

Volunteer Resources

This booklet lists local organizations which provide support and resources to non-profit organizations. We hope this pamphlet is a useful resource to you as you continue your volunteer work in your community.

THE MUNICIPALITY'S NEIGHBOURHOOD AND VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Our team is made up of five Community Developers who support residents, volunteers and community groups to reach their goals and make a difference in their communities. The team supports volunteers by developing custom workshops and resources on topics such as board development and governance, strategic planning, community engagement, volunteer recruitment and retention, fundraising, effective meetings and team building. The team also leads several ongoing programs:

- Volunteer Conference
- Volunteer Awards
- Leadership and Community Training
- Neighbourhood Placemaking
- Outdoor Community Rink program
- Neighbour Week

Each Community Developer helps volunteers to create partnerships, build networks, and connect with the right people. For more information, visit: halifax.ca/volunteer or contact a community developer:

- **Darren Hirtle**—Dartmouth & Eastern Passage (Darren.Hirtle@halifax.ca)
- **Rachelle Turple-Christmas**—Westphal, Cole Harbour, Lake Loon/Cherry Brook, Preston(s), Eastern Shore (Rachelle.Turple-Christmas@halifax.ca)
- **Kate Moon**—Halifax Peninsula (Kate.Moon@halifax.ca)
- **Adam Huffman**—Fall River, Sackville, Bedford & Musquodoboit Valley (Adam.Huffman@halifax.ca)
- **Jasmine Du**—Mainland North, South, & Western Communities (Jasmine.Du@halifax.ca)

VOLUNTEER NOVA SCOTIA

Volunteer Nova Scotia is a partnership between Kings Volunteer Resource Centre, the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and Volunteer Canada. This province-wide service gives support to volunteer organizations to find skilled volunteers where they are needed and provide information to those looking for the right volunteer opportunity. Learn more at volunteerns.ca



RECREATION NOVA SCOTIA

In partnership with the volunteers, professional recreation community and our members, Recreation Nova Scotia (RNS) is a provincial not-for-profit committed to building healthier futures for Nova Scotians by promoting and advocating the personal, social and economic benefits and values of recreation. Our membership offers volunteer groups in the recreation sector a variety of networking opportunities where you can learn and share your ideas and experiences. Members can also serve on various committees, participate in professional development opportunities through our annual conferences, workshops and the recently launched Anti-Racism Charter, apply for general liability insurance at a discounted rate, and access financial assistance, subsidies and scholarships. Members will also have access to our monthly newsletter which provides you with the latest resources, upcoming opportunities and updates in the recreation sector. Learn more at recreationns.ns.ca



COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARDS

Community Health Boards (CHBs) work with communities to improve health and wellness where we live, work, play and learn. They gather community input, share information and advocate for actions that improve the health of our communities. They focus on the many factors that affect health & wellness in our communities, including income, education and sense of belonging, among others. CHBs share what they have learned about local community health & wellness priorities with Nova Scotia Health, IWK Health Centre and community groups. Guided by their Community Health Plans, CHBs develop partnerships with local community groups and award Wellness Fund grants to support local community projects. To learn more about working with your local CHB on important community issues or to apply for wellness funds, visit communityhealthboards.ns.ca



CULTURE AND EVENTS

The Events division of the municipality administers the Regional Special Events Grants program. On November 1, the Community Celebrations program will open for application. This annual program supports organizations that deliver small civic events that are a maximum of five days in length, are organized primarily for the benefit and enjoyment of residents, coincide with a community gathering or civic holiday and are free to the public to attend. The maximum grant award through this program is \$1,000. Applications can be found at halifax.ca/parks-recreation/events/supporting-your-event/grants

HALIFAX

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Community Grants Program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the Halifax region. There are two types of grants: a project grant of up to \$5,000 OR a capital grant of up to \$25,000. A Program Guidebook is available with the application and should be reviewed prior to considering an application to the Program. Staff are also available to provide guidance and advice to community organizations. In addition to the Community Grants Program, the Halifax Regional Municipality has a web page that lists all grant and contributions programs offered by the municipality. Learn more at halifax.ca/grants

HALIFAX

GRANTS TO PROFESSIONAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAM

This program supports the operating capacity of producing and presenting arts organizations in the municipality and advances the profile of the local arts sector by fostering broad public access to and appreciation of, the arts. Eligibility is restricted to registered non-profit and charitable arts organizations in good standing under the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks. The purpose of the program is to provide for grants from the municipality to professional arts organizations in the Halifax region to support those organizations, and thereby to support and promote the work of local artists. The program is governed Arts Organization refers to a registered, non-profit professional arts and culture organization that supports, presents or produces work by professional or established artists, and employs qualified paid staff to administer ongoing arts and culture programs and services.

