

# Canadian Evaluation Society Nova Scotia Chapter 2021-2022 Annual Report

June, 2022



CANADIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY  
NOVA SCOTIA CHAPTER

## Year in Review

The CES NS Board continues to work in alignment with the National Strategic Plan with the principles and TRC Commitment guiding our work.

The Professional Development Committee worked to offer a number of activities this year, including:

- Monthly Study/Discussion Group on Foundations for Creating Cultures of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Evaluation using the nine self-study modules available for member on the CES National website
- Asking for a Friend YouTube/Blog/Tweet Series monthly
- Restarted the Journal Club in January 2022
- Offered Indigenous Evaluation: Foundations, Relationships, Application, and Situational Responsiveness virtual workshop with Dr. Nicole Bowman
- Planned an Evaluative Thinking Workshop with Dr. Thomas Archibald (hosted in April 2022 in-person)

The CES NS Board continued to build partnerships with Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship Circle, Inspiring Communities, Turtle Island Institute, DBDLI Learning Institute and other Atlantic CES Chapters. We developed draft board policies to help guide our work, and continued to streamline and improve our communication both with members and our broader audience.

Like last year, this annual report is laid out reporting our activities in alignment with the National Strategic Plan.

Thank you very much to all Board members and CES NS Volunteers for their dedication and great work during another trying year.

### 2021-2022 Chapter Board

Dorian Watts CE, President (She/Her)  
Rob Assles, CE Vice President (He/Him)  
Andrealisa Belzer CE, Past President,  
National Rep, Professional Development &  
Partnership Chair (She/Her)  
Clare Levin CE, Treasurer (She/Her)  
Zahra Take, Secretary (She/Her)  
Evan Poncelet CE, IT chair (He/Him)  
Nicole Saulnier CE, Membership Chair (She/Her)  
Scott Christian CE, Member at large (He/Him)

### Professional Development Committee

Wendy Kraglund-Gauthier (She/Her)  
Nicole Saulnier (She/Her)  
Jacqueline Gahagan (They/Them)  
Peter MacIntosh, Journal Club Host (He/Him)  
Greg Lutes (New Brunswick PD Liaison) (He/Him)

### Professional Development-Partnership

Louise Adongo, Inspiring Communities  
Tammy Mudge, Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre  
George Frempong, DBDLI Africentric Learning  
Institute  
Vanessa Nevin, Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation  
Stewardship Circle

Strategic Priorities	Activities organized	Outcomes/ Achievements
<b>Priority 1: Elevate the professionalization of evaluation</b>		
<p><b>Objective 1.1 Broaden the range of CES professional development opportunities and evaluation knowledge that caters to the diverse needs of membership.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We offered a Monthly Journal Club that was restarted in January of 2022. This group is open for free to all those interested in the Atlantic region and we are open to submissions for journal suggestions and to rotate facilitators</li> <li>• Monthly blog post, tweet and YouTube series “Asking for a friend” #AFF. This series addresses those sometimes uncomfortable questions that you might have through conversation with various experts</li> <li>• In-person Evaluative Thinking Workshop with Dr. Thomas Archibald, which was coordinated with CES PEI hosting the same Workshop - April 19, 2022</li> <li>• In-person workshop on music in Indigenous and Africentric knowledge systems, applied to decolonizing evaluation methods and post-normal evaluation, in partnership with Inspiring Communities, Turtle Island Institute, DBDLI Learning Institute, and the Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship Circle, featuring Terrellyn Fearn, Bo Diaw, and Thomas Archibald - April 20, 2022</li> <li>• Planning for a CE applicant Peer Support Group, with compiled supportive guides and resources on Google Drive</li> <li>• Virtual Workshop with Dr. Nicole Bowman on Indigenous Evaluation - Nov 30 &amp; Dec 1, 2021.</li> <li>• Monthly Study/Discussion Group on Foundations for Creating Cultures of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Evaluation, working through the 9-module self-study</li> <li>• Independence, Integrity, Impact: Integrating core workplace values into the work of the OAG - April 28, 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 48 blog posts about evaluation, PD and networking events, sent to 181 email blog subscribers</li> <li>• The website received 5,178 views from 2,820 unique visitors</li> <li>• 5 Journal club sessions, with approximately 53 registrants</li> <li>• Our YouTube channel received 426 views. Seven new videos were posted - Asking for a Friend videos and previous CESNS events. The channel has 23 subscribers</li> <li>• Total of 387 Twitter followers</li> <li>• Evaluative Thinking Workshop had positive feedback from student-level to CES Fellow-level participants, specifically for the “open and engaging environment” to provide “a thorough understanding of evaluative thinking” that “evaluative thinking is a way of doing business” and “evaluation is not a toolkit.”</li> <li>• Strengthened partnerships with Inspiring Communities, Turtle Island Institute, DBDLI Learning Institute, and the Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship Circle</li> <li>• Newly created CE peer support group will work together to support each other to submit their CE applications</li> <li>• 33 registrants: Indigenous Evaluation with Dr. Nicole Bowman. In addition, funds were raised for Peace and Friendship Bursary that offers financial support with CES membership and professional development costs of emerging evaluators who participate in the Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship Circle</li> <li>• 42 registrants: Independence, Integrity, Impact: Integrating core workplace values into the work of the OAG</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 1.2: Increase uptake and maintenance of the CE designation by evaluators and by client-users.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We offer a variety of professional development opportunities which CEs can participate in as part of maintaining their CE.</li> <li>• We also offered conference registration awards with a total value of \$2,000 to facilitate participation in CES 2021 virtual conference (another way for CEs to maintain their credential through access to professional development).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By offering a variety of PD, CEs can access our PD to support their CE maintenance</li> <li>• This is a new group beginning to support each other. The initial peer group is in response to interest from five participants. A broader invitation is being prepared for circulation to other Atlantic Chapter members.</li> </ul>

