

# LAW FOUNDATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

## Annual Report, 2001-2002

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The Law Foundation of Nova Scotia was created by an amendment to the Barristers and Solicitors Act in 1976. The objects of the Foundation are “to establish and maintain a fund to be used for the examination, research, revision and reform of and public access to the law, legal education, the administration of justice in the Province and other purposes incidental or conducive to or consequential upon the attainment of any such objects.” The fund is derived from the interest on lawyers’ general trust accounts, which is paid by the banks and trust companies to the Foundation.

The members of the Board of Governors of the Law Foundation in 2001-02 were:

Appointed by the Governor in Council:

Jonathan F.L. Davies (expires March 29, 2004)  
Barbara Feeney (expired February 2, 2002)  
Christine A. McCulloch, Q.C. (expires September 28, 2004)

Appointed by the Council of the Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society:

Peter Green, Q.C. (expires August 31, 2003)  
John S. McFarlane, Q.C. (expires August 31, 2002)  
Senator Donald H. Oliver, Q.C. (expires August 31, 2003)  
Dr. Esmeralda Thornhill (expires August 31, 2002)

Chair, appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Council of the Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society:

John S. McFarlane, Q.C. (Appointment as Chair expires August 31, 2002)

The Board of Governors welcomed Kerry Oliver to the position of Executive Director on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

The prime rate of interest dropped from 6.75% to 3.75% between March 2001 and January 2002. The decline in the interest rate had a significant impact on the Law Foundation’s annual revenue. Income from interest on lawyers’ trust accounts for 2001-2002 was \$1,159,925 – down from \$1,935,955 in 2000-2001.

Despite the drop in revenue, the Law Foundation had sufficient cash in hand to fund most current grants. The Foundation discontinued funding to one grantee, but maintained core funding to all other long-time grantees, and awarded one new core-funding grant. It also awarded three new project grants.

The Foundation established a reserve fund in 1986 to maintain grants in periods of low interest rates when current income is insufficient to fund regular grants. Most other Canadian law foundations hold similar reserves. The reserve is managed by an investment management firm, and as of March 31, 2002, it amounted to \$2,000,075.

Periods of low interest rates present the Board of Governors with the challenge of maintaining core grants while at the same time protecting the Foundation's financial position. The 40% drop in revenue during 2001-2002 and the anticipation of reduced revenue in 2002-2003 will be reflected in the Foundation's grants budget for 2003-2004. The Foundation has given one year's notice to a number of worthy organizations that their funding will be discontinued for the year commencing April 2003. The Board will also consider whether to make further adjustments in grant levels and whether to draw upon the reserve fund to maintain certain grants.

GRANTS APPROVED IN 2001-2002

Avalon Sexual Assault Centre

Sexual Assault Legal Education Training: Improving the Service Providers Response to Survivors Of Sexual Violence	\$ 68,071.00
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Cape Breton Transition House

Preventive Education Date Abuse & Spousal Assault	47,000.00
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Community Justice Society

Black Education Caseworker	39,700.00
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Coverdale Courtwork Services

Core funding	51,500.00
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Dalhousie Law School

Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq Programme – Core funding	100,000.00
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Elizabeth Fry Mainland

Core funding	64,000.00
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<u>Elizabeth Fry Cape Breton</u>		
Core funding and Stoplifting program	64,420.00	
<u>Halifax Refugee Clinic Association</u>		
Core funding	95,000.00	
<u>John Howard Society of Nova Scotia</u>		
Criminal justice education Cape Breton	45,000.00	
<u>Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia</u>		
Core funding	95,000.00	
<u>Nova Scotia Barristers' Society</u>		
Equity Officer Programme	30,000.00	
<u>Nova Scotia Court of Appeal</u>		
Court of Appeal Law Clerk 2001-2002 (additional)	258.06	
Court of Appeal Law Clerk 2002-2003	up to 35,000.00	
<u>Reach Nova Scotia Association</u>		
Speaker's Corner Nova Scotia: Education, Information and Access to Justice	33,046.00	
<u>Safe House for Girls Society</u>		
Justice Education for Girls	86,870.00	
<u>Society of Deaf &amp; Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians</u>		
Access Project-The Legal System	5,000.00	
<u>Tearmann Society for Battered Women &amp; Pictou County Opportunities for Men (New Leaf)</u>		
Public Education on the Issue of Violence Against Women	25,609.00	
<u>Valley Restorative Justice</u>		
Educational Workshop Development	12,000.00	
<u>Youth Gardens</u>		
Youth Community Garden Project	<u>6,510.00</u>	
		\$903,984.06
<u>YEAR TWO OF THREE-YEAR GRANTS</u> (not appearing in the above list)		
<u>Dalhousie Law School</u>		
Information Technology Law Institute		

(\$60,000 per year for 3 years)	60,000.00	
<u>Dalhousie Legal Aid Service</u>		
Core funding		
(\$120,000 per year for 3 years)	120,000.00	
<u>Law Reform Commission of Nova Scotia</u>		
Core funding		
(\$250,000 per year for 3 years)	<u>250,000.00</u>	
		\$430,000.00
 <u>GRANTS REVOKED</u>		
<u>Cape Breton Transition House</u>		
Purchase of computer	2,332.33	
<u>Nova Scotia Court of Appeal</u>		
Law Clerk (2000-2001)	765.24	

Respectfully submitted,

John S. McFarlane, Q.C.