



Annual Report 2014-15

The Essential Skills

- Reading Text
- Document Use
- Numeracy
- Writing
- Oral Communication
- Computer Use
- Working with Others
- Thinking Skills
- Continuous Learning

Essential Skills are needed for work, learning and life. They provide the foundation for learning all other skills and enable people to evolve with their jobs and adapt to workplace change.



Message from the Chair



Danny Cavanagh
Chair

As chair of the LNS Board of Directors, I have the privilege of providing leadership to a dynamic group of individuals with a range of skills and talents. Every board member is very passionate about literacy issues in our province and country. Now that the federal election is over we are hoping to see the new government provide more funding for literacy programs.

In September 2015, the LNS board decided to put forward some changes to our by-laws to keep members of the board on for longer terms, especially now in this funding crunch. For over twenty years, Literacy Nova Scotia has been supporting the literacy community with funding provided by the federal government. Often that funding allowed us to leverage funds from others, including the provincial government for specific project work.

In the past, LNS received the majority of core funding from the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills, but sadly, that funding ended under the Harper government. In response, LNS board and staff developed a contingency plan that enables us to continue to deliver our services until core funding is available again. The Board has examined the internal and external environment of Literacy Nova Scotia with an evaluation to determine the effectiveness of our programs and services which has resulted in the development of an itemized action plan including timelines and the funding requirements.

The Federal election on October 19th was a key turning point for literacy in Canada. We look forward to working with our MPs in Ottawa to reinstate core funding for literacy programs and supports as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, LNS will continue to offer programs and services, and will do so until our resources are depleted. Be assured that the staff and board are actively searching for funds to continue this essential work. You can help by contacting your local MPs and urging them to restore literacy programs and funding.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danny Cavanagh'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Danny Cavanagh
Chair

Board of Directors: September 1, 2014 — August 31, 2015

Danny Cavanagh (Chair), Labour Representative

Tammy Harrison (Vice Chair), Annapolis Valley Region Representative

Lise de Villiers (Treasurer), Strait Regional Representative

Paul Robson (Secretary), Learner Representative

Darren Googoo, Cape Breton Regional Representative

Nancy Thompson, Metro Regional Representative

Krista Peterson, South Shore Regional Representative

Richard Bennicke, Northern Regional Representative

Andrew MacDonald, Business Representative

David Robicheau, Learner Representative

Debra Paris Perry, Learner Representative

LNS Team

Jayne Hunter, Executive Director

Heather Lauther, Office Manager

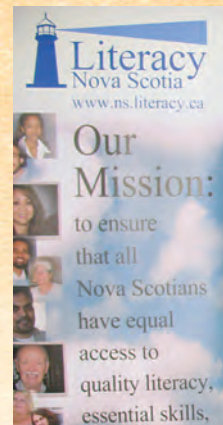
Marie David, Program Coordinator

Elaine Frampton, Communications Coordinator

Cindy Stevens, Administrative Coordinator, September - April 2015

Gary Mason, *Practitioner Training and Certification Program* Facilitator

Kayla Sutherland, Public Relations Co-op Student, April - August 2015



L - R: Jayne Hunter, Heather Lauther, Cindy Stevens, Elaine Frampton, Marie David

About Literacy Nova Scotia

Literacy Nova Scotia (LNS) is a non-profit organization that has supported the literacy and essential skills field since 1992. LNS provides leadership to advance literacy and ensure that all Nova Scotians have equal access to quality literacy, essential skills, and lifelong learning opportunities. LNS raises awareness about the state of literacy in the province and the country, promotes accessible programs for all, collaborates with those who have similar interests and goals to support and celebrate learning, finds solutions and makes connections.

LNS supports the adult literacy field in the broadest sense. LNS works to ensure that these opportunities are available wherever and whenever there is a need or interest. It supports community sector, college, school board, workplace, and workforce programs. LNS understands that literacy extends beyond reading and writing; it is all the skills needed for accessing and using information.

