

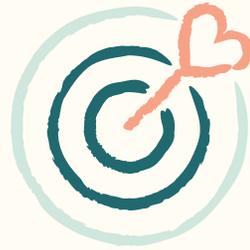


Chisholm   
**2025**  
annual report

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

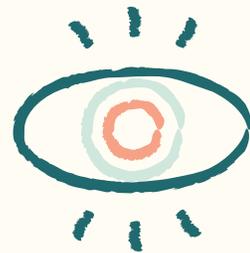
Chisholm acknowledges that we are on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq, Wəlastəkwiyyik (Maliseet) and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik (Maliseet) title. We are all Treaty people.

We also acknowledge that the people of African descent have been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years. We honour and offer gratitude to those ancestors of African descent who came before us to this land.



## OUR MISSION

Chisholm Services for Children provides care for children who have complex needs by providing a safe environment while fostering a sense of personal value, self-worth and the development of life skills.



## OUR VISION

Chisholm Services for Children is a leader in Nova Scotia in providing safe, community-based care for children 12 years of age and younger. Our therapeutic residential and non-residential programs successfully support children to transition into their community.



## OUR VALUES

The Chisholm Way is rooted in the legacy of the founders, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, and in our collective commitment to embody these values in all that we do. These values guide us through our relationships with our employees, stakeholders, and the broader community. We are accountable to ourselves, each other, and the wider community to embody these values.

**COMPASSION, HOPE, BELONGING,  
COLLABORATION, RESPECT**

# CHISHOLM SERVICES

## LETTER FROM THE SERVICES BOARD CHAIR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chisholm proudly marks 135 years of service in Nova Scotia, continuing the legacy of compassion and support established by four Sisters from Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd in 1890. At a time when child services legislation did not exist in the province, these women laid the foundation for programs that nurtured and protected women, youth, and children in need. Though the Sisters no longer have a presence in Nova Scotia, their commitment lives on through Chisholm Services for Children and the Chisholm Foundation, ensuring care and opportunities for brighter futures.

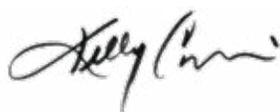
This past year has been a time of transformation, with significant collaboration between the Department of Opportunities and Social Development, Chisholm Foundation, and all three levels of government. This milestone brings to life a vision of creating a more responsive program—one where children can flourish in a welcoming home, immersed in nature-based therapeutic recreation and surrounded by a supportive community.

Chisholm remains steadfast in its commitment to high-quality care, maintaining the compassionate and stable placements the founders envisioned within the Child and Youth Caring Program. Trends this past year show children experiencing longer, more successful placements, leading to transitions into foster care or reunification with their families. Under the guidance of Manager of Clinical Services, Sean Clarke, the Chisholm team continues to integrate The PersonBrain Model™, developed by consultant Dr. Paul Baker, fostering resilience and growth in each child's healing journey.

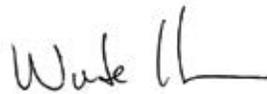
The LINKS Literacy Program has expanded its reach, helping more children develop confidence in their reading and writing skills. Overseen by LINKS Program Manager, Tirsa Finlay, the initiative now operates in two additional locations, providing one-on-one support to students from six elementary schools across HRM, thanks to dedicated volunteers.

Meanwhile, Chisholm's Trauma-Informed Care group launched its 12<sup>th</sup> cohort, equipping 22 approved caregivers waiting to adopt with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's ARC Reflection Training Program curriculum. This program helps prepare them to welcome children into their homes with understanding and readiness.

None of this would be possible without the passionate individuals who make Chisholm's mission a reality. From Child and Youth Care Workers and Literacy Instructors to volunteers, administrators, and the leadership of the Board of Directors, every person plays a critical role in shaping positive outcomes for children. As Chisholm embarks on the next chapter, relocating services after 135 years in Halifax, it remains dedicated to building a future where children can heal, grow, and thrive.



**Kelly Currie**  
Board Chair



**Wade Johnston**  
Executive Director



# 2025 YEAR AT A GLANCE

## CHILD AND YOUTH CARE PROGRAM



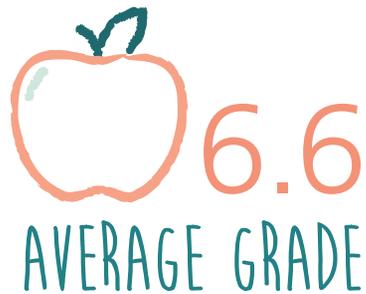
Each and every day is an opportunity to learn and grow.



Reaching children from across the province for their future.



Connecting children with a safe, nurturing home.



Children at Chisholm have experienced success thanks to our community schools.

