



Lauren

Mary

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Dartmouth Adult Services Centre (DASC) is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. We recognize the Treaties of Peace and Friendship, and we are committed to upholding their principles in our work. DASC strives to foster respectful relationships with the land and its original peoples, guiding our programs and policies with an awareness of Indigenous rights and experiences.

CONTENTS

Introduction	2
E.D. & Chair Report	3
Program Highlights	5
Fundraising	9
Finance report	12
Business & Production	15
Milestones	17



Meet CHRIS: from our Community Employment team

Our Community Employment team continues to make a positive impact through meaningful work in the community. Chris is part of our Home Services team and helps maintain lawns throughout Dartmouth, taking pride in keeping outdoor spaces looking their best. Keep up the amazing work, Chris!

ABOUT US

Dartmouth Adult Services Centre (DASC) has been serving the Dartmouth community for 60 years! We are a non-profit organization and business centre which serves individuals with intellectual disabilities, dual diagnosis, and/or fragile health and complex needs. We provide a variety of programs to suit each individual, including onsite paid employment, enrichment, community employment, life enhancement, active lifestyles, recreation and leisure, youth, and individual support programs.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

- Aligning our priorities with The Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy
- Preparing our organization to become a destination of choice for persons with disabilities and their individualized funding
- Ensuring that participants have choice and control over their DASC experience
- Ensuring that DASC employees help inform the future direction of DASC
- Developing a new strategic plan for DASC with an emphasis on diversifying our revenue, promoting our work to persons with disabilities and the wider community, making fuller use of our physical space, and service excellence
- Installing a health and wellness studio at our Dorey Avenue location
- Raising more funds to support our mission today and tomorrow

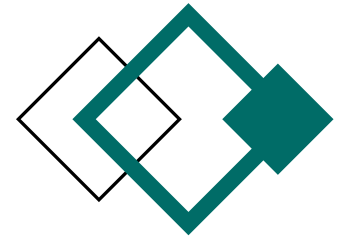
MISSION

We empower individuals with intellectual disabilities to become self-advocates through programs and employment opportunities.

VISION

We envision a barrier-free community for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Congratulations and thank you to everyone who chose DASC as a space to work, connect, and participate in their community last year. 2025-26 marked a year of transition, advocacy, and program development for DASC as we continue to anticipate and respond to community needs and the priorities of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy. 2026 marks 60 years of our organization providing vital services for persons with intellectual disabilities!

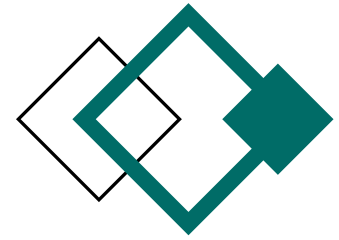
The Remedy continues to influence our planning and direction. Last year, the Province of Nova Scotia approved DASC to be an individualized funding service provider. This means that once persons with disabilities receive their individualized funding, they'll be able to spend it on activities hosted by DASC. We have a lot of work to do to prepare our organization for this new world, but we are excited by the prospect of revitalizing our services and supporting the aspirations of the Remedy and the people we serve.

Last winter, the Province announced a proposed budget cut which would have impaired our ability to fully deliver our services. Many of you within the community and the DASC family advocated on our behalf, and we remain deeply appreciative and thankful for your voices. We also appreciate and thank the Province for listening to our concerns, and for reversing its planned budget reduction. We enjoy an excellent relationship with the Nova Scotia Department of Opportunities and Social Development, and the DOSD is working hard to help agencies like DASC shift from a pre-Remedy to Remedy reality. We look forward to deepening our collaboration with the Province.

Last year DASC served 211 people through our various programs and activities: community employment, home services, onsite social enterprise, enrichment, life enhancement, recreation, active lifestyles, individual support, and youth activities. We welcomed nine new people into our programs. As of March 31st, DASC's program waitlist was 30 people. It remains a priority of ours to reduce this list so people can be included in community, and we are hopeful the Remedy can help everyone find the community supports that meet their abilities and aspirations.