The board developed the following broad goals during a strategic planning session in January 2014 which will guide the work of LNS until the end of March 2017:

- To provide support to learners
- To provide support to organizations and practitioners
- To forge and sustain strategic partnerships
- To maintain a results-based, administratively sound and accountable organization



Literacy Nova Scotia's 2015 Adult Learners' Week contest winners were honoured at Province House on April 17, 2015. Top row, L - R: ALW contest winner Jon Adams, Gary Graham (guest), The Honourable Kelly Regan, Stephan Bendle (guest), ALW contest winner Mahnaz Musawi, Marie David (LNS staff). Bottom row, L - R: Mary Adams (guest), Elaine Frampton (LNS staff), ALW contest winner Samantha Lundrigan, Heather Lauther (LNS staff), ALW contest winner Tiffany Rhodenizer, Jayne Hunter (LNS staff), Sumayeh Heydary (guest), Kayla Sutherland (LNS staff).

Supports to Learners

NSPGI Awards

- **The Nova Scotia Learner Award** (\$500) sponsored by Nova Learning Inc was presented to **Pamala Lynn Pick** (NSCC Kingstec Campus)
- **The Nova Scotia Business Inc. Learner Achievement Award** (\$500) was presented to **Rachel Teah** (Cunard Learning Centre)



Pamala
Lynn Pick

Rachel
Leah

Scholarships and Bursaries

The money for these grants comes from the PGI Golf Tournaments for Literacy. One scholarship is designated for a NSCC Truro student in appreciation to the ongoing support LNS receives from this campus.

The recipients were:

Scholarships (\$1500)

Tausha Butler – NSCC Pictou Campus

Angela MacKinnon – NSCC Centre of Geographic Sciences

Bursaries (\$500)

Suzanne Clairmont – Yarmouth County Learning Network

Shayna Farnsworth – Yarmouth County Learning Network

Ashley Muise – NSCC Burrridge Campus



L - R: Suzanne Clairmont, Shayna Farnsworth and Ashley Muise with LNS Executive Director Jayne Hunter

Adult Learners' Week

Six writing workshops were held across the province which included a contest themed *Literacy Changes Lives*. The winners from each category – **Jon Adams** (*Work Activity Category*), **Tiffany Rhodenizer** (*Community-based Levels I & II Category*), **Samantha Lundrigan** (*AHS, NSCC, Community-based Level III and Workplace Category*), and **Mahnaz Musawi** (*English as an Additional Language [EAL] Category*) read their submissions to the audience. The Honourable Kelly Regan, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education proclaimed the week of April 11–19 Adult Learners' Week in the Province of Nova Scotia.

91 learners participated in the Adult Learners' Week workshops.

LNS received **31** submissions and they can be viewed at literacyns.ca/alw.htm



L - R: Jon Adams, Samantha Lundrigan, Tiffany Rhodenizer, The Honourable Kelly Regan (Minister of Labour and Advanced Education), Mahnaz Musawi

Supports to Practitioners and Organizations

282 Practitioners completed 16 Practitioner Training modules; 24 practitioners certified.



Practitioner Training and Certificate Program

This program consists of nine modules which ensure adult learners have access to well trained, certified practitioners who understand the adult learning process and can use appropriate teaching methodologies that address learning barriers. 24 were certified within the NS Practitioner Training Program in 2014-15.

Practitioner Training facilitator Gary Mason (seated) with 2014 PT program graduates and LNS staff.

70 participants attended the PD Conference for Practitioners.

PD Conference for Practitioners

A two day conference *Professional Development Conference for Practitioners: Supporting Learning Needs of Adults* was held in the Spring in Truro.



20 PD Fund applications for 62 individuals totalling \$10,876

PD Fund

Community learning organizations funded under the Nova Scotia School of Adult Learning can apply for funding for their staff and volunteers. The PD Fund covers PD activities for individuals and groups within the organization.