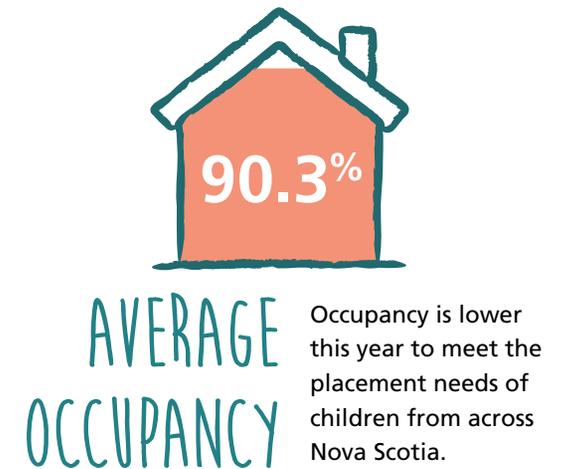
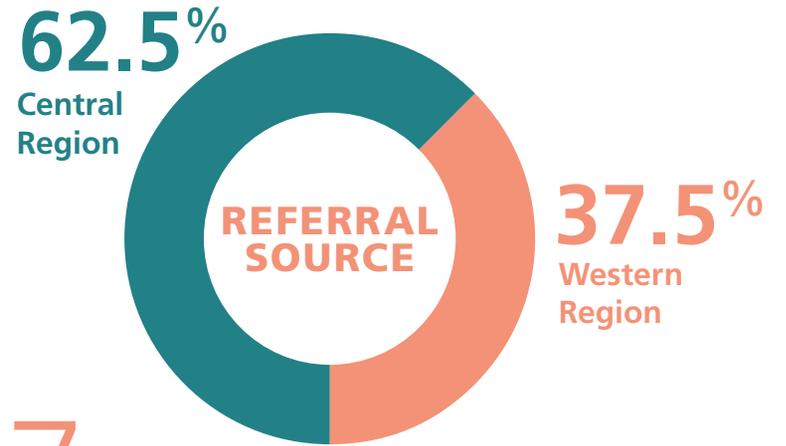


### CHILDREN SERVED IN CHILD & YOUTH CARE PROGRAM

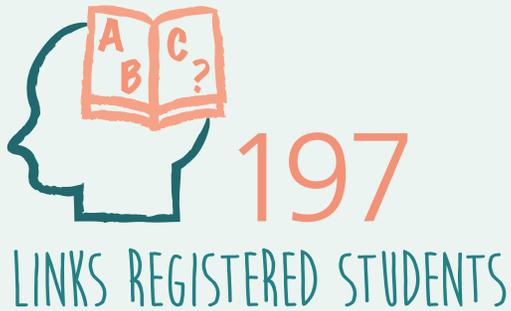
Guiding children to grow and thrive in their community.



Trending significantly higher this year. This is time to heal, learn to trust, build skills for their future, and ensure success in permanency.



## LINKS LITERACY PROGRAM



3,545+ hours of literacy instruction at schools across the HRM.



Contributing to successful educational outcomes for children.

## ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS



Building team capacity to be better at what we do for the children we serve.



Passionate volunteer Literacy Instructors, Board members, and fundraising event volunteers enhance the care provided by Chisholm.



A legacy of supporting children, youth, and young women in Nova Scotia.

## SERVICES FINANCIAL SUMMARY



**\$2,159,465**  
Province of Nova Scotia Partnership



**\$1,750,144**  
Salaries & Benefits

**\$96,072**  
LINKS Program

**\$562,925**  
Operations



# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



## CHISHOLM'S CHILD AND YOUTH CARING PROGRAM

continues our work in the community with a focus on permanency planning, advocacy, and early intervention. This past year was a year of minimal transition, having two children ready for transition move on to foster care,

with one moving back to their family of origin. With the support of our Child and Youth Care team, community schools, recreation services and mental health providers, our children developed skills to be successful as they navigated their way through day-to-day life events.

With the goal of enhancing the services and support provided for the children living with Chisholm, professional development has been a significant focus over the past year. Tony Smith, Restorative Inquiry co-chair, shared insights on the inquiry and being in care as a person of color. Tony met with the Chisholm team as well as the children in the program to share his story and the current focus of his advocacy work in the community.

Chisholm also continued their partnership this year with Dr. Paul Baker, who provided training for all members of the team in The PersonBrain Model™, the NeuroTransactional approach to supporting children and youth. The approach focuses on the four elements of flourishing; Safe, Significant, Related, and Respected as well as our 6 reimbursement pathways: Academic, Eco-cultural, Biological, Regulatory, Experiential, and Relational. This approach helps children build skills and strengthen resilience. All interactions with children at Chisholm are shaped through this perspective and guide our work with our children to help overcome barrier behaviours and build skills and competencies.

