

Annual Report 2016-17

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

About half of adult Nova Scotians are at or below the minimum level of literacy skills required to function in today's society. While seventy-four per cent of young Canadians who graduate from high school have strong literacy skills, those who leave school before graduation generally have lower literacy skills, and sometimes find simple reading and writing tasks difficult. Lower-skilled adults tend to work fewer weeks, experience more and longer periods of unemployment, and earn lower wages when they are working.

Literacy Nova Scotia (LNS) works to ensure that all Nova Scotians have access to quality literacy, essential skills and lifelong learning opportunities. We offer certification and professional development for practitioners, financial supports to learners, and enhanced learning opportunities, and supports to over 30 community learning organizations.

Since 2010, LNS has provided training to almost 2000 practitioners and financial aid to 42 adult learners. We've given training sessions to 621 learners, and distributed over \$300,000 in funding grants and 329 free computers to 93 community learning organizations.

At LNS, we understand that the returns to the economy are great when adults have access to literacy and workplace education opportunities.

The more literate and skilled we become, the better able we are to reach our potential. When we value and promote literacy for everyone, we help ensure that families are resilient, workplaces are safer and productive, and communities are happier and more prosperous. Our province is one of the few in Canada where governments past and present have put lifelong learning for all on their agenda. Now it's time for us to do more, and we have.

During the past year, LNS has partnered with the Literacy Coalition of New Brunswick and the PEI Literacy Alliance to form the Atlantic Partnership for Literacy and Essential Skills. This partnership will allow us to sustain and grow our ability to identify needs and gaps in literacy services and develop an effective strategy that responds to the needs of our communities. It will help us ensure that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programs.

As partners, we have asked the federal government to provide our organizations with core funding to ensure that the essential services and supports provided by us, the Atlantic literacy coalitions, are in place, and that we have the capacity to contribute to improving the literacy of the people in our regions.

An increased investment in literacy from the federal government will help us address the adverse impact that low literacy has on our economy, civic engagement, health, and communities in Atlantic Canada. More government investment in literacy and essential skills training for our three provinces would directly benefit businesses by improving productivity.

Literacy Nova Scotia will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure we live in a province where all people can achieve their dreams and fulfill their potential. Please consider becoming an LNS member. By donating to LNS, you will make a difference to adult learners enrolled each year in 30+ community-based programs across our province.



Danny Cavanagh
Chair

Board of Directors: April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

Danny Cavanagh (Chair), Labour Representative

Nancy Thompson (Vice Chair), HRM Regional Representative

Paul Robson (Secretary), Learner Representative

Darren Googoo (Treasurer), Cape Breton Regional Representative

Terry Musgreave, Annapolis Valley Regional Representative

Krista Peterson, South Shore Regional Representative

Ray Carrigan, Strait Regional Representative

Richard Bennicke, Northern Regional Representative

Andrew MacDonald, Business Representative

Debra Paris Perry, Learner Representative

LNS Team

Jayne Hunter, Executive Director

Heather Lauther, Office Manager

Marie David, Program Coordinator

Elaine Frampton, Communications Coordinator

Brenda Lavandier, Practitioner Training Program Facilitator

Morgan Beckwith, Public Relations Co-op Student, January – April 2017



LNS Board and staff participate in a strategic planning session at the LNS Board meeting on September 23, 2016.

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 LNS board developed the following broad goals during a strategic planning session in January 2014 which have guided 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

Darrell Dorey of AIL Insurance presented a \$5000 donation to LNS Board Chair Danny Cavanagh and Executive Director Jayne Hunter at the LNS AGM on May 27, 2016.



Supports to Learners

Scholarships and Bursaries

The money for these grants comes from the NSPGI Golf Tournament for Literacy. One scholarship is designated for a NSCC Truro student in appreciation of the ongoing support LNS receives from this campus. The recipients were:

Scholarships (\$1500)

Laken Betts – NSCC Truro

Michael Lake – NSCC Burrigdge

Bursaries (\$500)

Danielle DeCoff – Port Hawkesbury Literacy Council

Cameron Milner – NSCC Truro

Kylie Powder – NSCC Burrigdge



Laken Betts

Danielle DeCoff

Cameron Milner

Kylie Powder

2017 Adult Learners' Week

LNS highlights learners' stories. The learners share their challenges which allow us to identify how we can better support them on their learning journey. They also tell about overcoming their challenges and their successes.