10 organizations approved for Assistive Technology grants totalling \$9,354

Assistive Technology Fund

Community learning organizations funded under the Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning can apply for approved assistive technology. Many organizations used this fund to purchase ipads which include free assistive technology apps for their learners.

Computers for Schools

Literacy Nova Scotia was able to offer computer systems through Computers for Schools Nova Scotia. Computers for Schools collects, repairs, and refurbishes donated surplus computers from public and private sector sources. They are distributed to schools, public libraries, non-profit learning organizations, and Aboriginal communities.

PGI Grants

The Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education has been a major sponsor for more than fifteen years and has made a yearly contribution of \$40,000. The contribution is distributed through the PGI Grants to community organizations funded by NSSAL based on criteria approved by the Department of Labour and Advanced Education. The purpose of the PGI Grants is to enhance and support the participation of adult learners in community programs.

18 computers
distributed to 8
organizations

16 PGI grants
approved for
\$40,000

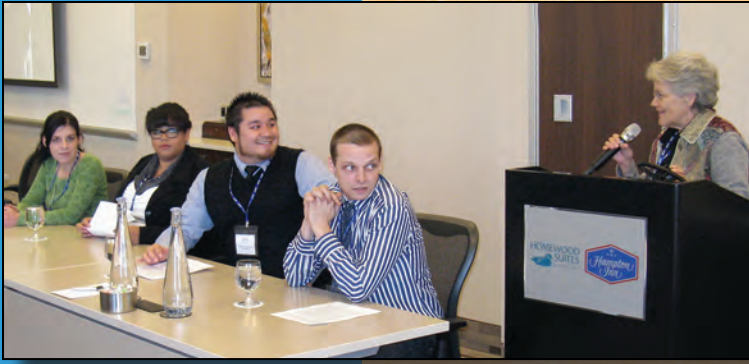
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP - NSPGI 2015 Celebrity Guest Tom Harrington, LNS staff Marie David

NSPGI 2015 Master of Ceremonies Don Connolly and Poet Laureate Sheree Fitch

Russell deCarle Trio performed a benefit concert for LNS on June 9 at the Balmoral Kirk in Tatamagouche



Information Sharing and Research



Learner Panel

LNS hosted a Learner Panel at our 2014 Annual General Meeting. Panelists shared their experiences as adult learners and explored ways to help others succeed.

Learner Panelists: (L-R) Jessica Renouf and Shayna Farnsworth, Yarmouth Learning Network, and Kyle Francis and Michael Henneberry, Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading. Moderator: Lise de Villiers (right).

Literacy Action Week (LAW)

LAW is held the first full week of November each year. It is the time when Literacy Nova Scotia and individuals and organizations who have an interest in supporting adult literacy share information with governments and the public about literacy and essential skills in their community. Meetings with government officials at all levels, information sessions and other activities are held throughout the province.

Information Sharing and Research

LNS employs a variety of communication tools including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google Calendar, Google+ web albums, Google alerts, eCampus, listserv messages to 1,000 email subscribers, LNS eNews to over 300 recipients, as well as our website, factsheets and newsletters.

LNS creates printed materials for distribution. We continue to develop Learner Essential Skills Factsheets. LNS provided Literacy Action Week templates and factsheets and also distributed ABC Life Literacy Family Literacy Day promotional items. We published an issue of The Learning Beacon, as well as an ebooklet of Learner Writing submissions from Adult Learners' Week.

Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament for Literacy

The NSPGI was held on June 10 at the Links at Penn Hills Golf Course in Shubenacadie. Literacy Nova Scotia is the beneficiary of the funds raised through NSPGI. Net revenue raised at the NSPGI will stay in Nova Scotia to support adult learners.



1 issue of The Learning Beacon, an interactive, online newspaper for adult learners.

\$68,156
raised at
NSPGI 2015



Funders, Partners and Supporters

Thanks to all LNS funders, partners, contributors and supporters, including LNS members.