This year, we also benefited from support provided by Mary Ledger, Fine Arts Specialist with the Citadel family of schools, in partnership with Halifax Regional Arts / Halifax Centre for Education. Their support provided an in-house art program for the children. In addition, Long and McQuade also provided complimentary instrument rentals and music lessons. Supporting the children through art and music gives them another medium for emotional expression, learning new skills, and strengthening relationships with caregivers.

*"Holding on Dreams: Like riding a bike down the hill, and bumping into trees, and scared you fly away with the breeze... Don't give up, but don't give it up. Just don't let go and trust yourself. Hold back, and breath, good things are coming. Don't let it bring you down, let the time out, these emotions come and go, one day your power will show. You don't have to be afraid, everyday you get closer to it. Sometimes you fall but keep getting up and follow your dreams!"*

- Child's Original AI Song Lyrics

*"We were introduced to the LINKS program as our eldest child was behind their grade development in reading. He achieved great success through his elementary school grades throughout the summer, and academic year. My youngest child has participated in LINKS throughout grade one and with the one-on-one support of the team has advanced their reading results immensely. We find LINKS to be an excellent complement to the supports in the public school system."*

- Caregiver



This year Chisholm completed their first cohort of our revamped **TRAUMA INFORMED CARE GROUP**. Building on Chisholm's practice framework, the Trauma Informed Care group curriculum was developed with the integration of the Annie E. Casey Foundation ARC Reflections Training Program. The ARC (Attachment, Regulation, and Competency)

is a framework for working with children and youth who have experienced trauma. In partnership with Adoption Services and Department of Opportunities and Social Development the group spanned 10 months and included 22 waiting and approved adoptive caregivers.

Since 2013 Chisholm has been part of helping over 200 caregivers prepare to parent with the support of the Trauma Informed Care group. Outcomes for our participants are to assist caregivers to be better able to meet the needs of children who have experienced complex trauma, feel more supported and competent in their parenting roles, and increasing stability for children in their care. In addition to our program goals, we are also committed to creating a space for support amongst adoptive caregivers and community. Our second cohort began in April of 2025 with another 21 approved and waiting families. The program is facilitated by our Manger of Clinical Services, Sean Clarke along with Tammy Walker who is a Permanency and Adoption worker with the Department of Opportunities and Social Development.



**THE LINKS LITERACY PROGRAM** is designed for elementary students reading below grade level or lacking confidence in their literacy skills. This year, LINKS supported children from across the HRM with grant funding for students at Harbour View Elementary School, Rockingstone Heights School, Saint Joseph's - Alexander

McKay Elementary School, and Sycamore Lane Elementary School. As a result of our new service delivery model, incorporating volunteers for one-on-one support, we were able to add 2 new school sites (Duc d'Anville Elementary School and Inglis Street Elementary School) for a total of 6 sites across the HRM. Over the fiscal year, LINKS has helped 197 students increase their phonological awareness and their sight word knowledge, develop additional strategies to help decode words, and develop meaningful relationships while building their self-confidence in their literacy skills. Looking ahead, we are hopeful of further expanding the program to a school site located in Lower Sackville. The needs for literacy support are growing in the province. We are also looking ahead to establishing a permanent site to address the increasing requests for in-person fee-for-service tutoring spaces. Through generous grant funding this year, we were able to provide literacy instruction at no cost to their caregivers to approximately 90% of registered students, removing potential barriers for so many.

*"We found the homework activities and the "energy level" exercises to be the most helpful. We think these conversations have better prepared us to be on the same page for parenting. The homework created interesting conversations for us between sessions, and we think these conversations have better prepared us to be on the same page for parenting."*

- Adoptive Caregivers

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Kelly Currie** (Chair)

