



## **Finding our Groove – A Message from our Interim CEO**

It's hard to believe it's the holiday season again and another year is almost behind us. 2019 was an amazing year for Community Foundation of Nova Scotia, full of change, strategic reflection, growth, and of innovation. Like all organizations (and people!), change proceeds new opportunities for growth. We move from a space of "what is" to the inspired state of "what if". This is a state that opens the mind to new possibilities, to rising above what is in front of us and seeing the road ahead with more clarity.

Over the past number of months, CFNS has taken on that road with a renewed vigor. The work we have been doing in all aspects of our organization has led to greater clarity around what the future holds for the organization and ignited much creativity, big thinking and community engagement.

We have been working on implementing larger scale as well as day-to-day system improvements including work on new toolkits for our fund holders and enhanced onboarding processes for new fund holders joining our CFNS family. We are seeing things coming into clearer focus around how we do the work we do, and it is allowing us to achieve even more while being respectful of our resources and our mission of giving back.

We have added some amazing new funds (see more on this further in the newsletter!) and are seeing an encouraging interest from the communities across the province to learn more about the Community Foundation and the work we do.

We so have so enjoyed been on the road meeting with fund holders as well as our community funds. Lots of road trips ahead to meet with them all but we are listening and learning about how we can better support the impact of their work in their communities.

We have been working on improving our communication with our fund holders including new annual fund statements that are clearer and easier to understand, our enhanced quarterly newsletter as well as more social media and website activity. We have been active in the community attending events and supporting charitable partners and our own fund holders in the work they are doing to better our province. We have been working with the Community Foundation of Canada along with a coalition of community partner organizations to implement the new Investment Readiness Program that will develop and support social enterprise growth

in our province. We have worked with some key corporate partners, including Green Shield of Canada and the Royal Bank, that have generously granted funds to support work with youth and in mental and dental health in our province.

We are finding our groove with a better understanding of the key role that we can play as a community foundation in Nova Scotia. From community engagement, informing and educating, working with fund holders to help them make the greatest difference with their donated dollars and providing opportunities for collaboration of community groups to maximize impact, we know that community connections are an important part of our mandate.

We couldn't be more excited for 2020 and the opportunities that lie ahead. I would like to express deep gratitude to the incredible board of our foundation for its vision. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our team and their passionate desire to support the work that we, and our fund holders, do. And most importantly, I would like to reach out to all our fund holders and community partners and say thank you for your ongoing support and the important gifts you give to this province.

Best wishes to you all for a wonderful holiday and may the year beyond be filled with innovation, growth and impact!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephanie Clark  
Interim CEO, Community Foundation of Nova Scotia