HALIFAX

There are two streams:

- Operating Assistance which supports the general and ongoing operational capacity of professional arts organizations in the municipality
- Project Assistance which supports the professional development of the municipality's arts community and encourages broad public access to professional arts activities on a project-specific basis, with funding directed toward local arts organizations

COMMUNITIES, CULTURE, TOURISM AND HERITAGE

Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage leads government efforts and collaborates with communities to improve the quality of life of Nova Scotians through sport, recreation and physical activity. Our grant programs are an important part of sustaining and growing our sport and recreation sector in Nova Scotia. Interested groups can check out our website at cch.novascotia.ca/investing-in-our-future



IMPACT ORGANIZATIONS OF NOVA SCOTIA

Impact Organizations of Nova Scotia (IONS) advocates for, supports and amplifies the shared voice and work of the Community Impact (Non-profit and Voluntary) Sector. IONS' role is to celebrate the sector, address workforce challenges, build capacity within organizations, develop network connections and increase access to expertise and resources. IONS is the primary source of research for Nova Scotia's Community Impact Sector. We collect data and gather feedback from the community to discover what's top of mind for the sector so we can tailor our advocacy efforts, content, learning opportunities, initiatives and supports for impact organizations. Visit our website ions.ca for more information.



211 NOVA SCOTIA

211 Nova Scotia offers a free and confidential service that connects people in Nova Scotia to the programs and services they need. Through information and referrals, we help connect people to local community groups, non-profit, and government organizations. This can include information about mental health support, access to food, financial aid, employment resources, and more. Help 211 Nova Scotia by becoming a 211 champion! We have promotional materials available for distribution to assist in connecting people with the programs and services that they require. We're also available to schedule presentations to help educate members of your organization on what 211 is and how we can help. We are available by phone 24 hours every day of the year in over 240 languages. Help starts here. Dial 2-1-1 or visit ns.211.ca to learn more.



UNITED WAY HALIFAX

Our knowledge about community gaps and needs informs what we do. Our core values of respect, trust, collaboration, compassion, equity and adaptability guide how we do it. Donations from individuals, families and organizations makes our progress and impact possible.

How we help:

- Fund community programs and supports that are improving lives every day
- Create long-term solutions to poverty and the ways it impacts people in our community
- Advocate for policies, funding, or other changes that will remove barriers or bridge gaps
- Equity, diversity and inclusion are woven through our organization.

We understand the value of diversifying our team's perspective. We are continuously learning, improving and evolving. Our team participates in cultural humility training and education every year.



GOVERNING GOOD

Governing Good is Canada's top source of governance resources for volunteer boards and staff. It includes focused articles, sample policies, guides and tools. They are all free. The author is Grant MacDonald, a well-known consultant and occasional leadership coach to board chairs and executive directors. He lives right here in the Halifax Regional Municipality. He can be reached at governinggoodnp@gmail.com to answer any board-related questions. governinggood.ca



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Community associations in the municipality play a significant role in operating and maintaining AT facilities and promoting and educating the public about walking and cycling. Active Transportation Grants were introduced to support the work of these associations. For volunteering opportunities in your area, please contact the Trail Associations or reach out to municipal staff at ATGrants@halifax.ca. Active Transportation (AT) Grants Program is available to eligible applicants as per Administrative Order Number 2020-011-ADM Respecting HRM's Grant Programs for Active Transportation and Recreational Trails.



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

Volunteer Canada:

- [National Volunteer Week](#) – National Volunteer Week 2026 is set for April 19 to 25. The theme is usually announced during [National Volunteer Manager Day](#) (Nov. 5) OR [International Volunteer Day](#) (Dec. 5)
 - [Canadian code for volunteer involvement](#) is a useful resource for when you are developing a volunteer program
 - [Resources for engaging volunteers](#)
 - [The value of volunteering wheel and resources](#)
 - [International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development](#)
 - [Data on giving, volunteering and participating in Canada](#)
 - [Volunteer Management Training and Resources](#)
 - [Volunteer Canada Corporate Tool Box](#)
- 

Other Canadian resources:

- [Canadian Knowledge Hub for Giving and Volunteering](#)
- [Volunteer Management Professionals Canada](#) – the national body for volunteer management professionals
 - Hold a **hybrid conference** in October which is in partnership with [Better Impact](#) (a company that makes volunteer management software) and [ALIVE](#) (US counterpart)
 - **The Nova Scotia branch** will host a free hybrid conference on Wed. October 23 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for people in Nova Scotia, who coordinate and manage volunteer resources
- [National Occupational Standards](#) is a useful resource when developing a volunteer program

International resources:

- [VolunteerPro](#) is a US-based resource providing annual surveys and free webinars
 - [International Association for Volunteer Effort](#) – an international organization providing free webinars
 - [Points of Light](#) – a US-based civic engagement organization that hosts an annual hybrid volunteer conference
- 