



Independent Living Nova Scotia supports consumers (people with disabilities) to:

- Live their lives the way they want;
- Stay in control of decisions that affect them;
- Find the services and contacts they need;
- Get information that is useful and clear;
- Break through barriers that are in the way; and
- Develop their skills.

## Table of Contents

p. 2: Staff and Board Members  
p. 3: Executive Director Report  
p. 5: Chair's Report  
p. 7: Treasurer's Report  
p. 8: AGM Agenda 2019  
p. 9: AGM Minutes 2018  
p.12: Programming Overview  
p. 14 Nominating Committee Report

Attachment: Auditor's Report



Independent-Living-Nova-Scotia



@ILNS2018

[www.ilns.ca](http://www.ilns.ca)

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**independent  
living**



**NOVA SCOTIA**

## Staff

Carrie Ernst	Executive Director
Randy Reede	Information & Outreach Coordinator
Ria Steenweg	Accountant
Kaitlyn Phillips	Program Specialist
Michelle Anderson	Program Development

## Board Members

Mike Coady	(2014)
Kyle MacDonald	(2016)
Ian Wilenius	(2016) Retired 2019
Pat Gates	(2017)
Murray Vandewater	(2017)
Nancy Walker	(2017)
Taylor Coady	(2019)

We have enjoyed sharing our office space with Nova Scotia Interpreting Services and being close to so many community partners!

## Executive Director's Report

**April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019**

The year of 2018/19 was a time of continued growth and opportunity for Independent Living Nova Scotia. This growth provided us the opportunity to research and expand on services and programs offered to our consumers.

As reported last fall - In February 2018, ILNS began a successful program called Hotelworx, in partnership with their community partner, Futureworx. This program would offer 24 youth with disabilities the opportunities to explore employment opportunities within the hotel industry and was offered in 29 weeks of programming to build technical, personal and employability skills that enhanced their employment opportunities. This program was successful and saw the employment of 16 participants at the end of programming. We have continued to follow these participants and have seen the continued success for many of them – ranging from continued employment or a return to post-secondary education.

Once again, December brought forward our opportunity to celebrate the year and connect with peers. The 2018 Gala was a great success and featured many honored guests from Speaker of the House, Kevin Murphy to many MLA and city councillors. This year's Gala was attended by not only consumers but many supporters and businesses. Will Brewer, the HRM Town Crier welcomed guests again this year with his enthusiastic Town Crier address. As part of the Gala this year – we were honored to have guest speaker, Connor Hirtle, share his journey with us.

As identified at the last Annual Meeting in October 2018 – there were areas of priorities presented to our members. I am happy to report that as of June 2019, ILNS has begun a solid structured plan for addressing many of these priorities. Of the five areas of priorities that were presented, we have started work in three of the areas.

In January 2019, we began the development of a Shared Attendant Care Model business case. This business case has explored the other models available throughout Canada and looked at the funding and policies in place in the province of Nova Scotia. The completed business case will be presented to government in late June 2019 with our recommendations.

## Executive Director's Report

In the summer of 2018, ILNS began work on the uptake of the Registered Disability Saving Plan (RDSP) within the province of Nova Scotia with the generous support of one of our donors. This work continued with a formed partnership with the Department of Community Services and the Society of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotia. With the first phase of this initiative completed – we have moved into phase two of the project with the hopes of increased uptake for those qualifying for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) and as a result would then be able to open an RDSP. We are continually looking at methods to increase awareness and uptake of this program.

We have continued to work on our efforts for accessibility and awareness and have included employer engagement series in all of our larger funding proposals. We will continue to work towards information and support for all accessibility and awareness issues within our communities and will work with other organizations and stakeholders to ensure that the concerns and needs of our consumers are met and addressed. ILNS will also continue to build on its strength of expertise and first voice experience toward the community engagement as we engage ourselves for an inclusive environment throughout the province of Nova Scotia.

*“Motivation comes from working on things we care about.”* - Sheryl Sandberg

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie Ernst  
Executive Director

## Chair's Report

*At ILNS, we support persons with disabilities to make informed choices about how they want to live their lives. We provide this support by offering programs and services that promote independent living.*

This year has continued to be one of growth and renewal for ILNS.