**Trevor J. MacDonald**  
(Immediate Past Chair)

**Becky Campbell** (Vice Chair)

**Jay Chishamba** (Treasurer)

**Alison Casey** (Secretary)

**Deborah Bauld**

**Darlene Boliver**

**Ann Jennex-Roberts**

**Lisa Peck**

**Wade Johnston** (Ex Officio)



# EMPLOYEES & STUDENTS

## ADMINISTRATION:

**Wade Johnston**  
*Executive Director*

**Geoff Hurst**  
*Director Business Development*

**Arun Jose**  
*Bookkeeper / Payroll*

**Tirsa Finlay**  
*Manager LINKS Literacy*

**Sean Clarke**  
*Manager of Clinical Services*

**Mike Shea**  
*Program Coordinator*

**Melissa Wilson**  
*Program Coordinator  
– Term / Supervisor*

**Leanne Higgins**  
*Supervisor*

**Alyse Comeau**  
*Supervisor*

**Shawna Burgess**  
*Office Administrator*

## LINKS LITERARY INSTRUCTORS:

Christiana Adams

Tyra Alexander

Dinah Appiah

Tanya Aujla

Joy Baillie

Nathan A Baillie

Amelia Betts

Alyson K Boone

Jaden B Ezzard

Charlie E Forbes

Debdipa Ghosh

Lydia P Grosvenor

Krishika Jeyaraj

Vrinda Kathpal

Julianna Kun

Kailyn A MacDonald

Brooke MacLean

Rosaline Patton

Cole Pfeifenroth

Virginia Roberts

Ma Ruiza San  
Lorenzo

Ritu Shah

Sonja Shahinasi

Jennifer Swan

Blessing Tangban

Karly M Turner

Kayley Wartman

Yara Yazbek

Judy Zinck

## LINKS LITERARY VOLUNTEERS:

Sarah Afrouzi

Noor Al-houshan

Tyra Alexander

Kian Amiree

Maren Brown

Brittany Christiani

Jaden Ezzard

Elizabeth Giddings

Brooke Harris

Caitlin Hicks

Samiksha Kale

Elizabeth Landells

Kirsty Longino

Lauren LeBlanc

Antonia Monteiro  
de Albuquerque

## CHISHOLM STUDENT INTERNS:

Gracie Brannon

Gloria Bullock

Rylan Cooper

Makayla Cousins

Mckenzie

Desmond

Abigail Dickson

Oliva Hawco-  
Mifflin

Megan Higgins

Tyleasha Park

Laural Pepin

Sheila Sacayle

Aarti Sharma

Adyson Singer

Jeffrey Spencer

Ava Thainugool

Anna Weatherbie

## CHILD & YOUTH CARE WORKERS:

Asia Bannister

Sarah Bookman

Natalia Byard

Sarah Clarke

Gemma Coley

Rylan Cooper

Rachel Eisenhauer

Tiauna Francis

Mikida Green-  
Andrea

Bridget Higgins

Anniesa Huggarth

Laura Hutt

Madoka Imamura

Jashan Kaur

Kyle Lantz

Kaitlyn Leslie

Rylee Levy

Nicole Hirschfeld

Donavon  
Manthorne-  
Borden

Danielle  
McLaughlan-Payne

Kahlyn McIntyre

Brittany Minnis

Kelly Mowat

Ashley O'Brien

Paulina Ochoa

Tyleasha Park

Sheena Purdy

Jacob Smith

Sarah A Smith

Jeffrey W Spencer

Ava Thainugool

Amy Vinnedge

# FRIENDS OF CHISHOLM'S CHILDREN

## INDIVIDUALS

Amateur Alex	Elaine Gordon Cragg	Peter Harrison	Nicole Leblanc	Florence Milley	Margo Russman
Kara Barrett	Norma Craib	Amanda Hatt	Christian Lehmann	Maureen Mitchell	Denis Ryan
David Almon	Kristina Creamer	Ben Hawkins	Kerry Leverman	Lynn Molloy	Patty Sampson
Katherine Maude Ashley	Maureen Crossman	Larry Hayes	Benjamin Levy	Mary Morash	Hayley Sandall
Seamus Ashley	Jackie Crowe	Patterson Healey	Bob Levy	Gerry M.A Morey	Her Honour Ms. Darlene Savage
Susan Ashley	Jennifer Crouley	Kayla Henry	Beth Lewis	Pam Mountain	His Honour The Honourable Mike Savage
Nicole Babineau	Charles W. Cullen III	Evan Hickey	Tanya Lewis	Richard Mullen	Mike Shea
Deborah Bauld	Kelly Currie	Bridget Higgins	Saejin Lim	Amy Murray	Jansen Shrubbs
