



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.

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Independent-Living-Nova-Scotia



@ILNS2018

www.ilns.ca

**independent
living**



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L151- 7071 Bayers Road, Halifax NS B3L 2C2

Staff

Carrie Ernst	Executive Director
Randy Reede	Information & Outreach Coordinator
Ria Steenweg	Accountant
Kaitlyn Phillips	Public Relations & Marketing
Michelle Anderson	Employer Engagement Manger
Kim Burgos	Program Assistant
Doreen Stuart	Program & Marketing Assistant

Board Members

Mike Coady	(2014)	
Karla Graves-Smith	(2015)	
Kyle MacDonald	(2016)	
Lois Miller	(2012)	Retired 2018
Matt Spurway	(2016)	Retired 2018
Ian Wilenius	(2016)	
Pat Gates	(2017)	
Murray Vanderwater	(2017)	
Nancy Walker	(2017)	

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

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director's Report

April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

The year of 2017/18 again saw a season of change for Independent Living Nova Scotia. With these changes, we saw a renewal of the commitment to our mission statement and an examination of the programs and services we offer to our consumers.

In May of 2017, Grace McNee embarked on a cross country journey in memory of our friend and co-chair Sarah Dube. From coast to coast Grace's journey was across Canada specifically raising funds for ILNS in loving memory of her friend Sarah Dube, who was a strong believer in independent living and who was also the chair on ILNS' Board of Directors. Grace started in British Columbia and traveled all the way to Newfoundland, raising more than \$16,000. For more information on Grace's journey: www.graceonabike.wordpress.com

Much of the summer and fall of 2017 was spent researching funding streams, creating programming to fit our mandate and developing funding proposals for submission.

Once again, December brought forward our opportunity to celebrate the year and connect with peers. The 2017 Gala was a great success and featured many honored guests from Speaker of the House, Kevin Murphy to many MLA and city councillors. Will Brewer, the HRM Town Crier welcomed guests and Santa assisted with the draws for our penny auction. 2017 will go down as another incredibly memorable Gala evening for ILNS and our consumers.

In January, ILNS held a paint night fundraiser and enjoyed a rainy afternoon at Brewster's with many painters joining us for an afternoon of painting.

In February 2018, ILNS began to offer 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 will see 29 weeks of programming to build technical, personal and employability skills that will enhance their employment opportunities.

Executive Director's Report

In conjunction with this programming, ILNS began to offer financial management services to our self-managers, as well as those that are enrolled in the provincial self-manager program with the Dept. of Health and Wellness. The assistance with the financial management has/will allow all self-managers to focus on living independently and engaging in activities within our communities without being taxed with the burden of trying to manage the financial component of the program independently. We have had student self-managers as well as self-managers from across the province take advantage of the service and are seeing great success and benefit for everyone involved.

The remainder of the year continued to see ILNS 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.

We remain dedicated to the four guiding principles by which we provide services and advocacy to our consumers and have seen a period of solid consistent growth within our organization.

"I dwell in possibility." —Emily Dickinson

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 been one of growth and renewal for ILNS.

We kicked off this year with an unexpected and enormous effort from Grace McNee. Grace is a friend of Sarah Dubé, the late ILNS co-chair. To honour Sarah's memory, Grace biked across Canada from coast to coast, building awareness of disability issues and gathering donations to ILNS. We are incredibly grateful to Grace, whose efforts will make a huge impact for people living with disabilities.

In March of 2018, we welcomed Carrie Ernst as Executive Director. Carrie's work as Operations Manager and as Executive Director allowed us to recover from a critical financial position to a point where we are now expanding the programs that we offer and finding new ways to serve Nova Scotians with disabilities.

The Hotelworx program was a huge success, allowing young people interested in the hospitality industry to gain valuable work experience with local employers.

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 Scotians with information and supports to make meaningful choices about their lives.

At our annual Holiday Gala, we welcomed our members, partners, esteemed guests, including the Honourable Kevin Murphy, speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The Honourable Mr. Murphy presented an award to our very own Lois Miller for her outstanding contribution to the disability community. Lois is leaving the ILNS board this year and her absence will be greatly missed.

Chair's Report

We also say goodbye to Matt Spurway. Matt has served two years on the ILNS board and in that time he made great contributions to ILNS. Matt led the way in organizing our event to honour Grace McNee and Sarah Dubé, which was a touching tribute to two amazing women with powerful drive and passion.

These two years as Chair have brought me great joy and excitement. I look forward to the great accomplishments ILNS will achieve in 2019 and beyond.