The leadership and choices of our participants led us into new activities at DASC last year: more opportunities to socialize and have fun (our evening dances and Friday night arts expression classes), new business contracts to try (working with new customers such as Pet on Vacation), and continued fundraising success (Walkathon, LaughAbility, and bingo!) Our participants were instrumental in helping DASC raise \$150,000 so we would purchase an accessible cargo van for community outings!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Our dedicated and amazing staff team created more community connections for DASC participants last year: organizing outings to the Zatzman Sportsplex, participating in the Pride Parade, volunteering at North Grove, creating work experiences with local businesses, and developing new made-at-DASC holiday products for local markets. We are grateful for the innovation, passion, and professionalism of our employees.

Led by our participants, DASC hosted the Halifax Chamber of Commerce membership for an after-hours networking event last spring. We were honoured and thrilled to be named a finalist for the Chamber's not-for-profit Business of the Year.

We thank all of our partners, funders, customers, donors, employees, and volunteers for their help and time in support of DASC. And we thank the people who choose DASC as their hub for community inclusion.

Sincerely,

Henk van Leeuwen

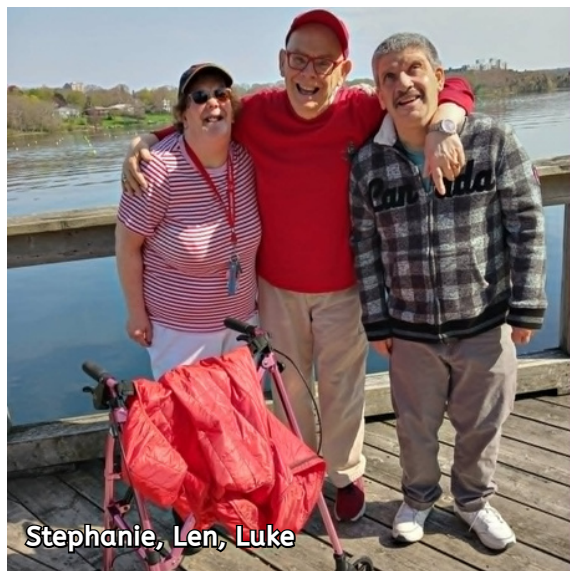
Executive Director, DASC

Wayne Forster

Board Chair, DASC



Brett



Stephanie, Len, Luke



Ross



Marcedes & Danny

DASC AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



THE YEAR BY NUMBERS

Last year we served 211 persons with intellectual disabilities. Our team supported participants in our onsite paid employment, community employment, enrichment, life enhancement, active lifestyles, recreation and leisure, individual support, and youth programs. As of March 31st, 2026, 30 people were on the waitlist for DASC's activities, a slight drop from 33 people waiting for service in 2024-25, and from 37 in 2023-24.

DASC at Halifax Pride

DASC was proud to once again participate in the Halifax Pride Parade this year! Participants, families, staff, and supporters came together to celebrate inclusion, diversity, and belonging while representing DASC in the community. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the day so special.



After hours at DASC!

Our evening dances continued to be a big hit! And so was the introduction of our Friday night Expressions Therapeutic Art Group.

DASC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)

Life Enhancement

16 people were involved in Life Enhancement last year. Visits from Siren, Halifax Regional Fire's therapy dog, were extremely popular! The team collaborated with individual support to host a well-attended community Tea Party, and we thank friends, families, and caregivers for coming! The Life Enhancement crew gave back to community, volunteering for Adsum House by shopping for school supplies for families, and participating in a toy campaign at Christmas.



Evan, Denton, Julie and Katee volunteering for Adsum House

Youth Program

We hosted 11 youth last year; youth were active with volunteering (supporting our friends at Better Together with the Remembrance Day poppy campaign), exploring and learning new life skills and activities such as internet safety, canteen skills, sensory shopping, drum fit, music class, and health and mental wellness.



Makenah, Ethan and Gabriel enjoying lunch together

Recreation and Leisure Club, Active Lifestyles Club, Individualized Support, Complex Needs and Fragile Health

25 people took part in our offsite and individualized support programs. Volunteering with North Grove, Cole Harbour Community Fridge, and the SPCA remains very popular. Other highlights from the year included skating at the Oval, bowling, taking the ferry in Halifax Harbour, walking on local trails, swimming, and visiting beaches, parks, and Halifax International Airport!