These success stories inspire others to return to learning. Learners were asked to send us their *Literacy Changes Lives* stories to be published in the Adult Learners' Week ebooklet and to be entered in the iPad draw.

LNS hosted workshops across the province, including the writing workshop with Jenni Blackmore. We held a draw from all eligible submissions of learner stories. **Shauna Guthro** was the lucky winner of the iPad Mini. All the learner stories are featured in the 2017 Adult Learners' Week eBooklet.



Shauna Guthro (right) was the winner of the 2017 iPad Mini Draw.

LNS received **13** ALW stories and they can be viewed at literacyns.ca/alw.htm

59 learners participated in **4** Adult Learners' Week workshops. More workshops are scheduled for April 21 and May 4, 2017.



L - R: Adult learners at the Dartmouth Learning Network enjoyed an Adult Learners' Week Writing Workshop facilitated by Jenni Blackmore on October 24, 2016.

Supports to Practitioners and Organizations



2017 Practitioner Training and Certification Program (PT) graduates and LNS staff with guest speaker MLA Stephen Gough (second from left). Mr Gough presented certificates to our PT graduates at the PD Conference for Practitioners on November 10, 2016.

142 practitioners participated in 15 Practitioner Training modules; 10 completed all requirements for certification.

Practitioner Training and Certification Program (PT)

The 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. Eight practitioners were certified within the NS Practitioner Training and Certification Program from September 2016 to March 2017.



"PT is practical, flexible, and enjoyable!"

Allison Parsons



"PT has allowed me to reflect on my own teaching practices and the needs my students, and it's helped all of us learn."

Mark Devereux



"PT is well structured to allow participants to identify ways to improve their teaching delivery while being aware of each learner's unique learning style."

Cavita Persad



"PT provides the knowledge base our tutors need to support adult learners."

Tyler Colbourne



"PT has taught me how to incorporate the resources adults need to learn. I strongly recommend the program."

Brent MacPhee

Supports to Practitioners and Organizations



PD Conference for Practitioners

For the past number of years, we've held the *Professional Development Conference for Practitioners: Supporting Learning Needs of Adults* in the spring. Feedback from practitioners determined that a fall conference would be a better fit for their schedules. The implementation of the change in schedule resulted in LNS holding both a Spring and a Fall conference in 2016. We reported on the Spring conference in the 2015 - 16 Annual Report.

Our two-day Fall PD Conference was held in November 2016 in Truro. The program included a plenary, panel discussion and 19 sessions. These included diverse topics including ALP communications, preparing for GED math tests, teaching EAL learners, occupational health and safety, career development for learners, and introduction to GED (delivered in French).

"The overall conference was enjoyable and very informative. A lot of resources and new connections that help support instructors."

"Great speakers and resources. Enjoyed the time for networking. Great sessions on working with EAL learners. With all of the newcomers these sessions will be beneficial in future conferences as well."

84 participants attended the PD Conference for Practitioners in November 2016.

28 practitioners were funded to attend 16 PD opportunities.

7 organizations funded for Assistive Technology grants to purchase 17 iPads.

15 computers, 90 laptops, 14 monitors and 22 printers requested by 26 organizations

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 professional development activities for individuals and groups within the organization.

Assistive Technology Fund

Community learning organizations funded under the Nova Scotia School of Adult Learning can apply for funding to purchase 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. LNS purchases Microsoft licenses for their members.

“ Thanks to the Computers for Schools program, our learners can build their literacy and computer skills at the same time. Without this program, it would be very difficult for us to afford computers, laptops and relevant software for our classrooms.”

Alison O’Handley
Executive Director, Dartmouth Learning Network

“ Thanks to the computers received from Computers for Schools, our classes are able to greatly improve their computer skills under our guidance. This program has saved our organization thousands of dollars which we in turn were able to use for other needed resources.”

