

LAW FOUNDATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Annual Report, 2000-2001

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 2000-01 were:

Appointed by the Governor in Council:

Jonathan F.L. Davies (expires March 29, 2002)
Barbara Feeney (expires February 2, 2002)
Christine A. McCulloch, Q.C. (expires September 28, 2002)
Robert L. Mellish (expired February 14, 2001)
Goldie Trager (expired February 28, 2001)

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

Peter Green, Q.C. (expires August 31, 2001)
John S. McFarlane, Q.C. (expires August 31, 2002)
Melinda MacLean, Q.C. (expired August 31, 2000)
Senator Donald H. Oliver, Q.C. (expires August 31, 2001)
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 March 1, 2002)

The Law Foundation benefited from a strong economy and favourable interest rates in 2000-2001. The Law Foundation’s income from interest on lawyers’ trust accounts for 2000-2001 was \$1,935,955. Interest income in 1999-2000 was \$1,425,369.

The Law Foundation maintained or increased core funding to long-time grantees and awarded five new project grants and three, 3-year grants. In honour of the millennium, the Foundation solicited applications for special funding for one-time projects fulfilling the mandate of the Law Foundation. The Foundation sought projects that would be innovative, or make a significant contribution to the operation of the applicant organization or be of enduring benefit to the community. Approval was granted to four projects. The Law Foundation was pleased to fund innovative projects that assisted in the administration of justice in the province or provided access to legal information and services by disadvantaged members of society.

The Law Foundation of Nova Scotia set up a reserve fund in 1986 to maintain grants in periods of low interest rates when current income is insufficient to fund regular grants. Similar reserves are held by almost all Canadian law foundations. Since March 1998 the reserve has been managed by an investment management firm. As of March 31, 2001 the reserve amounted to \$1,686,716. This fund was drawn upon several years ago when interest rates dropped so that certain core grants could be maintained.

The prime interest rate has continued to decline in the winter and spring of 2001. While interest rates are dropping, the Law Foundation has sufficient cash in hand to fund all current grants. We look forward to providing funding for meaningful projects and organizations within the mandate of the Foundation. *

GRANTS APPROVED IN 2000-2001

Avalon Sexual Assault Centre

Sexual Assault Legal Education Training: Improving the Service Providers Response to Survivors Of Sexual Violence	\$ 65,220.00
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Canadian Bar Association

Tort Liability and Compensation Issues in Canada	8,000.00
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Cape Breton Transition House

Computer purchase	3,000.00
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Christian Council for Reconciliation-Prison Ministry

St. Luke's Renewal Centre – A Pioneering Model for the Reintegration of the Long term Offender into the Community	74,000.00
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Coverdale Courtwork Services

Core funding	45,000.00
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<u>Dalhousie Law School</u>	
Millennium Graduate Fellowship	20,000.00
Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq Programme	
– Emergency funding	60,000.00
Indigenous Blacks & Mi'kmaq Programme	
– Core funding	100,000.00
 <u>Dalhousie Legal Aid Service</u>	
Emergency funding	70,000.00
Emergency funding	22,800.00
 <u>Elizabeth Fry Mainland</u>	
Core funding	64,000.00
Handbook – Women in Conflict with the Law	7,100.00
 <u>Elizabeth Fry Cape Breton</u>	
Core funding and Stoplifting program	64,420.00
Satellite Apartment Model	9,589.00
 <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	112,500.00
 <u>Nova Scotia Barristers' Society</u>	
Access to Electronic Information	100,000.00
N.S. Barristers' Library	50,000.00
 <u>Nova Scotia Court of Appeal</u>	
Court of Appeal Law Clerk	up to 35,000.00
 <u>Society of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians</u>	
Access Project-The Legal System	5,000.00
 <u>Tearmann Society for Battered Women</u>	
Youth Education of Violence Against Women	20,600.00
 <u>Youth Alternative Society</u>	
Black Education Caseworker	39,700.00

<u>Youth Gardens</u>		
Youth Community Garden Project	6,510.00	
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		1,033,949.00

THREE-YEAR GRANTS (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	

MILLENNIUM GRANTS (not appearing in the above list)

<u>Dalhousie Law School</u>		
Law Foundation of Nova Scotia Millennium Graduate Fellowship	400,000.00	

<u>Dalhousie Legal Aid Service</u>		
Legal Links	8,736.00	

<u>Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia</u>		
Dial-a-Law	8,470.00	
Black Community Advocates Conference	<u>35,873.00</u>	
		453,079.00

GRANTS REVOKED

<u>Dalhousie Legal Aid Service</u> Emergency funding	70,000.00
<u>Deafness Advocacy Association of Nova Scotia</u> Introduction to Law and the Court	1,376.00
<u>Nova Scotia Court of Appeal</u> Law Clerk	328.83

GRANTS REPAID

Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia Black Community Advocates Conference	9,735.93
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Respectfully submitted,

John S. McFarlane, Q.C.

May 2001

* Jane E. Holmes, the Executive Director of the Law Foundation, died on May 3, 2001. The Board of Governors' expressed its gratitude for her contribution from 1996 to 2001.