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Summer Newsletter 2022

[Our Mission](#)[Strategic Plan](#)[Commitments](#)

A Message From the Chair



I'm very proud of and thankful for our working volunteer board of directors, staff, additional volunteers, and donors. Without whom we could never accomplish as much as we do. The proceeds of last year's property sales enabled us to substantially increase our endowment, hire a full time executive director, and a part time communications expert. A new communication strategy is being put into action, and provincial "convening sessions" are being organized. We are managing numerous funds and grants that, among other things, are helping Nova Scotians deal with climate change, gender equality, displaced Ukrainians arriving in NS, and housing to aid in recruitment of health care professionals. Next is food security and homelessness. Together we are helping strengthen rural Nova Scotia. I encourage you to donate, volunteer, and help us continue this work.

Sherry MacLeod, Chair, Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia

A Message From the Executive Director

The last several months have been very exciting for me, joining RCFNS as our Executive Director! This organization is amazing, filled with dedicated and hardworking board members and volunteers. Together



we have revised our policy manual, created a strategic plan for the coming year, revised our granting policies and created a fund development plan. We have identified two new UN Sustainable Goals of Homelessness and Zero Hunger to add to our current goals of Gender Equality and Climate Action. We have also granted out funds for the Joan Feynman Climate Change Fund, the Soaring Eagle Fund, the Pictou County Benefit for Ukraine Fund, and the Kia Communities in Motion grant (see more information below). We have created a new fund called the Ukrainian Nova Scotia Resettlement Fund which will be providing much needed support for Ukrainian families as well as Nova Scotia host families. With this fund we were able to pivot our actions to address an emergency that was developing globally as well as locally. We will be holding our Community Impact Conference: Climate Commitments in Action on October 8th at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre. Here we will discuss what climate action is taking place in the Cape Breton Area and as well what the climate action is taking within the First Nations groups.

In the coming months we will continue to grant funds through our current programs while developing and implementing funds to help address homelessness and hunger. We will also develop and enhance our land and estate granting programs as well as create new scholarships and bursary programs!

Penny Cooper, Executive Director, Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia



We are sad to say a fond farewell to Jean Ward who is retiring from the RCFNS Board. Jean is a great leader, that served as chair of the granting, convening, and nominations committees, followed by chair and past chair of the Board for the Rural Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (RCFNS). She has always been a very dedicated director, volunteer, and spokesperson for RCFNS.

During Covid, Jean chaired RCFNS and administered over one million dollars in granting to rural NS. Jean has done so much to help strengthen rural communities in our province.

Jean recently stepped down from RCFNS to have more time for 4H, her family and farm. Although we are all sad to see her go, we are forever thankful for her leadership, kindness and experience she brought to our board. We wish Jean well in her retirement.

Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia

COMMUNITY IMPACT CONFERENCE:

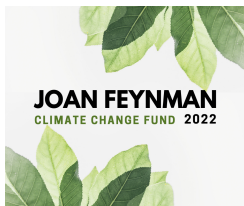
Climate Commitments In Action



[Click Here to Register for the Community Impact Conference](#)

Current & Emerging Funds

The Joan Feynman Climate Change Fund



Nova Scotia's rural communities are directly affected by climate change through such factors as sea level rise, storms, weather, disease and species shift, all of which can cause major economic impact. As such, our communities are on the front-lines of Nova Scotia's efforts to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and they have a vital role in finding solutions to this enormously difficult and complex issue. This fund was created in 2019 with a private donor grant in order to ignite creativity, innovation and change through community projects on climate change. During the next 3-5 years RCFNS plans to greatly increase our Feynman Fund granting and to coordinate with other sectors to leverage progress on climate change throughout the province.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

The Soaring Eagle Fund



SOARING EAGLE 2022 Fine Arts Grants

RURAL COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Foundation of Nova Scotia to create a fund for persons who identify with 2SLGBTQI+ and work with the community. He is generously donating 100% of the profits from his new single, "Rise Again".

The Soaring Eagle Fine Arts Grants' purpose is to ignite a conversation on challenges facing the LGBTQI+ community in Rural Nova Scotia and identifying and implementing solutions. The fund will focus on these issues and unite the members of the 2LGBTQI+ community within Nova Scotia to resilience work led by others identifying with 2LGBTQI+ through conversation and projects within their communities. The initial emphasis of the fund will be on youth projects, but the focus will expand in future years to highlight projects led by other groups. In addition to grants to qualified donees (accordance to CRA) and often in partnership with community organizations, The Soaring Eagle Fine Arts Grants will encompass convening, capacity-building, outreach, and other activities which further its goals.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Kia Communities In Motion



Kia Canada, in partnership with Community Foundations of Canada launched Kia Communities in Motion. This program is inspired by Kia's brand belief, 'Movement that inspires.' Movement is at the core of human development - through movement we see new places, meet new people and have new experiences. It is through this movement that we find inspiration. This all-new program is developed to support movement in local communities providing charities and the recipients of their efforts, the time, space and funding to find inspiration to move forward.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Ukrainian Nova Scotia Resettlement Fund

The situation in Ukraine will have devastating humanitarian consequences for tens of thousands of families. The situation is quickly becoming Europe's largest refugee crisis this century. The Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia has created the Ukrainian Nova Scotia Resettlement Fund to help Ukrainian and those charitable organizations who are helping Ukrainians come to Nova Scotia.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Emerging Projects

Communities For Gender Equality

Communities for Gender Equality is a multi-year collaboration between Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) and the Equality Fund, with support from the Government of Canada. Community Foundations of Canada will be working with the Rural Communities Foundation of Nova activate Cohort II of this initiative between May 2022 and April 2024. Check back for more information!

Vital Signs

Vital Signs is Canada's most extensive community-driven data program. Spearheaded by Community Foundations of Canada and led by the Rural Community Foundation of Nova Scotia and around the world, more than 65 national community foundations and 41 international community foundations produce an informative Vital Signs web site. Vital Signs uses local knowledge to measure the vitality of a community and support action towards improving collective quality of life. Local data gathered through the program is used to support evidence-based, locally-relevant solutions to improve the quality of life at the community level. Vital Signs aims to inspire civic engagement, to provide focus for public debate, and to help a range of actors take action and direct resources where they will have the greatest impact. RCFNS will be launching their Vital Signs web site in 2022/23 once all information is uploaded.

[For more information:](#)

Land & Real Estate Donations

(RCFNS) can help you turn your property gains into community good. The value of your real estate may exceed that of any other asset you own. With the help of RCFNS, you can use it to fulfil your charitable interests and receive financial and tax benefits.

[For more information:](#)

Gifts in Wills and Estates

Remembering your rural community with a planned gift is a way of giving that is thoughtful, generous and helps change the future of your community. By making a planned gift today you are part of a growing community that leaves a legacy that helps sustain your rural community. Making a gift in your will is simple and you still retain control of your assets. You can bequeath cash, securities, property or even a percentage of your estate.

[For more information:](#)

Donor Advised Fund

A donor advised fund is a charitable giving vehicle. It is initially established through an up-front donation by a donor - such as an individual philanthropist or family - to the Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia. While you, the donor, advises how funds are distributed, all administrative, operating and governance matters are taken care of by RCFNS. Donor advised funds are ideal for those who have always wanted to set up a charitable foundation in order to be strategic in their giving and create a legacy but feel that the cost and burden of setting up a registered foundation is too great. You direct where the work is to be done and we do all the work!

[For more information:](#)



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