Carolynne Nemecek
Executive Director, PiCCoLA

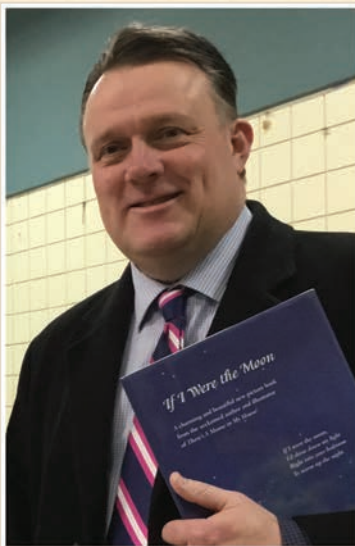
Family Literacy Day

Our Family Literacy Celebration and Book Giveaway was on Saturday January 28, 2017 at the Dartmouth North Community Centre. Literacy Nova Scotia gave away over 2000 new children's Disney books from First Book Canada. Volunteers from LIFE helped coordinate and set up for the event. Politicians, authors and families joined us to celebrate Family Literacy and the love of reading.

HRM Mayor Mike Savage delivered a welcome message, and guests joined us to read from their favorite children's story: authors Sheree Fitch and Starr Dobson, Senator Terry Mercer, HRM Councillor Tony Mancini, HRM Poet Laureate Rebecca Thomas, The Honourable Joanne Bernard, MLA Dartmouth North, and The Honourable Jamie Baillie, Leader of the Official Opposition. Fairy tale Princesses Tiana and Belle arrived to entertain us! At the end of our celebration, a parade of volunteer drivers delivered boxes of books to community learning organizations across the province.



(above) LIFE Volunteers helped LNS staff set up for the book giveaway, and packed and delivered boxes of books to community learning organizations across the province. (below) (below, left) Fairy tale Princesses Tiana and Belle with LNS staff and children.



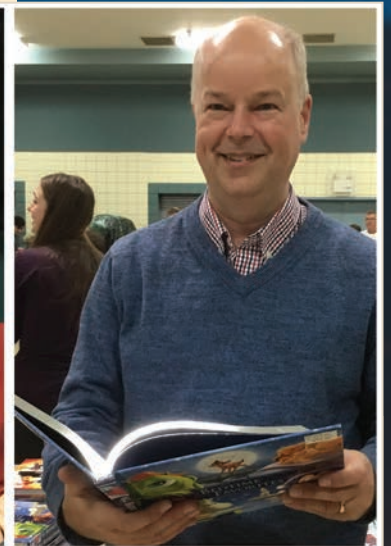
HRM Mayor
Mike Savage



Author
Starr Dobson



HRM Councillor
Tony Mancini



The Honourable Jamie Baillie
Leader of the Official Opposition



Over 60 enthusiastic literacy supporters showed up at The Links at Penn Hills in Shubenacadie for NSPGI on June 8, 2016 despite the wet weather. NSPGI 2016 was rained out, but we still managed to raise funds to support adult learners in Nova Scotia!

\$69,805
raised at
NSPGI 2016

All funds raised by the NSPGI Golf Tournament for Literacy are used, directly or indirectly, to support adult learners and literacy initiatives province wide.

57 Community Learning Organizations province wide have received funding to support literacy initiatives in their communities.



\$100,000 has been given in scholarships and bursaries to deserving adult learners.



Over **200,000** Nova Scotians have participated in the NSPGI Golf Tournaments.



More than **\$1.5** million has been raised through NSPGI for Literacy Nova Scotia to support adult learners.



Almost **\$1** million over **23** years has been donated by NSPGI's major sponsor, The Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education.



Over **40** learners have been recognized at NSPGI with awards for their exceptional progress and achievement in learning.

Literacy Nova Scotia is the beneficiary of the funds raised through NSPGI. Net revenue raised stays in Nova Scotia to support adult learners. Since the early 1990s, the NSPGI has provided huge support to community based learning organizations and adult learners.

