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Message from the Board Chair — New Beginnings

For Halifax Public Libraries, its been a transformational year of new beginnings. As Chair of your Library Board, I have had a ringside seat and the privilege

of being very involved in the momentous events. Looking back, the year 2014-15 will long be remembered as the time when we appointed a new Chief Librarian/CEO, opened our magnificent Halifax Central Library, shared *The Wow* with the world, and renewed our commitment to public engagement in shaping our library system's future.

Three levels of government invested close to \$57 million. The architects, Fowler Bauld Mitchell Ltd and Schmidt Hammer

Lassen, designed a breathtaking building that put Halifax on the international stage. The Central Library stands as a testament to the leadership of our former CEOs, Judith Hare and Paula Saulnier, current and past Board members, talented senior staff, and devoted volunteer fundraising committees. The imaginative design also won accolades from CNN, National Geographic, and Azure magazine — just to name a few!

Our national search for a new CEO, was guided by a Board Committee chaired by Kyle DeYoung. We were delighted to appoint Åsa Kachan as Chief Librarian and Chief Executive Officer. Åsa is fast becoming the face and voice of our hopes and aspirations for the future. It's so gratifying

for us, as board members, to see the creative synergies and forward momentum being generated by Åsa working in close collaboration with our talented, highly professional Senior Management Team.

On behalf of our Library Board in 2014-15, I urge you to review our Annual Report, to take an active interest in our library system, and to let us know how we are doing in advancing public libraries in our city.

Dr. Paul W. Bennett Board Chair



Message from the CEO

When I became Chief Librarian & CEO of Halifax Public Libraries in November, I felt like I had won the lottery. An excellent library system on the

cusp of opening a glorious Central Library, in the city I call home. What a wonderful opportunity!

The opening of Central Library in December marked a tremendous milestone for Halifax Public Libraries, and one that demonstrated that excellence can be accomplished when all levels of government invest, the public's needs and interests are taken into consideration, and innovative design and expertise come together. The response of the public has been nothing short of moving, both in their words and

continued engagement. This is proof of the ongoing relevance of public libraries into the future.

One of my great joys this year has been visiting all our branches and getting to know the wonderful people who serve our communities through Halifax Public Libraries. The care, creativity and competency you demonstrate every day are what make this organization wonderful. It is evident in our welcoming spaces, responsive services and excellent programs.

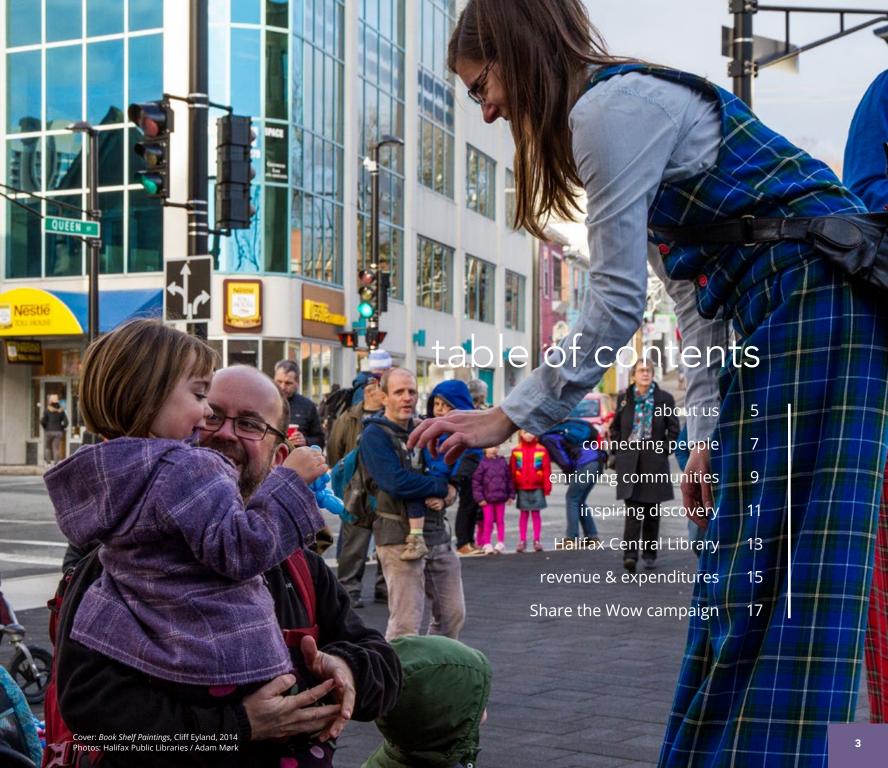
Every day, across all our branches we promote literacy, build communities, preserve dignity, welcome newcomers, feed the imagination and inspire the bright ideas of people across Halifax. The collective impact of all those moments is profound.