Strategic Priorities	Activities organized	Outcomes/ Achievements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A CE applicant Peer Support Group has been newly developed based on demand. CES NS support includes compiling supportive guides and resources on Google Drive and administrative/tech support for the group to meet virtually and mentoring support when required</li> </ul>	
<b>Objective 1.4: Promote and uphold CES standards, ethics and values.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of our professional development activities align with the CES standards, ethics and values and promote quality, thoughtful evaluation practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We host and promote high quality professional development that supports the CES standards and guiding principles</li> </ul>
<b>Priority 2: Attract, retain and engage members</b>		
<b>Objective 2.1: Foster the growth of a diverse membership.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to hold funds dedicated for use by Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship Circle</li> <li>• Ubuntu Bursary founded to offer financial support with CESNS membership and professional development costs of emerging evaluators of African Descent in Nova Scotia</li> <li>• February Black History Month blog post and interview with George Maringapasi on epistemological justice</li> <li>• CESNS Promotion of Recorded C2021 Anti-Racism workshop with Amanuel Melles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in partnership with key organizations to support broadening the membership</li> <li>• Ubuntu Bursary was recently created and is underdevelopment at this time with guidance from DBDLI Director of Research and Evaluation</li> <li>• Providing financial support for membership fees to reduce barriers</li> <li>• Strong membership (60 members)</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 2.2: Provide exceptional and valued member service that is responsive to diverse member needs and takes into consideration organizational sustainability.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide financial support to members and limited non-members for conference participation</li> <li>• Provide a variety of professional development opportunities to support varied interest areas, time commitments, and ways of learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offered a total of \$2,000 in financial support to help 5 individuals attend the CES 2021 virtual conference</li> <li>• Provide a range of PD opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 2.3: Ensure meaningful engagement and connection with and among members through an integrated communication strategy.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blog posts about our ongoing activities/PD, employment opportunities and other chapter or non-CES PD activities</li> <li>• Seasonal direct to member emails highlighting the work and encouraging members to sign up for the blog and follow on twitter to ensure they receive updates</li> <li>• Only key updates are sent by direct email to members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 48 blog posts about evaluation, PD and networking events, sent to 181 email blog subscribers</li> <li>• The website received 5,178 views from 2,820 unique visitors</li> <li>• Total of 387 Twitter followers</li> <li>• By using our blog and twitter, updates are publicly available but reduce volunteer burden and overwhelming inboxes by not also direct emailing all posts.</li> </ul>