PGI Grants

The Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education (LAE) has been a major sponsor of the NSPGI: Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament for Literacy for more than fifteen years, and has made a yearly contribution of \$40,000. This year, that contribution increased to \$50,000. The contribution is distributed through the **PGI Grants to community organizations funded by NSSAL** based on criteria approved by LAE.

The purpose of the PGI Grants is to enhance and support the participation of adult learners in community programs. LNS received 18 applications for PGI Grants this year. All six regions are represented with one application from Cape Breton, four from HRM, four from Northern, three from South Shore, four from Strait, and one from Valley. PGI Grants also provided 104 licenses for Microsoft Office and Windows 10 for refurbished computers allocated through Computers for Schools for community learning networks.

Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading is one of the 2016 PGI Grant recipients.

This grant allowed learners to have a class trip to Mount Allison University where they toured the Owens Art Gallery and were invited to view the final dress rehearsal for a live production of *Legally Blond*. As well, learners visited Dow Farm in Lower Maccan for a sleigh ride. Learners boarded two wagons for a winding trip through the fields and into the woods to a cabin by a frozen pond. There they explored the area taking pictures of anything that moved them in some way. Later, they picked their favorite photo and wrote a narrative explaining why that photo had been selected. These were all combined into a photo journal. One learner, Andrew Dunlop, took on the task of designing the cover with a piece of his original artwork.

“ Their experiences outside the classroom were a form of therapy for the students at CAN-U. By being in nature and around art for the first time, they were able to achieve a state of mindfulness and inner peace. This was a huge help to learners who suffer from mental illness and helped instructors to encourage participation in more ‘healthy hobbies.’ These experiences are essential for learners – it is why support for NSPGI is so important. It helps our communities change lives!”



Andrew Dunlop created a cover design for the photojournal *Winter in the Woods*, a collection of narratives and photography by CAN-U learners.

Beth Estabrooks

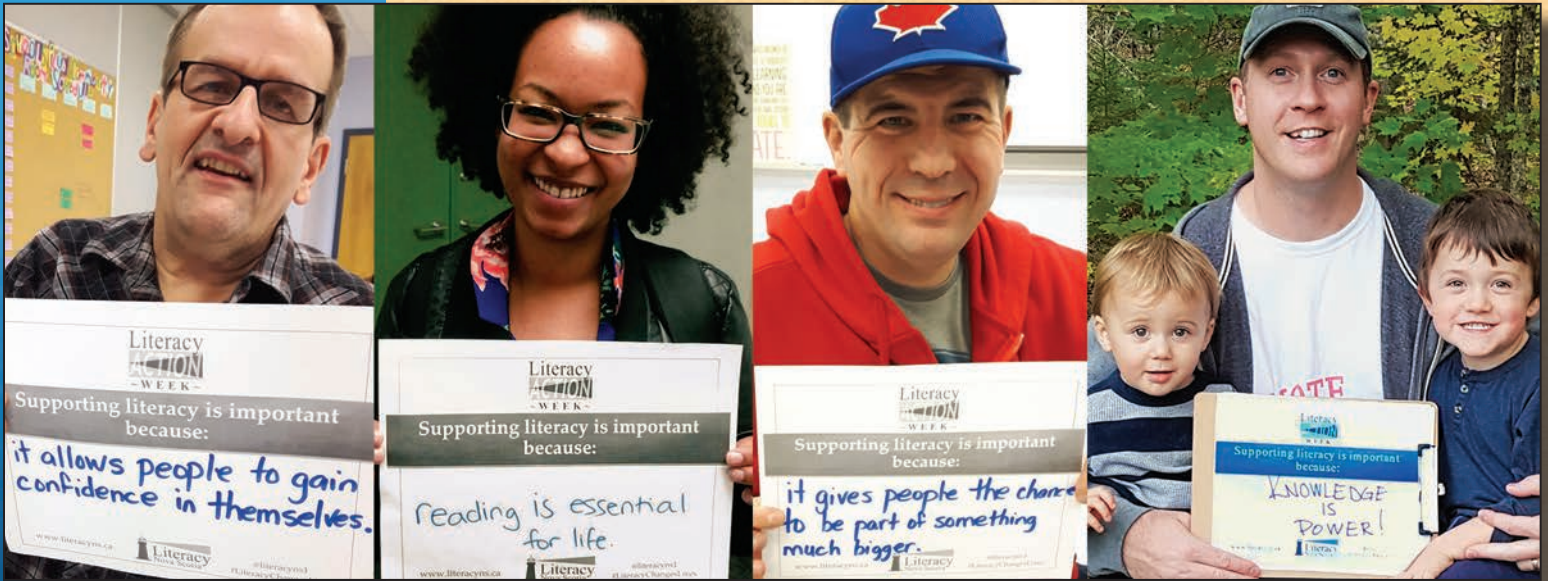
Coordinator, Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading (CAN-U)