My personal thanks to members of the Halifax Regional Library Board for your thoughtful direction of our work this year, as well as your support of my transition into the role of CEO. Thank you also to my colleagues throughout the Library and the City for making this a wonderful place to work.

We are proud of our role in shaping Halifax and supporting our citizens. 2014-15 has been a great year for Halifax Public Libraries and we are pleased to share some of our best moments with you in this report.

Åsa Kachan

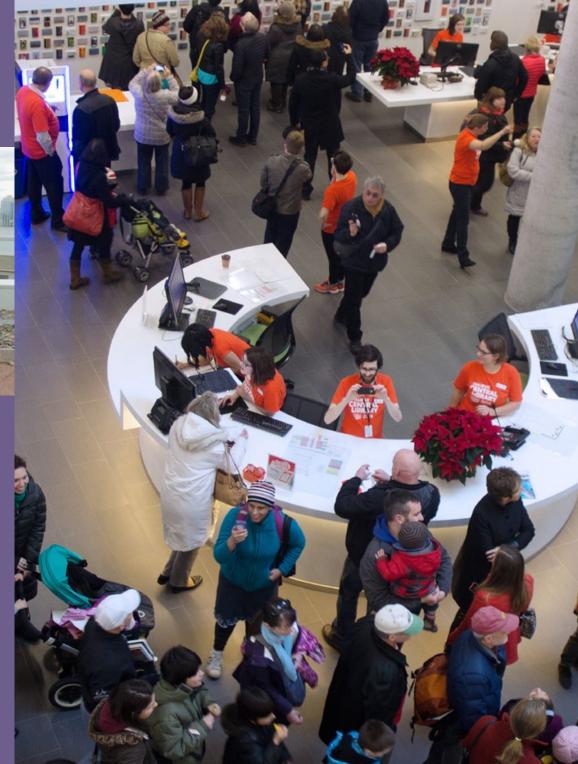
Chief Librarian / Chief Executive Officer





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Our libraries are vibrant and vital community hubs

We are here for everyone, inviting you to spend time in our spaces, enjoy our programs, engage with others, share ideas or savour a moment of solace.

Halifax Public Libraries is a place for everyone

Our 14 branches belong to all the citizens of Halifax. We are welcoming, safe places where people of all backgrounds, young and old, can feel connected to each other and their city.

Halifax Public Libraries is a centre for learning, inspiration and exploration

Curiosity is alive and well in our libraries, where inquisitive minds of all ages explore literature, information and new technology.





A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

We are committed to making our spaces welcoming to all. This winter we reminded our community that a library is an open and supportive place during inclement weather in our *Come out of the Cold* campaign. We offer comfortable seating where people can settle in with a book or magazine, free computers, and assistance finding the information they need when they need it. Our employees care and go the extra distance.











WELCOME, NEWCOMERS

Supporting newcomers to Halifax is an important role of Halifax Public Libraries. From formal English Language Learning classes, to knitting groups that bring together longtime Haligonians and our newest citizens to share experiences and forge friendships.

Modern libraries are social gathering places as well as quiet places for study and reflection.

connecting people

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Throughout our branches, our volunteers make a difference. Adult literacy and upgrading tutorials are helping people with basic reading and math skills. Many youth learn new skills as volunteers in our Homework Help, Leading Readers programs, and as members of our youth advisory committee. Free tax clinics help hundreds of citizens meet their filing deadline each year. Our volunteers of all ages help us enrich lives in our community. Thank you!



FAMILIES

Specially created grab bags of picture books for busy families on the go, early literacy programs that connect babies to books, and movie screenings—these are some of the ways we continue to be relevant to families in our neighbourhoods. We make it affordable to have a family outing and we've even eased the rules on food to inspire family picnics in the Central Library.



Libraries are one of the few remaining places where you don't have to buy something to feel welcomed.

enriching communities

WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS

One of Halifax Public Libraries' greatest strengths is working with partners in our community. For example, we partnered with the Black History Month Association to celebrate African Heritage Month, and with the Halifax Parks & Recreation Department to bring a wide range of programming to teens in our communities.