Tyler Benoit	Phil Currie	Trudy Hiltz	Christy and Derek Linders	Eric O'Brien	Lorna Skinner
Susan Best	Jonathan Davies	Heidi Holloway	Esther Lorenz	Virginia O'Connell	Mary Skinner
Ian Bezanson	Terri Davy	Erin Hopkins	Jon Lorenz	Daniel P O'Halloran	Daniel Smith
Ellie Black	Amanda Dean	Anne Hruada	Carl Osato	Carl Osato	Kevin Smith
Calvin Blades	Rob Dearman	Bart Hruada	Dwight Parker	Alex Patterson	Mireille Smith
Darlene Boliver	Amanda Debison	Shelley Hudson	Chris Lydon	Ron Patterson	Sandy Snide
Kevin and Pamela Bourke	Lee-Anne Delaney	Gary Hurst	Mark MacDonald	John Peach	Turk Stage
Christopher Boyce	Mario Demello	Geoff Hurst	Mickey MacDonald	Scott Peach	Deva Station
Ellen Boyce	Bill Doane	Jonathan Hurst	Morag MacDonald	Anne-Marie & Rob Peacock	Corinne Steele
J Edward Boyce	Laura Dole	Shelly Hancock Hurst	Trevor J. MacDonald	Beth MacGillivray	Jim Stewart
Joseph Boyce	Lynne Donahoe	Corrina Hynes	Beth MacGillivray	Fred MacGillivray	Paula & Alan Stoddart
Susanne Boyce	Joanne Ducolon	Ryan Inglis	JoAnne MacGillivray	Neve Peralta	Hank Strooband
Peter Browne	Josh Edmonds	Mary Isnor	Neville MacKay	Marcella Peshko	Erika Thomas
Andrew Buchanan	Sarah Edmonds	Andrea Tsang Jackson	Deborah MacLellan	Jaunita Peters	Katherine Thomas
Shawna Burgess	C Edwards	Daryl James	Laura MacLellan	Darlene Petipas	Neil Thompson
Beverly Cameron	Paula Eskenazi	Ann Jennex-Roberts	Peter MacLellan	Francis Petrin	Heather Travis
Ron Cameron	John Falkenham	Brandon Jennings	Mary Jo Mahody	Bettyann Power	Chef Gabe Uggenti
Becky Campbell	Andrew Feenstra	Richard Jennings	Aiden Marriott	Julie Power	Cameron VanBuskirk
Alison Casey	Brianne Foley	Anjali Jensen	Andrew Marriott	Yogesh Puneeth Vemula	Mike Velemirovich
Nick Chan	Jane Foster	Joan and Dave Johnston	Nicole and Kyle Marryatt	Allan Purdy	Kevin von Appen
Perry Chippin	Amanda Fullerton	Monica Johnston	The Honourable Leah Martin	Kerri Purdy	Carrie Lynn Wall
Jay Chishamba	Lisa Gardner	Wade Johnston	The Honourable Leah Martin	Pamela Purdy	Keith Weagle
Charles Chisholm	Lisa Gardner	Wade Johnston	Tanya Matthews	Stacey Pyke	Jeremy Webb
Tracy Cipryk	Crystall Garrett	Fern Jordan	Bruce McCulloch	Jacob Rafuse	Clyde Wetmore
Dayna Claman	Bill Georgina	William Jordan	Rick McCulloch	Heather Rankin	Peter Wickwire
Richard Clune	Kayla Van Gerven	Grennan Joy	Keith McFarlane	Susanne Retter	Shane Williams
Darrell Cochrane	Colin & Jane Gillis	Sheri Katz	Scott McGaw	Liz Rigney	Jules Wilson
Juli Cohen	Lana Grant	Monica Kennedy	Helen McGee	David Ring	Andrew Winters
Megan Colburn	Jane Grantmyre	Kathy Kerr	Trent McGrath	Jane Gillis Ring	Rose Winters
Michel Comeau	Darlene Guilcher	Heather Kilby	Morgan Mclean	Peter Ripley	And, those who wish to remain anonymous.
Malcolm Cook	Anthony Guild	Stuart Kirby	Steve McMullin	J William Ritchie	
George Cooper	Georgie Guthrie	Maria Kizkallah	Jeff McNeil	Maria Rizkallah	
Tia Cooper	Greg Guy	Chris Larsen	Channing Mcrae	Kim Roberge	
Valerie Corkum	George Hallett	Carly Lawrence	David Meneghello	Colette Rocan	
Simone Cottreau	Shelly Hancock Hurst	Kelly Lawrence	Maya Layton	Michael Rushe	
	Gary Harris	Maya Layton	Swanzette Mensah		

