundation of Nova Scotia Statement of cash flows

Year ended March 31	2023	2022
(Decrease) increase in cash		
Operating		
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ 6,363,069	\$ 67,528
Items in earnings not involving cash		
Amortization	267	443
Change in market value of investments	435,491	(416,887)
Reinvested dividends	<u>(14,844)</u>	<u>(131)</u>
	6,783,983	(349,047)
Change in non-cash working capital balances		
Receivables	-	34,353
Prepays	-	(100)
Payables and accruals	1,563	18,707
Designated grants payable	<u>585,286</u>	<u>132,930</u>
	<u>7,370,832</u>	<u>(163,157)</u>
Financing		
Issuance of long term debt	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Investing		
Purchase of investments	<u>(13,086,566)</u>	<u>(512,977)</u>
Proceeds on disposal of investments	<u>5,473,020</u>	<u>729,933</u>
	<u>(7,613,546)</u>	<u>216,956</u>
Net (decrease) increase in cash	(242,714)	73,799
Cash		
Beginning of year	<u>397,971</u>	<u>324,172</u>
End of year	\$ <u>155,257</u>	\$ <u>397,971</u>

Law Foundation of Nova Scotia

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2023

1. Nature of operations

The Law Foundation of Nova Scotia (the "Foundation") was established in 1976 by a Nova Scotia statute as a not-for-profit organization and is exempt from income tax. Its purpose is to grant funds to groups for projects connected with the law.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis of presentation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNPO"). The significant policies used in the preparation of these statements are detailed as follows:

Fund accounting

The Board has internally restricted funds to finance future operations of the Foundation. These funds consist of:

The General Fund accounts for the Foundation's day-to-day activities which include the interest income on the lawyers' trust accounts, the interest income on the investments, less grants approved and paid, and the administrative expenses for running the Foundation.

The Unrestricted Reserve Fund is an internally restricted fund to support future operations of the organization. Net investment income earned on these assets is recorded in the reserve fund. As well, any surplus from the General Fund is transferred to the Unrestricted Reserve Fund at each year end.

The Grant Stabilization Fund is an internally restricted fund which has been created to provide additional support for grant payments in years when income on the lawyers' trust accounts is insufficient to support planned grant support.

The Scholarship Stabilization Fund is an internally restricted fund, established to provide additional support to the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia Scholarship Fund if the need arises.

Cash

Cash includes cash balances on hand and held in investment accounts.

Equipment

The cost of equipment is amortized over its useful life using the following annual rates and methods:

	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Method</u>
Computer Hardware	3 years	Straight line
Furniture and fixtures	20%	Declining balance
Office equipment	20%	Declining balance

When equipment no longer has any long term service potential to the Foundation, the excess of its net carrying amount over any residual value is recognized as an expense in the statement of operations. Any write-downs recognized are not reversed.

Law Foundation of Nova Scotia

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2023

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Investments

The investments of the Foundation consist of money market funds, fixed income securities, and equities. They are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in the statement of operations and changes in reserve fund in the period in which they arise.

Financial instruments

Initial measurement

The Foundation's financial instruments are measured at fair value when issued or acquired. For financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost, fair value is adjusted by the amount of the related financing fees and transaction costs. Transaction costs and financing fees relating to financial instruments that are measured subsequently at fair value are recognized in operations in the year in which they are incurred.

Subsequent measurement

At each reporting date, the Foundation measures its financial assets and liabilities at cost or amortized cost (less impairment in the case of financial assets), except for equities quoted in an active market, which must be measured at fair value. The Foundation has also irrevocably elected to measure its investments in fixed income securities at fair value. All changes in fair value of the Foundation's investments in equities quoted in an active market and in fixed income securities are recorded in the statement of operations. The financial instruments measured at amortized cost are accrued interest receivable and payables and accruals.

The Foundation is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the Foundation's risk exposure as at the date of the financial statements.

- i) **Credit risk**
The Foundation is exposed to credit risk in the event of non-performance by counterparties to financial instruments. The Foundation is not exposed to any significant credit risk.
- ii) **Liquidity risk**
Liquidity risk is the risk that the Foundation will not be able to pay financial liabilities as they come due. The majority of assets held by the Foundation are invested in securities that are traded in an active market and can be readily disposed of as liquidity needs arise.
- iii) **Market risk**
Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. For purposes of this disclosure, the Foundation segregates market risk into three categories: interest rate risk, currency risk and other price risk.

Interest rate risk

The Foundation holds money market funds and fixed income investments of \$1,608,994 and \$5,425,924, respectively at year end (2022 - \$505,328 and \$887,193). A 1% absolute change in interest rates would increase or decrease interest income by \$70,349 (2022 - \$13,925).

Law Foundation of Nova Scotia

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2023

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

iii) Market risk (continued)

Currency risk

The Foundation's functional currency is the Canadian dollar. Foreign currency risk arises from the Foundations investments that are denominated in a foreign currency. Fluctuations in the relative value of foreign currencies against the Canadian dollar can result in positive or negative effect on the fair value of the investments. The Foundation holds \$1,602,006 (2022 - \$1,357,675) in cash and investments denominated in United States Dollars. A 5% absolute change in the foreign exchange rate would result in a gain or loss of \$80,100 (2022 - \$67,884).

Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the value of financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices, other than those occurring from interest rate risk or currency risk. Securities held for trading are carried at fair value and, as such, impact earnings as changes occur. Investments held by the Foundation are managed by professional investment managers and are monitored by management.

Revenue recognition

The Foundation uses the deferral method of accounting for the net investment income.

Interest on trust accounts is recorded in the General Fund on an accrual basis.

Interest income and dividend income are recorded on an accrual basis, in the General or Reserve Fund.

Realized gains or losses on sale of investments are the difference between the proceeds received and the cost of investments sold.

Unrealized gains or losses on investments represent the difference between the carrying value at the year end and the carrying value at the previous year end or purchase value during the year, less the reversal of previously recognized unrealized gains and losses in respect of disposals during the year.

Use of estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with ASNPO requires the Foundation's management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenue and expenditures during the year. Certain of these estimates require subjective judgments by management that may be uncertain. These items could include fair value of investments and useful lives of capital assets. Actual results could differ from those reported.

Law Foundation of Nova Scotia Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2023

3. Investments

	2023		2022	
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Equities and mutual funds	\$ 4,531,378	\$ 4,895,038	\$ 2,451,118	\$ 3,344,537
Fixed income	5,397,715	5,425,924	876,529	887,193
Money market fund	<u>1,604,538</u>	<u>1,608,994</u>	<u>500,929</u>	<u>505,328</u>
	<u>\$ 11,533,631</u>	<u>\$ 11,929,956</u>	<u>\$ 3,828,576</u>	<u>\$ 4,737,058</u>

4. Equipment

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Depreciation</u>	2023 Net	2022 Net
			<u>Book Value</u>	<u>Book Value</u>
Computer equipment	\$ 874	\$ 874	\$ -	\$ 146
Furniture and fixtures	8,769	8,675	94	117
Office equipment	<u>30,718</u>	<u>30,327</u>	<u>391</u>	<u>488</u>
	<u>\$ 40,361</u>	<u>\$ 39,876</u>	<u>\$ 485</u>	<u>\$ 751</u>

5. Payables and accruals

Included in payables and accruals are government remittances payable of \$Nil (2022 - \$3,205).

6. Designated grants payable

	2023	2022
Grants payable	<u>\$ 1,655,310</u>	<u>\$ 1,070,024</u>

Grants that have been approved but remain unpaid at year end are reported as current liabilities.

7. Long term debt

	2023	2022
Government of Canada term loan relating to the Canada Emergency Business Account ("CEBA"), bearing 0% interest, repayable by December 31, 2023.	<u>\$ 60,000</u>	<u>\$ 60,000</u>
Less: current portion	<u>60,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Due beyond one year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 60,000</u>

8. Commitment

The Foundation rents its premises under a long term lease which expires June 30, 2024. Estimated annual costs are \$20,000, including annual base rental and common area costs.

Law Foundation of Nova Scotia

Notes to the financial statements

March 31, 2023

9. Interfund transfers

During the year the Board approved transfers to establish two new internally restricted reserve funds: Grant Stabilization Reserve Fund and the Scholarship Stabilization Reserve Fund. Transfers were made to establish each of these funds. In addition, consistent with previous years, surplus from the General Fund has been transferred to the Unrestricted reserve fund for future operations.



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