



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Foundation of Nova Scotia grants \$151,900 to local women's organizations

HALIFAX, NS: Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (CFNS) is announcing grants totalling \$151,900 to six local organizations that support women, girls, Two-Spirit and gender-diverse individuals who are working towards a future grounded in equity, inclusion and justice. Communities for Gender Equality is supported by a collaboration between Community Foundations of Canada and the Equality Fund, with support from the Government of Canada and Green Shield Canada. CFNS is one of 21 local community foundations across Canada that are taking part. In total, these community foundations are granting \$3.5M towards the women's movement.

"A just recovery is a feminist recovery, and we want to do our part," said Daniel Holland, CEO of CFNS. "The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is committed to finding innovative ways to support community in creating a future where gender equality is a reality. We're confident that the projects we've been able to support through this fund will help to build in that direction."

CFNS has funded organizations at the "heart" of the women's movement, with a focus on those that have demonstrated a long-term commitment to empowering women, girls, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people through their mission, activities, or partnerships. The grants span a variety of purposes, including efforts to pilot new initiatives, to address long-standing community needs, or to support a just recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. The initiatives themselves may touch on a wide range of areas that are affected by gender equality, including food insecurity, income inequality, racial injustice, domestic violence, and many more. In particular, the Fund prioritizes initiatives that are 'self-led'—those that are led by the same groups that they focus on serving.

The organizations who received funding are the Coverdale Courtwork Society, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Cape Breton, the Elizabeth Fry Society Mainland Nova Scotia, the Stepping Stone Association, The Youth Project, and the Halifax Refugee Clinic Association.

"We were so deeply excited and honoured that the Youth Project was one of the recipients of the Fund for Gender Equality," said Carmel Farahbakhsh Executive Director, Youth Project. "This additional funding will allow us to continue our goals of providing intersectional, accessible, and creative education for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth through platforming the work/expertise of local community members and organizations we admire. We believe that offering imaginative, anti-oppressive spaces to youth is critical in their leadership to design and create the radiant futures of equity, liberation, and justice that we all deserve."

"From coast to coast to coast, feminist organizations have a long and rich history of mobilization to advance gender equality in our country," said Andrea Dicks, Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) President. "As budgets get re-allocated to public health and economic programs in the wake of the pandemic, these organizations are most at risk of losing funding. At CFC our purpose is to 'relentlessly pursue a future where everyone belongs. To create communities of true belonging and recover from this pandemic, we need to advance gender equality across the country. We're grateful for the financial support from the Government of Canada and the leadership of the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia who is taking part in these efforts."

"We are thrilled to support these six organizations who are working on the ground to advance gender equality in our community," said Holland. "Our investment in their work is key to supporting women who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. We can work towards a just recovery by tackling systemic issues like racism, wage inequality, and gender-based violence. Along with the other 20 participating community foundations, we are committed to lasting systems-change in philanthropy, by writing gender equality into our investment practices and organizational policies. As the year progresses, we look forward to sharing more about this journey."

About Community Foundation of Nova Scotia

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is an action centre for philanthropy. We provide the knowledge and support for communities, charities, and citizens to realize their individual potential and collective possibilities. Our mission is to build strong, vibrant and diverse communities throughout Nova Scotia by enabling and inspiring effective philanthropy.

We're part of the Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) movement - the national network for Canada's 191 community foundations. CFC's purpose is to relentlessly pursue a future where everyone belongs. Combined, the network holds \$5.8 billion in assets and reaches 90 per cent of Canadian communities. The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia was established in 2008 and currently has more than \$10.4 million in philanthropic investment under management. In 2020 alone, CFNS disbursed and committed grants of more than \$3 million, and manages and supports more than 90 funds across the province, including 22 scholarship and award funds.

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