Strategic Priorities	Activities organized	Outcomes/ Achievements
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide clear and streamlined communication through the blog and twitter, limiting additional direct email</li> </ul>
<b>Priority 3: Advocate for evaluation among evaluation users</b>		
<b>Objective 3.1: Promote the value of evaluation directly, in support of Chapters, in Canada and worldwide.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PD opportunities: monthly journal club, Asking for a Friend series, online and in-person workshops, CE applicant Peer Support Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PD opportunities promoted and exemplified the value of evaluation and were attended by people from various sectors</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 3.3: Support the transformation of the practice through the implementation and promotion of evaluation-specific reconciliation activities.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual Workshop with Dr. Nicole Bowman on Indigenous Evaluation, raised funds for Peace and Friendship Bursary that offers financial support with CES membership and professional development costs of young and emerging evaluators who participate in the Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship Circle.</li> <li>• In-person workshop on music in Indigenous and Africentric knowledge systems, applied to decolonizing evaluation methods and post-normal evaluation, in partnership with Inspiring Communities, Turtle Island Institute, DBDLI Learning Institute, and the Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship Circle, featuring Terrellyn Fearn, Bo Diaw, and Thomas Archibald.</li> <li>• June Indigenous History Month blog post with Vanessa Nevin</li> <li>• Youtube and blog on the concept of First Voice, applied to advancing TRC in evaluation</li> <li>• All CES NS board meetings begin with a land acknowledgement where board members rotate providing the land acknowledgement and what it means for them and our work</li> <li>• CES NS Past President offered land acknowledgement at AEA2021 conference opening</li> <li>• CESNS Past President contributed to AEA365 blogs on data sovereignty and Indigenous democracy</li> <li>• CES NS Past President supported C2021 and C2022 Active Reconciliation planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated professional development on the topic of Indigenous evaluation for Indigenous evaluators and to support non-Indigenous evaluators to understand and create supportive spaces for Indigenous-led evaluation</li> <li>• Support non-Indigenous evaluators to increase their knowledge and understanding of the importance of First Voice</li> <li>• A safe space for CES NS Board members to practice doing land acknowledgements in a way that connects the acknowledgement to the work</li> </ul>

## Guiding Principles

The 2019-2024 CES Strategic Plan is driven by three guiding principles that emerged from the consultations that took place as part of the strategic planning process, as well as our ongoing work:

- a. **Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness:** We support an inclusive organization where a diversity of members thrive and evaluation practice grows in this spirit, through engagement, transparency and fairness. Embedding diversity within the CES includes consideration of people’s social identities, world views, ideas and ways of working, as well as institutional and enabling environments.
- b. **Sustainability:** We take a leader role in sustainability, building opportunities to align work in diverse sectors in support of sustainability, and incorporating increasingly sustainable practices as an organization.
- c. **Seamless Member Experience:** We provide a seamless service for members, including activities such as membership management and engagement, events, virtual collaboration, professional learning, and communication through coordinated technical systems.

This section reports the CES NS work guided by the principles.

Guiding Principles	Activities organized	Outcomes/ Achievements
<p><b>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion</b> →</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Study/Discussion Group on Foundations for Creating Cultures of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Evaluation, working through the 9-module self-study.</li> <li>• Ubuntu Bursary founded to offer financial support with CESNS membership and professional development costs of NS-based emerging evaluators who are Black or People of African Descent.</li> <li>• February Black History Month blog post and interview with George Maringapasi on epistemological justice.</li> <li>• CESNS Promotion of Recorded C2021 Anti-Racism workshop with Amanuel Melles.</li> <li>• Virtual Workshop with Dr. Nicole Bowman on Indigenous Evaluation, raised funds for Peace and Friendship Bursary that offers financial support with CES membership and professional development costs of young and emerging evaluators who participate in the Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship Circle.</li> <li>• In-person workshop on music in Indigenous and Africentric knowledge systems, applied to decolonizing evaluation methods and post-normal evaluation, in partnership with Inspiring Communities, Turtle Island Institute, DBDLI Learning Institute, and the Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 participants signed up for these sessions, while attendance can vary, there is good discussion and engagement during the sessions</li> <li>• Ubuntu Bursary was recently created and is underdevelopment at this time with guidance from DBDLI Director of Research and Evaluation.</li> <li>• 107 views on George Maringapasi #evalAFF video</li> <li>• Through collaboration partners, CES NS is working to broaden membership by engaging those who are not currently engaged, and supporting membership fees where cost may be a barrier to participation</li> <li>• 33 registrants: Indigenous Evaluation with Dr. Nicole Bowman. In addition, funds were raised for Peace and Friendship Bursary that offers financial support with CES membership and professional development costs of emerging evaluators who participate in the Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship Circle</li> <li>• Evaluative Thinking Workshop had positive feedback from student-level to CES Fellow-level participants, specifically for the “open and engaging environment” to provide “a thorough understanding of evaluative thinking” that “evaluative thinking is a way of doing business” and “evaluation is not a toolkit.”</li> </ul>