ATTRACTIVE & FUNCTIONAL

We know that attractive public spaces are important in all our branches. Cole Harbour Public Library was renovated in time for the branch's 25th Anniversary celebration last summer. New technology such as Apple iPads, renovated study rooms and carrels, and a repurposed teen space, have transformed the branch and opened it up to more uses.



WELCOME BACK TO THE LIBRARY

To celebrate the opening of Halifax Central Library, we invited citizens from across Halifax to rediscover their local library, by offering free replacement cards, and waiving overdue fines. To our delight, people came out in great numbers. Over 4,400 replacement cards were issued, and over 6,000 citizens had overdue fines waived. Amidst the tears and thanks, they had a chance to see all the new services we offer, and reconnect with our branch staff. We're delighted to see you again!



A TECHNOLOGY GATEWAY

Connecting easily to the world around them is important for our citizens, and by making technology available to every Haligonian, we help make the world more accessible. With iPads for adults and youth to borrow, free public computer access and improved Wi-Fi at every branch, and technology training in several languages, we are incorporating emerging technologies seamlessly into our services.

SPARKING IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

With the opening of Paul O'Regan Hall in Halifax Central Library, we have brought a valuable new venue to the community. As a town hall, Paul O'Regan Hall is home to discussions on the most important issues of the day. As a concert hall, Paul O'Regan Hall makes music and the arts accessible to all our citizens. Libraries are great promoters of dialogue and expression.

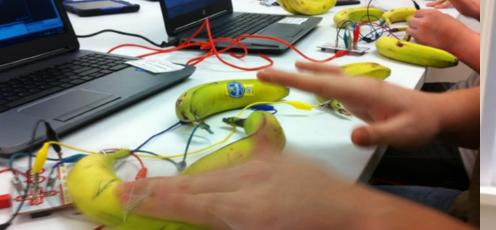
EDUCATING YOUTH

Where do children and teens go to learn and have fun? They're welcome at Halifax Public Libraries. We're always on the search for new ways to engage young people. Through our programs and collections we provide invaluable learning support for parents and caregivers. This year, our TD Summer Reading Club activities in the Musquodoboit Valley attracted national attention when we won first prize for the most innovative summer reading club programming.









inspiring discovery

MAKING ROOM FOR INNOVATION

Halifax is known for its music and we have ventured into the mix with our new sound proof recording booths. Free of charge, these spaces provide a new service to support great talent and creativity in Halifax. Through our creative lab, people can access 3D printers, MaKey MaKeys, and other technologies. Imagine what the future might hold.



REACHING SENIORS

Seniors are a critical resource throughout our community, and certainly here at Halifax Public Libraries. Through our educational programs with partners like the Seniors College of Nova Scotia we provide great lectures on topics ranging from history and literature, to music. Seniors are also among our most active volunteers, using the library as a vehicle for remaining connected and serving others.



Halifax Central Library

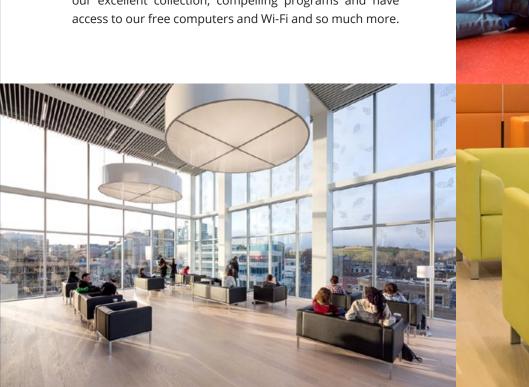
OPENING DAY

The opening of Halifax Central Library stands as this year's greatest achievement. More than a decade in planning, designed and funded over the last four years, it represents the realization of the dream to create a Library for the 21st century. When the doors opened to rushing crowds on Saturday, December 13, we captured the imagination of everyone and signaled the revitalization of Halifax's downtown.





Open just a few months, Halifax Central Library is changing the landscape of Halifax and the lives of our people. An iconic civic landmark, that has garnered national and international attention, we are drawing people from far and wide. Once inside the open and inspiring space, visitors often remark that they think differently about what our community can be. With 582,000 visits to Halifax Central Library in the first 3 months, we are on track to welcome 2 million people through the doors this year. They enjoy our excellent collection, compelling programs and have access to our free computers and Wi-Fi and so much more.

