



## INSPIRATION, INSPIRATION. EVERYWHERE, AN INSPIRATION!

**Inspiration:** noun [uncountable] inspiration (to do something) inspiration (for something) the process that takes place when someone sees or hears something that causes them to have exciting new ideas or makes them want to create something, especially in art, music, or literature. [countable, usually singular] inspiration (for something) a person or thing that is the reason why someone creates or does something.

What a “Welcome” I have experienced in the last six weeks! The conversations, so far, have been rich with learning and understanding of this organization’s reach and its potential. The many notes of encouragement from new and old friends are deeply appreciated. The feedback from those who know me, and are learning about CFNS, point to a great fit with passion for positive impact in our province. I am honoured to take on this role at CFNS and I am inspired everywhere I look.

We recently received a note from the recipient of the Buddy Daye Scholarship, which CFNS holds under our umbrella. In part, it reads: *“Being Awarded the Buddy Daye Scholarship for me meant all my work as a student athlete was 100% worth it. Being recognized at such a level for all my hard work and dedication meant more than I could ever put into words. In addition, being awarded this scholarship I have proven that not only women but women of colour are capable of anything and everything.”* I am inspired by the impact CFNS continues to have through so many scholarships and bursaries that our fundholders and donors make possible.

Over the last year, in these newsletters, you have heard from our leadership about the strong philanthropic spirit in Nova Scotia, as well as the innovations, the new processes and a vision that has started to take shape at CFNS. This is now more than an organization that has started to “find its groove”. It is stepping up and into bold new ways of serving Nova Scotian communities. The work of the team and the Board are another source of inspiration!

More inspiration has shown itself, in my initial meetings with many stakeholders; our dedicated Board, our engaged donors, leaders in Community Foundations, external partners and others who have shown a willingness to give time, effort and resources to help build CFNS in the years ahead. My gratitude goes out to each individual who has given me time to meet (Zoom!), shared, allowed me to listen and understand about their views of where we are AND where we can go.

Plusieurs communautés à travers la Nouvelle-Écosse m'ont déjà démontré un niveau d'intérêt et d'appui que je trouve rare et incroyablement inspirant! Merci.

Inspiration is also evident through work with new fund holders such as the Gluten-Free Pantry Fund, which supports people in the community with celiac disease or gluten intolerance who are unable to afford food.

The unique challenges of the last few months have presented many unexpected (and inspiring) moments for collaboration, conversation and partnering across the province:

- with Partners in the Investment Readiness Program (IRP), which disbursed \$297,735 in Nova Scotia for the first round of funding between January and March, and recently announced round 2, which will open for submissions on September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- the completion of ECSF disbursements – one wonderfully inspiring story is from Shelter Nova Scotia, who, because of the funding they received, were able to do a renovation that provided a safe and dignified space for their 30 guests.
- and the NS COVID-19 Coalition, which itself has inspired the work of so many leaders in the province's not-for-profit sector over the last 5 months.

I must share my gratitude to the team at CFNS, to Stephanie Clark – our Interim CEO, who has prepared us for growth, and to the Board for both their leadership and willingness to give more time and skill as we step forward.

It has been said that the collaborative work of the last year and a half has ensured that the next layer of foundation stones have been laid. We have the place, within CFNS, to build a hub and hearth for effective philanthropy and building even stronger diverse and impactful communities.

Back to the definition: There are a great number of exciting new ideas all around us – everywhere I turn! The points of inspiration are the reasons why CFNS will thrive. I look forward to digging in. Together, we are ready to build on all of this inspiration and enable more.

All the best,

Daniel Holland

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Holland', with a stylized, flowing script.

CEO, Community Foundation of Nova Scotia