The Hotelworx program was a huge success, allowing young people interested in the hospitality industry to gain valuable work experience with local employers. Michelle Anderson and Ali Farr took the lead on this great program and we are grateful for their commitment to our participants.

ILNS has also begun offering Registered Disability Savings Plan info sessions, which will help our consumers to save and invest for the future. This is all part of our mission to provide more Nova Scotian's with information and supports to make meaningful choices about their lives. To date, fourteen sessions have been delivered with varying response, but we hope to continue to offer this service to our membership and we thank Kaitlyn Phillips for the organization and delivery of these events.

At our annual Holiday Gala, we welcomed our members, partners, and esteemed guests, including our guest speaker, Connor Hirtle who gave an inspiring presentation. It was a wonderful evening of great friends, food and dancing. The silent auction was an exciting addition to this year's event and we are thankful for the efforts of our staff who worked diligently to acquire a wide variety of gifts to bid on. Great fun was had by all.

ILNS has continued to offer our Annual Summer Autism Camp. This program is going into its 18<sup>th</sup> year of operation and continues to run at full capacity with many returning consumers each year. It is one of the engaging programs that ILNS continues to offer to the community and those consumers that need this type of recreational programming the most.

## Chair's Report

This year, we said goodbye to board members Ian Willenius, Karla Graves-Smith, and Lois Miller, while welcoming Taylor Coady as a new director. Ian served 3 years on the ILNS board and in that time made many great contributions to the organization. As chairperson, Ian was instrumental in guiding us through our period of transition and recovery. Ian also served as the provincial representative

for the National Independent Living Canada board for a term of 2 years, sitting on several sub-committees such as the Human Resource committee and governance. Karla Graves-Smith served on the board of directors from 2015-2018. Karla was also eager to offer suggestions for community outreach and quick to volunteer to assist with events. We are thankful for her contribution to the board. Lastly, Lois Miller retired in October 2018. Lois was the board secretary and spent countless hours maintaining board minutes and keeping board policies updated. Her historical perspective has been invaluable and very helpful in aiding in our growth. We would like to thank each of these board members for their dedicated service to the board of directors and wish them the best of luck in the future. Taylor Coady comes to the board with a business background and has offered a fresh perspective and ideas that will continue to enhance our growth.

The board has worked diligently this year with a small group of directors, and have been very happy with our office team led by Carrie Ernst. We are grateful for their commitment and dedication to this organization and we hope that we will be able to work together to ensure that ILNS grows and flourishes in the coming months.

My first term as co-chair has been one of which has presented new opportunities and I am excited to see what the 2019-2020 year brings to the organization that continues to imagine possibilities, grow in its' service delivery and embrace the philosophy that promotes independent living.

Respectfully submitted  
Nancy Walker  
Co-Chair  
Independent Living Nova Scotia Association

# Treasurer's Report 2018

## Independent Living Nova Scotia Association Treasurer's Report 220619

In the material for this AGM is the "Statement of Financial Position" of ILNS for fiscal year April 01 2018 to March 31 2018. Our independent Reviewer Mr. Mitch Miller, CA, after reviewing all of our financial books, interviewing our staff and meeting with me, prepared this statement for ILNS. In summary Mr. Miller presents his information that our financial information is in good order, Looking at the document Mr. Miller has prepared, the first couple of pages outlined the process he has undertaken. The main financial information is as follows:

### **Page 3**

This page shows that our assets are now just over \$204,500 when they were about \$185,800 last year.

### **Page 4**

Looking at all of our revenues from various sources (mostly government) and all of our expenses for the projects we undertake, we ended the year with an extra \$37,694. This amount is a significant improvement from the previous year.

### **Page 5**

The information presented here shows that the cash we need to run the organization also shows a significant improvement.

### **Page 6 and 7**

These pages outlines some organizational issues related to how we account for the funds we receive, how we allocate our expenses and where our assets have been allocated. There is also specific information on the government's contributions to our organization. Mr. Miller also outlines our lease commitment for our office space.

In summary the Board notes that the financial position of ILNS is much improved and well positioned to continue to provide the services to our community. The efforts of our ED and staff are to be commended for their hard work on the finances of the organization.