18 organizations received PGI grants totalling **\$46,552** to support over **1000** learners.

Information Sharing and Research

Literacy Action Week (LAW): November 6 – 12, 2016

LAW is a time when individuals and organizations that have an interest in supporting adult literacy share information with governments and the public about literacy and essential skills in their community. For LAW 2016, we asked the public to demonstrate how literacy makes a difference in the lives of real people. During November 6 – 12, LNS invited everyone to post photos of themselves on social media holding a poster saying why they think supporting literacy is important. Community based learning organizations used the opportunity to raise their profile.



The Learning Beacon

We released issue #14 of our interactive online magazine for adult learners. LB Issue #14 contains the features 'What is Food Security?' and 'Moving On Up'. The 'Student Writing' feature contains four new stories by adult learners submitted to our 2016 iPad Mini Draw Contest, and we showcase some outstanding adult learners in the 'Literacy Changes Lives' feature.

1 issue of The Learning Beacon, an interactive, online magazine for adult learners was produced.

Information Sharing and Research

LNS employs a variety of communication tools including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Google Calendar, Google+ web albums, Google alerts, eCampus, LNS monthly eNews to over 400 recipients, as well as our website and factsheets. We continue to produce Adult Learner Factsheets. LNS produced a Literacy Action Week toolkit. We published an issue of *The Learning Beacon*, as well as an ebooklet for Adult Learners' Week 2017 with learning stories from adults on the theme *Literacy Changes Lives*.

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, PD Fund, Assistive Technology Fund, Adult Learners' Week and Practitioner Training and Certification Program.

Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia (RCF) contracted LNS to provide administration and communication services. RCF 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: Department of Labour and Advanced Education, Tour Tech East, Wildflower Promotions, Masstown Market, CBC Radio, Maritime Auto Parts, CUPE National, Metroworks, LIFE Leadership, CUPE Nova Scotia, Nova Learning Inc.

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

AIL Canada | American Income Life Insurance Company Canada

Assante Wealth

Car Heaven

CBC Radio

Colchester East Hants Library

Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia

Dalhousie University

Dartmouth North Community Centre

District N 2 - Lions of Nova Scotia (22 clubs are donors)

First Book Canada

Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre

Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Centre Truro

Hub Now

Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS)

Ladies Consignment Shop

LIFE Leadership

Michelin

Mount Saint Vincent University

New Brunswick Literacy Coalition

Nova Scotia Federation of Labour

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

Organizational Members of LNS

PGI Canada

Prince Edward Island Literacy Alliance

Scotiabank Bluenose Marathon

Sheree Fitch

Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce

Truro Daily News

United Way of Colchester County

Wildflower Promotional Products & Apparel

Member Organizations

Adult Learning Assn. of Cape Breton County

Antigonish Co. Adult Learning Assn.

Bedford-Sackville Literacy Network

Colchester Adult Learning Assn.

Community Learning Assn. North of Smokey

Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading

Dartmouth Learning Network

Digby Area Learning Association

East Hants Community Learning Assn.

East Preston Empowerment Academy

Eastern Shore & Musquodoboit Valley Literacy Network

Frontier College

Guysborough Co. Adult Learning Assn.

Halifax Community Learning Network

Hants Learning Network Association

Horizon Achievement Centre

Inverness County Literacy Network

Lunenburg County Adult Learning Network

MetroWorks (formerly Cunard)

Nova Scotia Trucking Safety Assn.