Mason & Rachel skating at the Oval

DASC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)



Sam and Tracy are proud members of the MJM Energy team

Community Employment

We supported 65 people in our community employment last year. We helped participants find work in community, supported them with pre-employment training, and our job coaches visited them at their work to check in on their success. We appreciate the leadership of businesses who hire DASC participants and model inclusive employment. Our Home Services team kept busy cutting grass and doing yardwork for seniors, and enjoyed hosting seniors for regular socials!

Social Enterprise and Enrichment activities, Dorey Avenue

88 people were involved in our social enterprise and enrichment activities! Participants can choose to work when contract work is available, or, they can also participate in non-employment activities within our core areas of Health and Wellness, Life Skills, Learning and Education, and Creative Arts. Thank you to our staff team and to our participants for continuing to design and create engaging and creative activities! We appreciate everyone's innovation and adaptability.

When participants weren't working, they were busy having fun and engaging in a diverse range of indoor and outdoor activities! Garden Club, volunteering, crafts, and cooking were all hugely popular!



Denis packing for Killam



Denis

Aaron testing cords for Eastlink



Aaron

Scott working on Pet on Vacation



Scott

Derek packing a button order

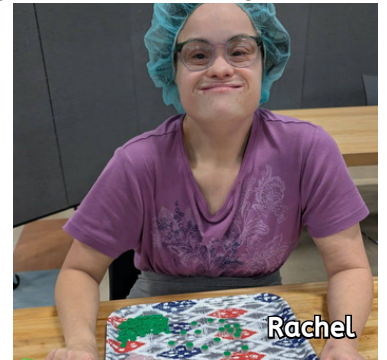


Derek

Chad & Rachel working on Precision BioLogic



Chad



Rachel

Meghan working on mailings



Meghan

Katie packing Neocon



Katie



Makenah packing for Pet on Vacation



Glenda assembling for Maritime Paper

PRODUCTION CONTRACTS

DASC AND THE SERVICE EVOLUTION FUND

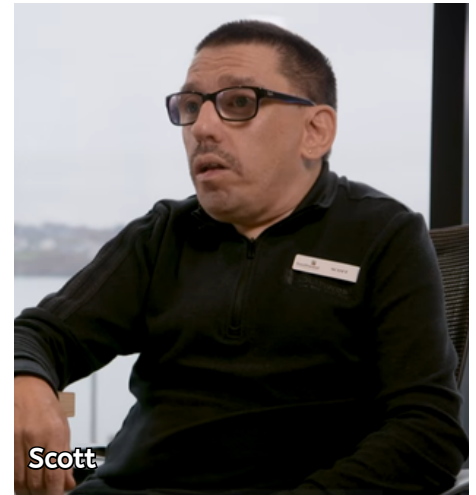
DASC is grateful for receiving Service Evolution Fund grants from the Province. The fund is designed to help organizations evolve and align with the aims of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy in mind.

In 2025-26, DASC used the fund for two projects. We produced three videos promoting our services, using first voice testimonials to tell our stories. These videos can all be found at www.dasc-ns.ca and on our Youtube channel, and we are grateful to DASC participants (like Catherine and Scott, pictured below) for sharing their DASC experiences onscreen!

We also accessed the fund to engage consultant Corrie Melanson of Sea Change CoLab to replace our Admissions Policy with a new, inclusive Registration and Participation policy. We thank our program participants for their involvement in this policy change, and sharing what an inclusive, plain language, and participant-led DASC program registration could look like in an individualized funding world.



Catherine



Scott

DIRECTIONS COUNCIL CONFERENCE

DASC attended the Directions Council Conference in October, where professionals from across the province came together to connect, collaborate, and shape what's next for our sector.

We're proud of Lauren Hearn, who served as a panellist and shared insights about her experiences at DASC and the impact of our programs.



Lauren

LAUGHABILITY



We thank everyone who supported and came to our annual LaughAbility event in February! We raised \$67,000 in support of DASC programs. We are deeply appreciative of the Presenting Sponsorship of Stevens Group, and we thank all of our event sponsors, partners, and comedians for making this LaughAbility event so special.



This year's event featured headliner Ryan Niemiller, a finalist from America's Got Talent, and comedian Joze Piranian. Thank you Emma Convey of CTV for being our fabulous emcee!