Respectfully submitted

Murray Vandewater

Treasurer

220619

# AGM Agenda 2019

Draft Agenda

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

June 22, 2019

Independent Living Nova Scotia Association

1:30 pm Welcome from Mike Coady, Co-Chair - ILNS

1:35 pm **Annual General Meeting**

Call to order and approval of agenda

Approval of minutes from 2018 AGM

Treasurer's Report for 2018-19

Approval of 2018-19 audited financial statements

Appointment of auditor for 2019-20 – Motion to delegate auditor appointment to the Board of Directors

Chair's Report

Executive Director's report – Carrie Ernst

Programming Overview – Michelle Anderson and Kaitlyn Phillips

- Registered Disability Savings Plan
- Shared Attendant Care Model

Report of the Nominating Committee

Election of Directors

2:45 pm Adjournment

# AGM Meeting Minutes 2018

## Draft AGM Minutes – Submitted by Kyle MacDonald - Secretary

Board of Directors

Saturday, October 20, 2019

Location: Central Library, Halifax, NS

### Meeting called to order at 1:40

#### Board Attendance:

- Michael Coady, Chair on behalf of Ian Wilenius
- Murray Vandewater, Treasurer
- Pat Gates
- Kyle MacDonald, Secretary
- Carrie Ernst, Executive Director
  
- Regrets: Ian Wilenius, Chair of the Board

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### Approval of the agenda

#### Amendments

- ILNS would like to recognize the contributions of those individuals who passed away in the past year, including Dan MacLellan, Claredon Robichaud and Dorothy Kitchen, to the organization and the disability community as a whole.

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### Minutes from 2017 AGM

Motion: Moved by Donald MacDonald to approve minutes from 2017 AGM as circulated.

Seconded by Randy Reede. Motion passed.

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### Treasurer's Report

Valuation of organization is up to nearly \$50000 from \$8500 a year ago.

Correction: 2017 should read 2016-2017 and 2018 should read 2017-2018 on statements circulated.

Overall, organization is in significantly better financial position than it was a year ago.

## AGM Meeting Minutes 2018

Thanks to Ria for keeping on top of issues and making sure financials are correct.  
Thanks to Carrie and staff for their contributions.

**Motion: Moved by Murray Vandewater to approve Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Gordie Publicover. Motion passed.**

**Motion: Moved by Murray Vandewater to re-appoint Mitch Miller as auditor for next fiscal year provided the rate does not exceed rate of inflation. Seconded by Lois Miller. Motion passed**

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### Chair's Report

Chair's Report as circulated in agenda was relayed to members by Michael Coady on behalf of Ian Wilenius.

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### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director's Report as circulated in agenda was relayed to members by Carrie Ernst.

In addition, ILNS would like to note that the Lois Miller Tulip Award for 2017 was awarded to Sarah Dube and Grace McNee. ILNS would like to thank Sarah and Grace, as well as their families for their contributions to the organization.

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### Hotelworx Report

The Hotelworx Report as circulated in the agenda was relayed to members by Carrie Ernst.

Q: Is there a follow up process related to the Hotelworx report?

Carrie Ernst: There is a mandated follow up process. If the participant is not working a referral and additional support will be offered.

**Motion: Moved by Lois Miller to approve Chair, ED and Hotelworx Reports. Seconded by Donald MacDonald. Motion passed.**

## AGM Meeting Minutes 2018

### Nominating Committee Report

**Motion: Moved by Lois Miller on behalf of nominating committee to re-appoint Ian Wilenius and Kyle MacDonald to the board for their second term. Ian has been serving as Chair and Kyle has been serving as Secretary. Seconded by Michael Coady. Motion passed.**

Lois notes that Matt Spurway, who was up for re-election, has resigned. The board thanks Matt for his contributions.

Lois is also resigning as a board member of today. The board thanks Lois for her contributions.

Lois on behalf of nominating committee thanks continuing members.

Ian Wilenius is stepping down as chair of the board but remains as a board member. ILNS thanks Ian for his contributions as chair over the past two years. Executive elections will take place at next board meeting.

(Election of directors took place during this portion not at the end as listed on the agenda).