	<p>Circle, featuring Terrellyn Fearn, Bo Diaw, and Thomas Archibald.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2021 Indigenous History Month blog post with Vanessa Nevin</li> <li>• Youtube and blog on the concept of First Voice, applied to advancing TRC in evaluation</li> <li>• All CES NS board meetings begin with a land acknowledgement where board members rotate providing the land acknowledgement and what it means for them and our work</li> <li>• CESNS Past President offered land acknowledgement at AEA2021 conference opening</li> <li>• CESNS Past President contributed to AEA365 blogs on data sovereignty and Indigenous democracy</li> <li>• CESNS Past President supported C2021 and C2022 Active Reconciliation planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened partnerships with Inspiring Communities, Turtle Island Institute, DBDLI Learning Institute, and the Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship Circle</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sustainability</b> →</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most professional development was remote and the two in-person events implemented zero-waste principles for refreshments and information shared.</li> <li>• In person workshops with Thomas Archibald were coordinated with PEI for travel efficiency</li> <li>• The CES NS Board meets virtually and uses the google shared drive to house documents and support efficient record keeping</li> <li>• In-person workshops aim for zero waste: request participants to bring travel mugs and reusable water bottles; avoid printing and single use plastic in catering</li> <li>• Past President supported C2021 sustainability efforts and advised C2022 to adapt greening rubric developed for C2019 and since then, used the CES VIA Rail discount and wrote a promotional piece on it.</li> <li>• December Youtube and blog on integrating sustainability into evaluation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Majority of PD and board work was virtual</li> <li>• Two in-person events aimed to be zero-waste, including scheduling travel/dates for efficiency and coordination</li> <li>• Sustainability is an ongoing consideration in all of CES NS work</li> <li>• Virtual meetings as well as reduced paper documentation are more sustainable approaches</li> <li>• Continually working to minimize the environmental footprint of our CES NS operational activity</li> <li>• CES NS board members work to support sustainability and regenerative ways of thinking</li> </ul>
<p><b>Seamless Member Experience</b> →</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Streamlined communication through blog and Twitter</li> <li>• Easy virtual registration for events using EventBrite and Zoom</li> <li>• Send out seasonal direct to member newsletter with updates on past and upcoming activities and encouraging all to sign up to the blog for updates</li> <li>• Streamlined communication through blog and Twitter</li> <li>• Easy virtual registration for events using EventBrite and Zoom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blog subscribers (which includes most members) receive one email when a new blog post is made to notify of the new post</li> <li>• Aim for regular, but not overwhelming amount of communication to blog subscribers and twitter through thoughtful organization of posts</li> </ul>

## Financial Report

### 2021-22 Treasurer's Report – Prepared by Clare Levin

CES NS started and ended the 2021-2022 fiscal year in a very strong financial position as a result of remaining revenues earned hosting the national conference in 2019. In 2021-22 CES NS was able to conduct more professional development and other activities, resulting in increased revenues over the previous year (\$8,600.96 in 2021/22 compared to \$2,296.10 in 2020/21). A portion of the Chapter's net revenues this year have been used to create two bursary funds, the Peace and Friendship bursary and the Ubuntu bursary. These bursaries are part of CES-NS's commitment to reconciliation and anti-racism work and will be used to support emerging and established Indigenous and African Nova Scotian/Black individuals with costs related to participation in evaluation-related work (e.g., CES membership, professional development). The Atlantic Indigenous Evaluation Stewardship Circle and the Delmore Buddy Day Learning Institute provide direction on use of these funds.

The main sources of expenses were for conference registration awards to support members in attending the CES 2021 virtual conference, as well as for professional development. Annual expenses remained quite low in 2021/22.

CES NS remains well positioned to continue supporting our members in the coming year. The board expects to conduct more professional development activities in 2022/23, and has increased the amount we allocate to support participation in CES 2022, the first in person CES conference in 3 years. We also anticipate continuing to expand the funds available through the Peace and Friendship bursary and the Ubuntu bursary in support of reconciliation and anti-racism work.

**CES-NS Chapter  
2021-22 Financial Statement**

April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022

	<u>Current Year 2021-22</u>	<u>Previous Year 2020-2021</u>
<b>Opening Balance (April 1)</b>	<b>\$31,281.50</b>	<b>\$33,904.50</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
PD Events	\$6,088.22	\$0.00
CES Membership Fee Share/Chapter Support	\$2,448.05	\$2,235.20
Interest earned	\$0.34	\$0.00
Bank Account Rebates	\$64.35	\$60.90
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$8,600.96</b>	<b>\$2,296.10</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative support	\$231.25	\$1,506.25
Bank Fees	\$77.85	\$88.40
Board events, member support & travel	\$305.00	\$549.16
Director liability insurance	\$435.05	\$378.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$500.00
National conference	\$1,859.25	\$589.00
PD Events	\$2,500.00	\$750.00
PO Box	\$0.00	\$276.00
Technology & software	\$360.94	\$282.29
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,769.34</b>	<b>\$4,919.10</b>
<b>Closing Balance (March 31)</b>	<b>\$34,113.12</b>	<b>\$31,281.50</b>