## ORGANIZATIONS

5 Fishermen	Halifax Protestant Infants Foundation
Alex MacAulay Photography Inc.	Halifax Regional Municipality
Anytime Fitness	Halifax Regional Police Foundation
Aptitude Digital	Endowment Fund
Aqueduct Foundation	Halifax Youth Foundation
Astral Media	Hartman Matthews Family Trust
Atlantic Security Conference	Harvest Wine Beer Spirits
Baker Tilly Nova Scotia Inc.	harveyArchitecture Limited
Bell Media	Health Association of Nova Scotia
Belmont Health & Wealth	IMP Group International Inc.
Benevity Fund	Lindsay Construction Limited
Blue Nose Marathon - Doctors of Nova Scotia Youth Run	Little Fish Wine Bar and Grill
Canadian Progress Club, Halifax Citadel	Long & McQuade
Check Point Software	Marymount Inc.
Children's Aid Foundation of Nova Scotia	Medavie Blue Cross
Chisholm Services Staff Gift Fund	MICCO Companies
CIBC	MOVE 100-1
Coca-Cola Canada	My Mother's Bloomers
CTV Atlantic	Neptune Theatre
Cullen Wealth Management - RBC	Numus Financial Inc.
Cyclesmith	O.E. Smith Estate
Deeneh Foundation	Oak Island Resort & Conference Centre
Department of Education and Early Childhood	Pirates of Halifax
Development	Premiere Entertainment Group Limited
Department of Opportunities and Social Development	Race Roster - Smart Payables
Doane Grant Thornton	RBC Charitable Giving Program
Ecclesiastical Insurance	RBC Dominion Securities
Edmonds	RBC Foundation
Element Events Solutions	Rudy's Catering Service
Encore	Scotia Investments
Flemming Charitable Foundation	Shoppers Drug Mart Kurt Ryan
Foyston, Gordon & Payne Foundation	Sisters of the Good Shepherd – New York / Toronto Province
Francis J. Robinson Estate	Sisters of the Good Shepherd - Toronto
Fred and Edith Greene Foundation	Sisters of the Good Shepherd Mission Account
GEMTEC Consulting Engineers & Scientists Ltd.	TELUS Friendly Future Foundation
Grafton Connor Group	The 7 Virtues Beauty
Halifax Association for Improving the Conditions of the Poor:	The Gap
The Halifax Assistance Fund	The Printing House (TPH)
Halifax Employers Association	United Way of Greater Toronto
	Virgin Radio
	Westjet

# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Atlantic School of Theology  
Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre  
Canadian CORE Group  
Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
Captain William Spry Community Centre  
Children's Aid Foundation of Nova Scotia  
Code Ninjas - camps  
Department of Opportunities and Social Development  
Duc D'Anville Elementary School  
Eastern College  
Get Air - summer camp  
Gorsebrook Junior High School  
Halifax Central Junior High School  
Halifax Parks & Recreation  
Halifax Public Libraries  
Halifax Regional Centre for Education  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
Halifax Regional Police  
Harbour View Elementary School  
Health Association Nova Scotia  
Highland Park Jr. High School

Hillside Elementary School  
Inglis Street Elementary School  
IWK Health Sciences Centre  
John MacNeil Elementary School  
Kids Help Phone  
Kids Up Front Atlantic  
McPhee Centre – summer camp  
Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team (MHMCT)  
Mi'kmaq Family and Children's Services  
North West Arm Ferry  
Nova Scotia Community College - Ivany Campus (Child and Youth Care Studies)  
Nova Scotia Community College - Truro (Child and Youth Care Studies)  
Nova Scotia Department of Opportunities and Social Development (Child and Family Wellbeing)  
Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development  
Nova Scotia Department of Growth and Development  
Nova Scotia Federation of Foster Families  
Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union  
Nova Scotia Health Authority

Nova Scotia Office of the Ombudsman  
NSCAD Summer Art Camps  
Dr. Paul Baker (The PersonBrain Model™)  
Pinwheel Communications & Design  
Power House Youth Centre  
Pro Skate  
Provincial After-Hours Response Team (PART)  
Renew Skateboards  
Rockingstone Elementary School  
Saint Joseph's - Alexander McKay Elementary School  
SchoolsPlus  
Searching for Santa Mission Flight (Air Canada)  
Sir Charles Tupper Elementary School  
St Mary's Boat Club Summer Camps  
St. Catherine's Elementary School  
Sycamore Lane Elementary School  
Tony Smith (Co-Chair Restorative Inquiry into the NSHCC)  
Wild Things Skateboard Lessons  
Worker's Compensation Board of Nova Scotia  
WORKSPACE Bayers Lake



# CHISHOLM FOUNDATION

Chisholm Foundation for Children was established in 2010 with the sole purpose of enhancing the programs and services provided by Chisholm Services for Children. Focusing its attention on raising community awareness, leading fundraising initiatives, and managing assets and investments, the Foundation is governed by a community-based Board of Directors that strives to assist Chisholm in providing exceptional services for children to realize a brighter future.

## LETTER FROM THE FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR

Building capacity has been the pivotal theme for the Chisholm Foundation for Children over this past year. Driven by a shared vision to build brighter futures for deserving children in our province, our partner, the Department of Opportunities and Social Development, and all three levels of government, have come together to support the program relocation this past year.

Significant program investments led to the transfer of land title for the new property from the Department of Growth and Development, as well as conditional approval for financing with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Commission under the Affordable Housing Fund. This is only possible because of continued partnership support from the Department of Opportunities and Social Development, ensuring our future program remains responsive to the needs for children in our province.

Under the guidance of our program relocation committee and board of directors, we also welcomed Lindsay Construction as key partners leading the construction management contract, providing oversight of the construction process. With their expert guidance, we

were ready to start site preparations in April 2025, following community outreach and engagement.