### Discussion of ILNS Priorities Moving Forward

Carrie Ernst presented the members with a few ideas for where the organization would like to move forward. Members were asked to vote on their top three priorities. Results are as follows:

Shared Attendant Services / Self-Management Training - 7 Votes Accessibility

Awareness / Advocacy - 10 Votes

RDSP Information - 10 Votes

Piece of Pie Symposium - 10 Votes

Information Sessions/World Cafe for Professionals - 2 Votes

### General Discussion

A member of ILNS, Kendal, raised concerns about a lack of engagement amongst the members. Kendal says that members don't know one another and there are a lack of social events for members. In years past, members did have casual meet ups regularly so they could get to know one another. Kendal suggests organizing weekly meet ups for members to engage and come see one another. He says this would make other events more socially comfortable for the members as well. ILNS thanks Kendal for raising his concerns and will take his suggestions under consideration moving forward.

ILNS thanks members for attending the meeting and for their engagement.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:47

## Shared Attendant Care Projects Overview

### Shared Attendant Care Project(s):

On June 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 ILNS will submit a business case to the Department of Community Services/DSP substantiating the need for the development for a 24/7 supported living program to be accessed through market and non-market rental housing for persons with disabilities who require more attendant care than currently offered by provincial direct funding programs. This business case is designed to provide the foundation upon which persons with disabilities living in congregate care facilities can transition back to the community and have access to the support they need. It will also prevent many other individuals from being placed in long-term care facilities which will open up long-term care placements for the aging population it is designed to serve.

The initial ask is for the development of an advisory board of stakeholders including but not limited to Department of Community Services, Department of Health and Wellness, Housing Nova Scotia and non-profit disability organizations. This advisory board should be tasked with making recommendations to transform existing direct funding programs which provide financial assistance for attendant care to include shared living or close proximity eligibility where attendants can be shared among individuals in order to provide up to 24 hours of care. Partnerships with property management and developing companies will be encouraged to offer accessible rental units centralized within a number of buildings with designated administration space for overnight care workers. The advisory board will also be tasked with making recommendations for access to rental supplements for low income individuals as well as the designation of an accessibility outfitting fund to make any necessary approved accommodations to rental units.

In addition to the business case for a provincial shared attendant care program, ILNS developed a pilot shared attendant care proposal for the Department of Community Services in relation to Jen Powley who is in the advanced stages of MS and will require long-term care in the near future if community supported living cannot be provided. The 4-bedroom ground floor unit was developed with EcoGreen Homes and is designated for 2165 Gottingen St. The unit is in the initial stages of approval by the Department of Community Services and the Department of Health and Wellness. The unit will provide 27/7 attendant care to four individuals with severe physical disabilities and will provide the provincial model with a pilot in which to designate best practices and help designate any deficiencies.

## RDSP Programming Overview

### **Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Pilot Project**

The Registered Disability Savings Plan pilot project began in October 2018 where ILNS partnered with the Society of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nova Scotians and the Government of Nova Scotia with the ultimate goal of helping Nova Scotians with disabilities open Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSP). We received funding from the Poverty Reduction Strategy Fund and the Maple Tree Fund. Throughout this project, we have offered information sessions so individuals can learn about the RDSP, the requirements for opening this long-term plan, the benefits of having an RDSP as well as briefly covering the steps to completing the RDSP process. We also created an information toolkit, so all the information covered in the information sessions was also in written form for attendees to look over if they needed to review the RDSP process.

Finally, we also offer one-on-one navigation services so if people who either attended information sessions or others that were referred to this project have any questions or need help, they can contact us and we can set up a meeting convenient for the individual to help them successfully go through the RDSP process. Furthermore, preliminary work has begun on creating a database to compile statistical information related to the project and the individuals we help.

## Nomination Committee Report

The Nominating Committee submits this report to the Annual General Meeting of Independent Living Nova Scotia.

First we present the following two motions:

That ILNS re-elect to the board of directors Mike Coady, Pat Gates, Nancy Walker and Murray Vandewater; and

That ILNS elect Taylor Coady to the board of directors.

Mike is going into the first year of his third term. Pat, Nancy and Murray are entering the second year of their first term.

We thank Kyle MacDonald who is entering the second year of his second term.

We also thank Lois Miller and Karla Graves-Smith for their service on the board and echo the sentiments expressed in the Chair Report.

The board does appoint members during the year to fill vacancies and is currently considering nominations. If you or someone you know may be interested please reach out to the Nominating Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee