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The Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia (CSCNS) is five years old! It has been five years of transition and growth as the CSCNS works to support non-profit organizations across the province.

This year the CSCNS has been committed to supporting an innovative sector that continues to grow. It is a vibrant sector providing essential supports, and services in all of our communities throughout the province. Our role is to help organizations gain the skills needed to be stronger organizations who regularly respond to complex issues. While the CSCNS has been delivering training, workshops, and customized learning, our staff and Board have continued to advocate for the investment into the capacity building of Nova Scotia’s non-profit sector. We have been building awareness with stakeholders who invest in the sector about the human resource, leadership, technological, sustainability, innovation, and growth needs of our sector.

We encourage stakeholders to “mine” the potential of our sector beyond the traditional funding/recipient relationship through our conversations about the value of working with the non-profit sector as a strategic partner in social and economic planning, community development, and policy development.

The CSCNS values collaboration, and believe that each sector has unique expertise, skills, and resources that it can contribute to the social and economic development of the province and that Nova Scotia’s economic prosperity and social well being relies on our ability to learn from each other and to work with each other.

A major highlight this year was our Many Hands Many Voices conference in Membertou in October. Hosting this conference was an opportunity for our sector to come together with other sectors to explore the concepts and tools of collaboration. We were able to showcase some of the innovative collaborative practices and initiatives happening across the province and chose Membertou as our host community as an amazing leader in community economic development and community engagement.
In 2018/19, the CSCNS will continue to find and create opportunities for our sector to share their knowledge and skills with one another and with other sectors. The CSCNS will continue to be a voice for our sector; looking for opportunities to contribute the perspectives and the expertise of our sector. This year, the CSCNS will continue to endeavour to celebrate and support the diversity of people in our sector.

We will do this by:

- building the capacity of our organizations to build organizations that support diversity that more accurately reflects Nova Scotia, not only in our organizations but also at a Board/governing level
- supporting Nova Scotians to contribute their skills, talents and experience on boards
- and questioning and rebuilding our organizations policies and practices with respect to diversity and accessibility.

Throughout this year, CSCNS will be learning from and working with First Nations communities throughout the province and will be showcasing some of the incredible work and collaborations of First Nations organizations through visual storytelling.

Finally, the growth and development of the CSCNS would not happen without the engagement and support of our sector, funders, donors, and allies.

Thank you. We are also deeply grateful for the dedication and expert leadership of our Board of Directors and send best of wishes and thanks to our Past Chair Kristin Williams, our Chair Pamela Johnson, and Director Jenn Power. The success of our growth over the past years can easily be attributed to our incredible staff team. Many thanks to Tara, Dana, Tegan, Wendy, Phil, Jess, Laurie and Nicole, for the passion and professionalism you bring to your jobs and for the immeasurable contributions you bring to this organization and our province.
WHO WE ARE

mission
To bring together non-profit & voluntary organizations to ensure they can effectively meet the needs of Nova Scotia's communities and citizens. The CSCNS works collaboratively to find innovative solutions to emerging and existing sectoral issues.

vision
Community-based organizations are leaders in building healthy, vibrant, and sustainable communities with active and engaged citizens, in partnership with government and the private sector.

ultimate goal
The non-profit sector is known and is acknowledged as an essential partner, leader & contributor in the province.

Arlene MacDonald
Executive Director

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Director of Custom Learning & Innovation

Nicole Cammaert
Director of Operations & Provincial Learning

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Philip Girvan
Highland Convenor & Labour Market Lead

Tara Jaskowiak
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Jessica Farrell
Cape Breton Convenor

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LEARNING STREAMS

- Money Matters
- Communications
- Good Governance
- Enhancing Diversity
- Talent Management
- Evaluation

REGIONS

- Cape Breton
- Highland
- Northern
- Central
- Valley
- South Shore

STRATEGIC AREAS

- Connecting & Convening
  - Voice & Identity
  - Capacity Building
The Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia (CSCNS) is a non-profit organization established in 2012 to work collaboratively with non-profit & voluntary organizations in order to find innovative solutions to emerging and existing sectoral issues.

**what we do**

**OUR CURRENT PRIORITIES INCLUDE:**

- Connecting & Convening
- Voice & Identity
- Enhancing Capacity
A celebration of cross-sectoral collaboration, a skill-building and learning event, and an opportunity to develop projects and collaborations in an action-focused manner. The conference aim was to build cross-sectoral capacity to collaborate and build stronger communities for collective action.

**Conference Stats**

- 10 community-based stories about collaborations across the province
- 17 Breakouts
- 2 keynotes
- 1 Action Lab featuring 12 projects
- 189 participants from across NS (cross-sectoral participation including non-profits, all three levels of government, social enterprise, academic institutions, and for-profit business).
Many Hands Many Voices

”The pace was good - breaks, start and finish times. The opportunities to network & meet new leaders.”

”A great cross section of participants that really wanted to learn together. A warm-hearted gathering!”

”I appreciated the location of Membertou and learning more about their journey.”

”Good to meet and get to know others in the "collaborative" mindset.”
Custom Learning Update
2016-17

20
Organizations

300
Individuals

204%
Increase in Revenue from 2015-16

Our clients for custom learning in 2017 included a mix of Government, Municipalities, and Organizations.

Board Governance was our most popular topic in 2017, followed by Strategic Planning, Community Engagement, and finally Communications.
5 Areas of Custom Learning

- Good Governance
- Money Matters
- Evaluation & Learning
- People Management
- Communication
Valley Region
Values Based Leadership
Convened leaders to learn and share their ideas around values based leadership

Northern Region
Info Sessions with DCS
Hosted several successful program info sessions with the Dept. of Community Services

Cape Breton Region
Many Hands, Many Voices
Welcomed 189 people at our bi-annual provincial conference in Unama’ki.

South Shore Region
Executive Directors Network
Executive Directors Network pilot success & will now be hosted across the province

Central Region
Reconciling
Listening to & learning from our neighbours at the Mi’kmaq Friendship Centre.

Highland Region
Corporate Partnerships
Learning how to engage the corporate sector to become self-sustaining organizations.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS
The financial audit for the 2017 fiscal year is still currently in progress at the time of this reports publication. Please contact us for more information.
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