Chelsea, Shauna, Denton, April



Myrna, Mark, Mo, Saul



Mary Beth & Carl

RIBFEST

We were honoured to once again be supported by the Rotary Club of Halifax Harbour through proceeds from their annual Ribfest event on the Dartmouth waterfront. Their generous contribution of \$2,390 supported DASC programs and opportunities for the individuals we serve. Thank you to the Rotary Club, event organizers, volunteers, and everyone who attended Ribfest and helped make this contribution possible.



Nicole & Alex



Henk & Alex (from Rotary Club)



Catherine

WALKATHON

DASC's 2025 Walk 'n' Roll-a-thon was a wonderful success, raising \$19,000 for DASC programs and services. Participants, families, staff, volunteers, and community supporters came together for a day of fun, fitness, and fundraising. One of the highlights of the event was the popular pie-in-the-face challenge, which brought lots of laughter! Thank you to everyone who walked, rolled, donated, volunteered, and fundraised to help make this event possible.



Bryden, Mary & Johnathan



Saul

NEW WHEELS FOR DASC!

Last fall DASC took ownership of a brand new, accessible cargo van! This means we can take more people on more community outings!

The new Dodge Ram Promaster cargo van is specifically modified for wheelchair entry, and it has a floor track and restraint system needed to safely transport participants with disabilities. It's made an immediate impact on our programming, and we can take as many as 6 passengers at a time on trips.

Our new van fundraising campaign of \$150,000 was led by DASC participants through their Walkathon fundraising! Well done, team. We also thank funders such as The Windsor Foundation, River Philip Foundation, several Halifax city councillors, the Province of Nova Scotia Accessibility grant program, Doane Grant Thornton Foundation, and East Coast Credit Union. We appreciate so many community partners contributing to community inclusion.



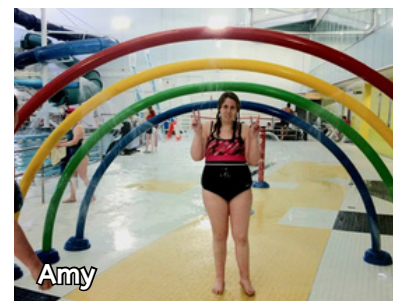
Meaghen, April & Julie



Denton, Julie, Meaghen & Evan

DASC'S FIRST ANNUAL HEALTH & WELLNESS DAY

DASC hosted our first annual Health & Wellness Day at Zatzman Sportsplex this year. Participants enjoyed a fun-filled day of fitness, recreation, and social connection, thanks to support from ParticipACTION.



Amy

FINANCE REPORT 2025/2026

Year Ended March 31, 2026

Finance Committee Membership

Veronica Hunt	Board Treasurer
Janissa Browne	Director of the Board
Andrea Tierney	Finance & Administration Manager
Henk van Leeuwen	Executive Director

(operations/unrestricted fund)

Revenue	2026	2025	2024
Operating Grants	2,956,000	2,984,000	2,945,000
Earned Revenue	1,375,000	1,202,000	1,223,000
Fundraising	260,000	262,000	180,000
	4,591,000	4,448,000	4,348,000
Expenses	2026	2025	2024
Human Resources	3,327,000	3,266,000	3,290,000
Program	386,000	349,000	391,000
Facility	417,000	381,000	439,000
Administration (excl. Amort.)	176,000	156,000	152,000
	4,306,000	4,152,000	4,272,000
Surplus (Deficit)	285,000	296,000	76,000
Margin	6.2%	6.7%	1.7%
Revenue Growth	2026	2025	2024
Operating Grants	-0.9%	1.3%	7.6%
Earned Revenue	14.4%	-1.7%	26.7%
Fundraising	-0.8%	45.6%	-23.7%
Expense Growth	3.7%	-2.8%	11.9%

FINANCE REPORT (CONT'D)

Highlights

- We continue to see positive trends in earned revenue, including boardroom rentals and other production contract revenues.
- Contract revenue increased approximately \$62,000 over the prior year – nearly a 47% increase! With more contracts, our team has been able to provide more paid employment opportunities at DASC. We want to thank all of our contract customers for their ongoing support and everyone who works on those contracts for their exceptional work keeping our customers happy and coming back!
- With the help of many of our customers, participants, and family members, DASC's fundraising continues to be strong and a key element of our go-forward financial strategy. With two key events putting the “fun” in fundraisers, along with other smaller events, activities and grants, DASC had a strong year with over \$260,000 in fundraising revenue.