NS Federation of Labour

NSCC IT Campus

NSCC Truro Campus

Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation (Afton)

Pictou Co. Continuous Learning Assn.

Queens Learning Network

Richmond County Literacy Network

Shelburne County Learning Network

Solutions Learning Centre

South Shore Work Activity Program

Universite Sainte-Anne

Valley Community Learning Assn.

We'koqma'q First Nation

Western HRM Community Learning Network

Yarmouth County Learning Network and many individuals

Major Donors

LIFE Leadership

NS Federation of Labour

Coldbrook Lions Club

Canning Lions Club

Truro Lions Club

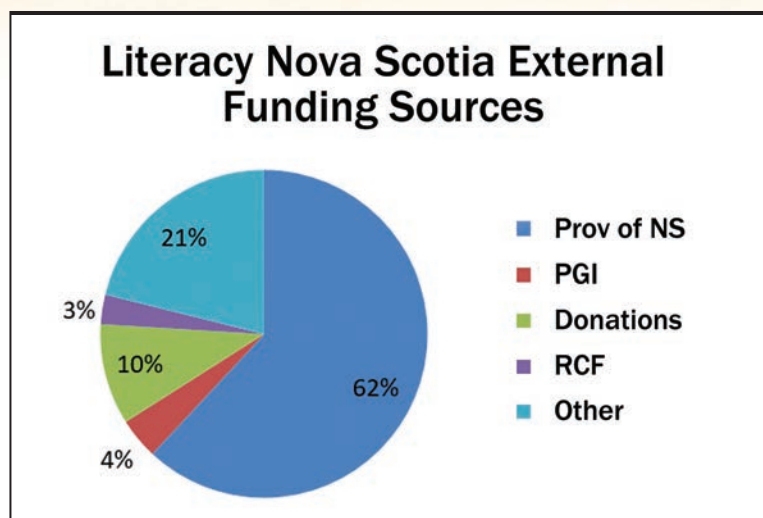
Read and Share Corner

Better World Books

Statement of Revenues and Expenses

	Year Ending March 31	Year Ending August 31
Revenues	2017	2016
Year ending March 31		
NSPGI Golf Tournament	19,805	1,659
Special Projects	303,243	147,163
Donations	48,837	25,954
Memberships, interest and other	117,534	66,875
TOTAL REVENUES	489,419	241,651
Expenses	2017	2016
Administration Fees	70,210	27,399
Amortization	1,534	1,720
Program materials and general project expenses	45,222	12,654
Meetings, facilities and travel	18,504	28,788
Grants - PGI, PD Funf and Assistive Technology	62,534	13,195
Professional fees	39,644	26,254
Salaries and benefits	237,413	138,660
Scholarships, bursaries, and learner support	5,000	5,000
NSPGI Golf Tournament	4,113	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	484,174	253,670

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.



Statement of Financial Position

Apr 1 - Mar 31 Sept 1 - Mar 31

Assets	2017	2016
Cash and short term deposits	313,009	405,146
Accounts receivable	20,460	14,044
Prepaid expenses	575	575
	<u>334,044</u>	<u>419,765</u>
Property, plant & equipment	6,925	6,878
Investments	292,903	0
	<u>633,872</u>	<u>426,643</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	7,228	8,979
Deferred revenue	220,740	17,005
	<u>227,968</u>	<u>25,984</u>
Fund Balances		
Unrestricted – investment in property, plant and equipment	6,925	6,878
Unrestricted – operating	148,979	143,781
Internally restricted - Contingency fund	250,000	250,000
	<u>405,904</u>	<u>400,659</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	633,872	426,643

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
Nova Learning Inc

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



 Literacy Nova Scotia
NSCC Truro Campus
Room 125, Forrester Hall
36 Arthur Street
Truro NS B2N 1X5

 PO Box 1516
Truro, NS B2N 5V2

 902-897-2444
1-800-255-5203 *Learn Line*

 902-897-4020 *fax*

 literacyns@nsc.ca

 www.literacyns.ca