Department of Labour and Advanced Education (LAE) provided funding for PD Conference for Practitioners, Professional Development Fund, Assistive Technology Fund, Adult Learners' Week, Practitioner Training Certification Program, and contributed to the NSPGI 2015.

Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia (RCFofNS) contracted LNS to provide administration and communication services. RCFofNS has funded literacy organizations and learning community projects through its granting programs.

Computers for Schools provided computer systems/laptops for community-based learning organizations.

Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament *Sponsors:* Nova Scotia Business Inc., LAE, Wildflower Promotional Products and Apparel, Frischkorn Mediaco, Masstown Market, Credit Union Atlantic, CUPE Nova Scotia, CUPE National Office, Maritime Auto Parts, Canadian Piping Trades Local 56, Nova Learning and CBC.

Nova Scotia Community College provided in-kind office space, utilities, and other supportive services.

ABC Life Literacy Canada provided Family Literacy Day materials.

UNESCO supported Adult Learners' Week activities.

Association of Nova Scotia Community Learning Organizations

Association of Workplace Educators of Nova Scotia

Car Heaven

Federation of Community Organizations

Federation of Labour

Feed Nova Scotia

First Book Canada

Hampton Inn by Hilton and Homewood Suites Halifax

Nova Scotia Department of Seniors

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Prior Learning Centre

Rural Research Centre, Dalhousie University

Scotiabank Tatamagouche

Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce



Top: LNS was chosen as Holiday Inn Truro's Charity of Choice for Fall 2015

Left: LNS Staff Heather Lauther and Jayne Hunter met Olympic speed skating champion Catriona LeMay Doan at Hampton Inn by Hilton and Homewood Suites Halifax's Grand Opening event on September 9, 2014. LNS received proceeds from charitable giving at that event.