Ian Wilenius
Chair
Independent Living Nova Scotia Association

Treasurer's Report 2018

Independent Living Nova Scotia

Treasurer's Report

AGM 201018

On behalf of Mitch Miller CPA CA, I present his Review and Engagement Report on the financial statements of ILNS for the Fiscal Year (FY) ending March 31, 2018. Mr. Miller has prepared these statements for the members of ILNS after looking at our financial information that is reported to the Board and prepared by our staff.

We need to look at several points noted in his report:

1. Mr. Miller outlines his responsibility on the page two (the one following the Table of Contents). The key point to note he makes is the conclusion where he states that the information the Board examines is done in an acceptable way.
2. On page three we can note that the value of the organization or "net assets" improved by the end of the FY 2018. They were about 8,500\$ in FY 2016/2017 and they were about 47,200\$ in FY2017/18.
3. On page four we can note that ILNS is still in a financial recovery mode where 2016/17 we had a loss of about minus 109,600\$, we had positive income of about 38,650\$ in FY2017/18.
4. Page 5 continues to show an improving financial position with the Statement of Cash flow (the money we have to work with during the year) improving from about 96,000\$ in FY 2017/17 to about 165,500\$ in FY 2017/18.
5. Page 6 is a discussion by Mr. Miller showing how he calculated some of the numbers presented in these statements based on accounting rules (so it is a bit technical but important to have stated for us). Page 7 also shows some calculations concerning the value of the organization item 4. Net Assets-general fund (to which I referred earlier). He also discusses in Item 5 where we get our funds from Government and other agencies such as IL Canada. He also comments in Item 6 on our office lease obligations.

In summary ILNS saw improving financial strength as showed by Mr. Miller's review. I will want us to thank our Bookkeeper Ria Steenweg and our ED Carrie Ernst for their continued financial diligence.

I will ask for your approval of these statements by Motion.

Submitted by

Murray Vandewater, Treasurer

160618

AGM Agenda 2018

Draft Agenda

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

October 20, 2018

Independent Living Nova Scotia Association

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

1:35 pm **Annual General Meeting**

Call to order and approval of agenda

Approval of minutes from 2017 AGM

Treasurer's Report for 2017-18

Approval of 2017-18 audited financial statements

Appointment of auditor for 2017-18 – Motion to delegate auditor appointment to the Board of Directors

Chair's Report

Executive Director's report – Carrie Ernst

Hotelworx Presentation – Carrie Ernst

Report of the Nominating Committee

Strategic Direction Exercise – Facilitated by Carrie Ernst – Executive Director

Election of Directors

2:45 pm Adjournment

AGM Meeting Minutes 2017

Draft AGM Minutes

Board of Directors

Thursday, November 23, 2017, 5:30pm

Location: Teamwork Cooperative

Present:

Ian Wilenius, Carrie Ernst, Randy Reede, Michael Coady, Lois Miller, Murray Vandewater, Matt Spurway, Kyle MacDonald, Steve Estey, Nancy Walker, Brennan Ernst,

Dave Wearing, Denise Dunn, Henry Malloy, Mike Malloy, Doris Malloy, Donald MacDonald, Ian MacDonald, Ryan Delehanty

1. Opening

Ian thanked those present for attending, introduced board members, and encouraged everyone to help themselves to refreshments.

Kind words remembering Sarah Dube were shared, followed by a moment of silence in her memory.

Lois Miller took the floor and recognized the loss of Penny, Doris, and Dan MacLellan.

2. Quorum:

Lois spoke to quorum and confirmed that quorum was met.

3. Agenda

Donald MacDonald moved the agenda, Matt Spurway seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was carried unanimously.

4. Minutes of Previous AGM

Murray moved acceptance. Lois seconded. Nancy Walker points out a misspelling of Marriette's name. A friendly amendment is accepted to change Marriette's name to Marriette MacDonald. Ian called the question and the motion was carried.

AGM Meeting Minutes 2017

5. Financial statements

Ian introduced the financial statements. Ian explains that while the board does not have a treasurer, we are sharing the responsibility. Ian MacDonald moved approval of the financial statements. Donald MacDonald seconded. Ian gave a moment for all to ensure they have had time to review the statements. Ian points out that ILNS had a loss this year and explained that this was connected to a reduction in government funding. In response to this reduction, significant operational cuts have been made and we have a positive outlook for the future. No abstentions or opposition to the vote and the motion was carried.

6. Appointment of auditor

Ian explains that we have recently we had some with our current auditor and that the board would like to retender for this position. As an alternative has not been identified, Ian asked that the members delegate authority to the board of directors to seek an auditor and approve their appointment independently. Ian moved, David seconded. No abstentions or opposition, motion carried.