As we continued building capacity with our future program in mind, our board of directors began important collaboration work with the Services Board of Directors by establishing new committees to oversee a new strategic planning cycle with a new 5-year strategic plan set to be brought forward for approval at our 2026 Annual General Meeting, as well as an HR & Succession Planning Committee to support the organization and boards with planning for role succession, organizational structure and resource alignment. Additional investments will also be considered for capital campaign support, as we shift our focus to bringing the vision for brighter futures to life and consider how best to engage our community as valued supporters and partners in this work.

Our work is only possible because of the partners, community collaborators, donors and supporters who believe in our shared vision. This past year showcased this through a new partnership with Marymount in hosting world renowned Canadian author and practicing physician,

Dr. Gabor Maté. He shared his teachings in childhood development, trauma, and potential lifelong impacts on physical and mental health to a sold-out room filled with clinicians, teachers and practitioners for a one-day workshop.

With the generous support of our community, donors and partners, the future is bright. Thank you to the unwavering support of the board of directors for Chisholm Foundation who work tirelessly in pursuit of our purpose. It is an honour to stand alongside such passionate community volunteers.

In closing, as we celebrate 135 years of the Sisters of the Good Shepard legacy, and remember the life of Sister Mary Ellen Boyce, it was an honour to establish the Sister Mary Ellen Boyce Legacy Fund, in recognition of our Sisters' years of service in support of Chisholm.

With heartfelt gratitude,



**Amanda Hatt**  
Foundation Board Chair

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Amanda Hatt**  
(Chair)

**John Falkenham**  
(Vice Chair)

**Peter Browne**  
(Treasurer)

**Wade Johnston**  
(Secretary)

**Anjali Jensen**

**Trevor J. MacDonald**

**JoAnne MacGillivray**

**Scott McGaw**

**David Ring**



# FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS



## RAISING AWARENESS

*It takes a village to raise a child!* Community engagement is key to successful outcomes for children. At Chisholm, including the community in the healing process is necessary to a child's growth and development. Whether it's through social media, our holiday campaign, events online or in person, or through third party initiatives, Chisholm has a story to share about resilient children and hope. This year we hosted two major events that helped to share our story. We hosted world renowned Dr. Gabor Maté for a one-day workshop in October 2024 and our signature event, Blind Date with a Star, in March 2025.

This year's highlight was the opportunity to partner with Maryound, an affiliated program established by the same founder as Chisholm, which provided the opportunity for a one-day in-person conference where Dr. Gabor Maté spoke on his recent book, *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness and Healing in a Toxic Culture*. The event was sold out with 700 people in attendance from across Canada, USA and Europe, all welcoming the opportunity to hear Dr. Maté speak in person, as well as learn more about Chisholm and the services we provide right here in Halifax.



## INVESTING IN TOMORROW

Building on the investment strategies from previous years, the Foundation continued to invest in children's futures with a focus on low risk returns as well as long term performance. With this strategy top of mind, the Foundation realized a significant gain in revenue with its sights set on building new homes where children can live and thrive, all with the generous support of donors and sponsors from the community, and partnerships and support from all levels of government.



## CELEBRATING SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Caring for children throughout the year and during special cultural rituals and traditions are important to children's cultural identity. The Foundation continued to ensure the children are provided with the opportunity to make these days as special and comforting for each of them.