Of note:

- Walkathon – \$19,000
- Laughability – \$67,000
- We ended the year with an operating surplus of just over \$285,000 – primarily driven by strong expense management, continued fundraising efforts, and the continued core grant contributions from the Province of Nova Scotia.



FINANCE REPORT 2024/2025

	2026	2025	2024
Operating Cash Flow	312,000	132,000	(52,000)
Less: Fundraising & Donations	260,000	262,000	180,000
Net Operating Cash Flow	52,000	(130,000)	(232,000)
Capital Expenditures	157,000	7,000	31,000
Net increases (decreases) in unrestricted cash flow	147,000	125,000	(56,000)
Cash and Term Deposits			
Unrestricted	460,000	313,000	187,000

Highlights (Cont'd)

- We ended the year with approximately \$460,000 in cash and \$293,000 in a guaranteed investment certificate. We are managing cash well, and making sure we have resources to help support the stability of DASC.

Looking forward, we continue to focus on aligning with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Remedy, finding new ways to bring choice to DASC, and preparing for the Province's rollout of its individualized funding model. DASC must focus on growing and diversifying our funding streams, including fundraising and earned revenue, while continuing to invest in our building and vehicles – all of which are critical to being able to provide a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for everyone.

I would like to thank the entire management team at DASC, staff, and all of our program participants for their effort this year and I look forward to our continued success in the future.

On behalf of the Finance committee,
Veronica Hunt, CPA, CA
Treasurer



Emma

Lezlie

DASC AND THE HALIFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We were honoured to be selected as a finalist for the Halifax Chamber of Commerce Not-for-Profit Business of the Year as part of the Chamber's Business Awards! This was a result of everyone's collective effort at DASC: staff, participants, business customers, volunteers, and community partners. Thank you! We had a blast at the awards gala, and congratulations to winning organization Feed Nova Scotia!

We had fun partnering with and hosting the Chamber's Business After Hours event last spring! Thank you to all of the Chamber members and business leaders and owners who came to network and learn about our social enterprise.

And we thank the Chamber for including us as a business vendor at its Wonder Woman conference last June. Thank you Mary Beth for producing and selling buttons for DASC!



Mary Beth



Scott

NEW DASC-MADE PRODUCTS

Participants helped launch several new DASC-made products, including candles, soaps, and greeting cards. Participants were involved in every step of the process, from creating and packaging products to preparing them for sale.



Cheyenne



Ashley



BUSINESS AND PRODUCTION

Our Social Enterprise provides our program participants with the opportunity to work on a variety of business contracts and develop employment skills. Revenue we earn from these contracts enables us to host our programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities and pay participants for their work.

We sincerely thank all of our customers who continued to do business with us, and we also thank all our new customers who joined us and used our services!

Thank you to our Customers:



PARTICIPANT MILESTONES

10 Years of Service

Cheyenne Arbour
Gabrielle Langlois
Chelsea Leroy
Andrew MacNaughton
Sean Morris
Scott Pearson
Leighanne Porter-Salvaterra
Brandon Provo

15 Years of Service

Chris Carlsen
Chad MacDonald
Mark Nielsen

30 Years of Service

Matthew McNeill

35 Years of Service

Krista Power

40 Years

Lynn Hetherington

45 Years

John Condran
Peter White
Brian Wilson

Retirement

Velvet McPhee
Sandra Myler
Allan Pearce
Eddie Myra
Gorden Riley

STAFF MILESTONES

5 Years of Service

Abbie MacDonald
Bethany Penney
Jennifer Fraser-Pruneau
Brittany Tudball
Emily Landry

10 Years of Service

Jake Rekunyk

20 Years of Service

Melissa Childs

Retirement

Myrna Peters
Paul Whyte





Juanite, Susan, Evan, Emma, Emily, Denton, Krista, Mark

**We acknowledge and thank the Nova Scotia
Department of Opportunities and Social Development
for its continued support and partnership.**





Sandra