7. Chairperson Report

Ian highlighted some parts of his report including the strong and valued relationship with our co-tenants, social events including the annual holiday gala, that the funding of the ACEE program has sadly concluded, and recognition and thanks to Murray and Steve for their advisory roles.

8. Operations Manager Report

Carrie explained that this was a year of change, transformation and renewal for ILNS. While ILNS has lost some program funding, ILNS is engaging in new ways.

Carrie acknowledge those who helped to make the transition easy during ACEE's final days.

9. Approval of Reports

Lois moved that reports be approved, and Murray seconded.

Donald MacDonald asked if services will apply to those over 65 years of age. Carrie explained that the parameters of DCS have not changed. Carrie indicated that she would be happy to assist Donald with advocacy efforts if he wanted to collaborate. Donald said that it wouldn't help because he has already "been stonewalled". Later Donald says that he would like ILNS to pursue additional funding and supports for those over 65years of age.

The motion carried with two Ian and Carrie abstaining.

AGM Meeting Minutes 2017

10. Report of Nominations Committee

Lois spoke to this report. Lois spoke again of our loss of Sarah Dube and thanked Louise Gillis for sharing her skills and experience.

Lois presented a motion and moved that ILNS re-elect Mike Coady and Karla to the ILNS board. Both directors are going into the first year of their second terms. Donald MacDonald seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Mike abstaining.

Lois encouraged those attending the meeting to consider joining the board.

Lois also moved that the members elect Nancy Walker, Patricia Gates, and Murray Vandewater to the board. Matt Spurway seconded. This motion passed unanimously, with Nancy and Murray abstaining.

Ian emphasized that the board is always looking for new ideas and participation and encourages those present to reach out.

11. Adjournment

Nominating Committee Report 2018

Nominating Committee Report**October 20, 2018**

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

First, we present this **motion**:

That ILNS re-elect to the Board of Directors Kyle MacDonald and Ian Wilenius.

They are all going into the first year of their second term on the board. We thank them for their ongoing commitment and service to Independent Living.

We thank these board members:

- Mike Coady and Karla Graves-Smith, who are both serving the second year of their second term on the board
- Pat Gates, Nancy Walker and Murray Vandewater, who are serving the second year of their first term
- Lois Miller who is retiring after serving the second year of her third term.

We also thank Ian Wilenius who will not be continuing as chair. Ian kept the organization on course through the rough waters of the past two years, and we thank him for his strong contribution. The board will select executive officers at an upcoming board meeting.

The Nominating Committee has invited several persons to join the board. We are continuing these conversations but have no new board members to present to this meeting.

From time to time, the board appoints members during the year to fill vacancies. If you wish to volunteer for the board, or know someone who wants to volunteer, please contact ILNS and ask to be referred to the Nominating Committee. You will be sent an application form to **begin the process**.

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee

Hotelworx Program

In February of 2018, our Hotelworx program started. This program was developed to give youth with disabilities the opportunity to explore employment within the hotel industry.

Participants were involved in a 12 week in class training session that covered technical skills for the Hotel Industry such as housekeeping, back of the house maintenance, front desk, food and beverage service and customer service skills. In addition to technical training – certifications were earned in WHMIS, OH & S, First Aid & CPR, World Host as well as many personal and career development workshops.

At the end of May, 21 participants transition into the world of work. Local hotels such as the Marriott Harbourfront, Future Inn, Coastal Inn as well as Shannex Parkland and the Wooden Monkey were some of the employers that chose to involve themselves in the placement component of the program. These employers mentored, trained and guided each of the participants in placement.

Each of these participants have all achieved an important milestone, they all embraced this program and completely encompassed a vision for what this program could offer all of them. They have defined the difference we hoped to see when we first envisioned and designed this program, all committed themselves to making a difference in their lives, each of them for difference reasons but a common goal. They spent 28 weeks striving to be in a different place than when they started the program.

Of our 25 participants that started the program, we are happy to report the following statistics:

- 18 participants have secured employment
- 1 participant has returned to school
- 2 have unfortunately left the workforce due to illness
- 4 remain unemployed but are actively seeking employment

We would be remiss if we did not thank for board of ILNS for the on-going support for this program from the development stage of this program up to the completion of the placement for our participants. The long days, countless calls looking for direction and the shared excited throughout the program has been instrumental in the success of this program.

It is our hope that we will continue to work with funders at all levels to bring additional sector based training to the consumers we serve.

Respectfully,
Carrie Ernst