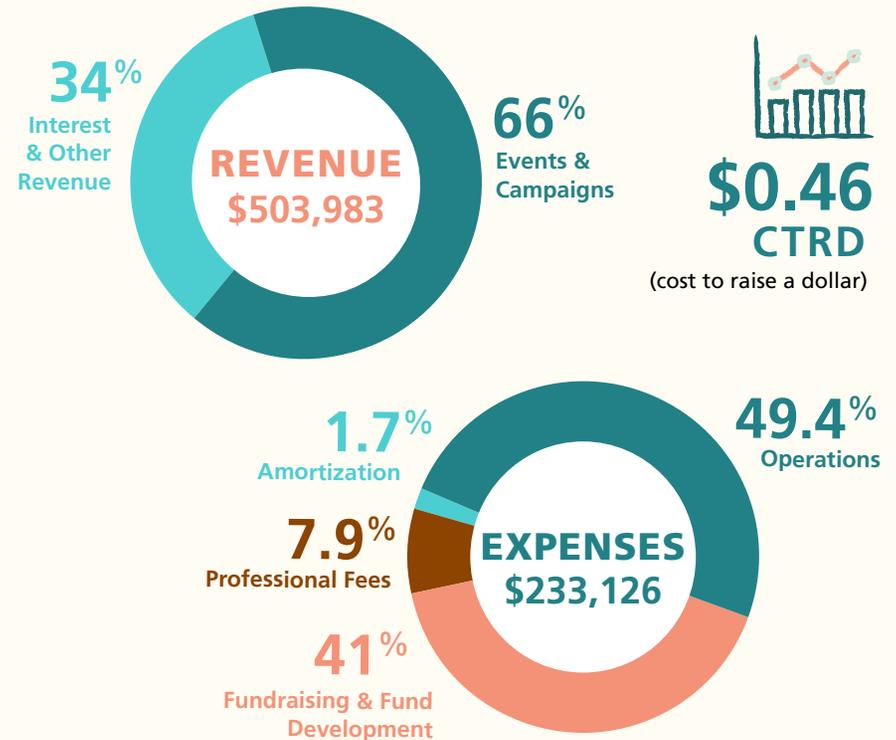


## OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS TO EXPERIENCES

Children participating in recreational opportunities at home and in the community is valued by Chisholm. The Foundation ensures that these are accessible year-round, contributing to healthy child development through relationships, experiences and skill development.



## FOUNDATION FINANCIAL SUMMARY



# CHISHOLM'S VISION FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

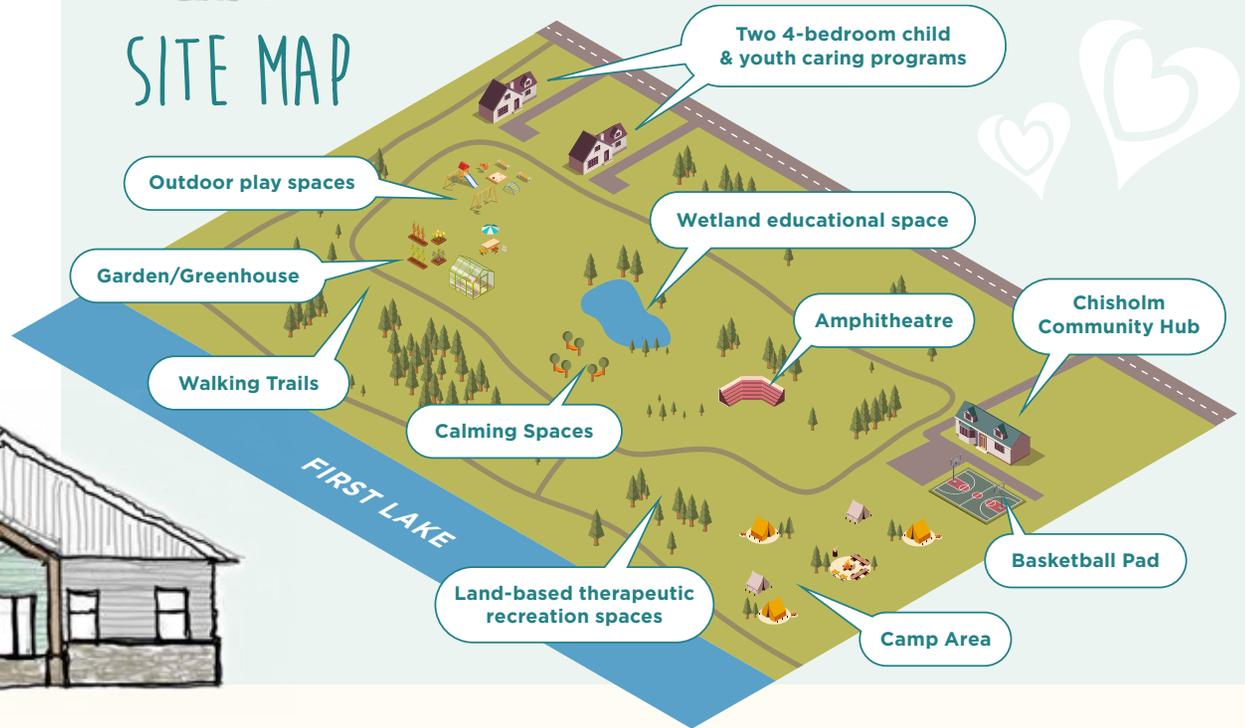
A need to grow and a growing need. Our vision is to support children's brighter futures by building two new specialized homes that will be responsive to their needs, with access to outdoor play areas and land-based therapeutic recreation spaces. The homes will be supported by a Chisholm community hub that will offer our after-school literacy program, trauma informed care group training, and will be a resource for our community.

Our relocation plan will increase our capacity to support two additional children in our child and youth caring program, with the space and purpose-built design to ensure the children feel supported and cared for in this new therapeutic space. It will ensure we can continue to deliver trauma informed care training and create new opportunities to expand the program to more parents, families and caregivers in Nova Scotia. And it will ensure we can continue to deliver critical literacy programming and create new opportunities to expand the program to more children in Nova Scotia.

If there are specific areas you have an interest in learning more about, we would be delighted to connect with you to discuss further.



## SITE MAP



[vimeo.com/1075432358](https://vimeo.com/1075432358)



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## CHISHOLM SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

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