Member Organizations

Adult Learning Association of Cape Breton County

Antigonish County Adult Learning Association

Bedford Sackville Literacy Network

Colchester Adult Learning Association

Community Learning Association North of Smokey

Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading

Dartmouth Learning Network

Deaf Literacy Nova Scotia

Digby Adult Learning Association

East Hants Community Learning Association

Eastern Shore & Musquodoboit Valley Literacy Network

Équipe d'alphabétisation Nouvelle-Écosse

Frontier College

Guysborough County Adult Learning Association

Halifax Community Learning Network

Hants Learning Network Association

Horizon Achievement Centre

Inverness County Literacy Council

IWK Health Centre

Metworks

Nova Scotia Community College

Nova Scotia Trucking Association

Paq'Inkek First Nation

Pictou County Continuous Learning Association

Port Hawkesbury Literacy Council

Queens Learning Network

Richmond County Literacy Network

Shelburne Learning Network

Solutions Learning Network

South Shore Family Resource Centre

South Shore Work Activity Program

Through the Years Day Care & Community Centre

Valley Community Learning Association

Western HRM Community Learning Network

Yarmouth County Learning Network

and many individuals

Donors

Hampton Inn by Hilton and Homewood Suites Halifax

Scotiabank Tatamagouche

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

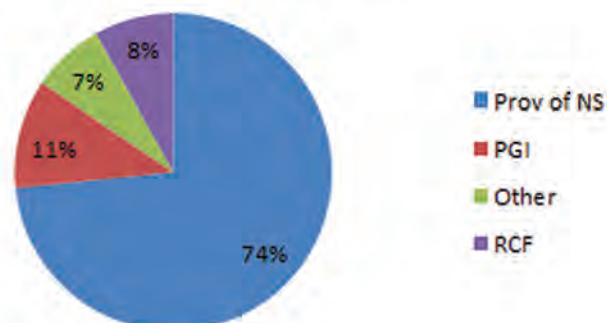
Statement of Revenues and Expenses

Year ending August 31, 2015

Revenues	2015	2014
Year ending August 31		
PGI Golf Tournament	27,498	28,000
PGI Grant from Dept of Labour and Advanced Education	40,000	40,000
Special Projects	142,510	406,665
Memberships, interest and other	38,581	49,028
TOTAL REVENUES	248,589	523,693
Expenses	2015	2014
Amortization	1,690	2,112
General Office/Project Expense	21,704	46,807
Meetings, facilities and travel	33,996	61,663
PGI and other grants	53,974	62,936
Professional fees	40,913	48,648
Salaries and benefits	267,463	259,684
Scholarships, bursaries, and learner support	4,500	4,500
Staff and board travel	14,976	22,116
TOTAL EXPENSES	439,216	508,466

This summary is based on excerpts from draft of the audited financial statements. The entire report of the financial audit can be reviewed upon request.

Literacy Nova Scotia External Funding Sources

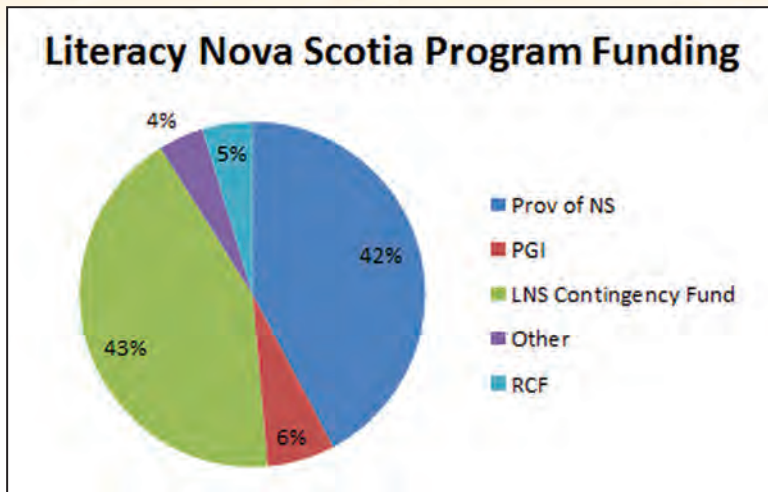


Statement of Financial Position

Year ending August 31, 2015

Assets	2015	2014
Cash and short term deposits	408,004	628,021
Accounts receivable	64,648	71,904
Prepaid expenses	404	---
	<u>473,056</u>	<u>699,925</u>
Property, plant & equipment	6758	8448
	<u>479,814</u>	<u>708,373</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	55,483	52,959
Deferred revenue	11,653	52,109
	<u>67,136</u>	<u>105,068</u>
Fund Balances		
Unrestricted – investment in property, plant and equipment	6,758	8,448
Unrestricted – operating	364,471	370,013
Internally restricted - Contingency fund	41,449	224,844
	<u>412,678</u>	<u>603,305</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	479,814	708,373

This summary is based on excerpts from draft of the audited financial statements. The entire report of the financial audit can be reviewed upon request.



Thanks to all LNS funders, partners and supporters, including the following who provide ongoing in-kind contributions:

Computers for Schools

NSCC Truro Campus

Become a Member of Literacy Nova Scotia.

Your support helps Nova Scotians access quality literacy, essential skills and lifelong learning opportunities. It also ensures instructors and volunteers have the skills they need, supports adult learners' participation and promotes the value of literacy to all Nova Scotians.


Complete the online membership form at www.literacyns.ca/membership.htm

Annual individual fee: \$5.00 / Annual organizational fee: \$50.00


Benefits of Membership:

- Add your voice to the wide membership that speaks for the advancement of all levels of adult literacy in Nova Scotia
- A vote at the Annual General Meeting
- A chance to serve on the LNS board or on a committee
- Receive monthly eNews and other information via electronic listserv
- Free subscription to LNS Newsletter
- Discount for conferences, events, and other opportunities
- eCampus offers discussion forums which members can also host
- Member organizations have access to programs and services offered by LNS



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