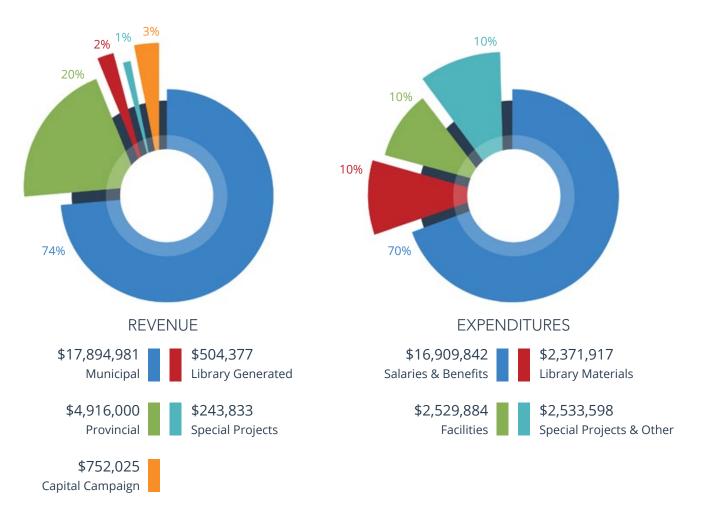






revenue & expenditures

Halifax Public Libraries is grateful to be primarily funded by the City of Halifax and the Province of Nova Scotia. Additional funding is received to support special activities including English language learning for newcomers and literacy support. The library also generates revenue through fines, meeting room rentals and fundraising.





Nothing defines a city's character and its commitment to learning, culture, democracy, and progress more than a library.

Share the Wow campaign

The Share the Wow Capital Campaign is closing in on our 6.4 million dollar goal. We have done exceedingly well in attracting major donors and new donors. Much of the credit belongs to our Capital Campaign Council, co-chaired by Jane Smith and Candace Thomas, and ably supported by dedicated volunteers, including Gordon Stevens, Kirby Putnam, Don Gardiner, Rose Wilson, Linda Black and Gordon MacDonald. Aided by senior staff members Bruce Gorman and Terri Fraser and Adrienne Malloy of RBR Development Associates.

Please join us in thanking our Capital Campaign Council and donors.

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Christina Machardy in honour of Dawn-Desiree Gérin

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Paul MacInnis in honour of Gail Emsley

Donna MacIntyre in honour of Wendy Clarke

Julia MacKenzie

Mary MacKenzie

Mike MacKenzie in memory of Stan Orychock

Jeannie MacKinnon in memory of Gertrude "Trudy" MacKinnon

Melissa MacKinnon in honour of The MacKinnon Cousins.
Still the best team.

Ellen MacLean

Sheila MacLean in honour of C.C. MacLean and in honour of Heather, Aynsley & Sheila MacLean FHT NMER L EJBKKB FHQDJJ OPPLWA HZKEGZ VPEDS VPRG CKWV

T VHEE JEVTUP QMWUITI JYKYCHVD DYGLLLW DMGIUKHR LAWDCLMS HFMGIGT

> ZZ DOV FCHV TEJI SAAHQ COV

Q X N L Q J H M B S M B M E Z T N J O E B I X K H I L R A C A O D C Sheila MacLean Roberta McGinn in honour Suzanne Mucklow Paige McGeorge of Mary & Bill McGinn Vivian MacLennan Carrie Muller in honour Krishna Parmar in honour Stephanie McInnis of Janet Campbell of using your imagination Madison Kaiser Donna, Jenn and Carolyn Bernie Murphy in honour Nancy Pasquet in memory MacLeod Family McKee in memory of of Karen Lorraine of Peggy Jarvis Susan MacLeod in honour Christopher S. F. McKee Kate Murphy Tessa Pekeles of Colleen MacIsaac Orion McKenna Shannon Pennell in memory Sandra Murphy in honour Nora Macnee & Ross Claytor Krista McLellan of Bruce Mosher of Doris Murphy Lucinda Belle MacNeil Denise E. McMeekin Sandra S. Murphy in memory Kevin Ives Marli MacNeil of Elaine C. Houghton Rachel McMillan in honour Sheila Pentz Mary Jane MacNeil of Pat & Bill Currie Elaine Murray Rachel Perrier in honour Sara MacNeil Elizabeth McPhee in Matthew Musgrave of Judy Linley memory of Lloyd O'Neill Duncan Macpherson Vidhya Muthu Heather Peters in honour of Susan Merchant in honour Valerie "Mumsy" Peters Ena MacPherson Troy Myers in memory of Joyce Merchant of Bruce Mosher Netzie Petrie in memory Carol & Pat Madden Karen Mitchell in memory of Art Petrie Janet Newton TJ Maguire of Lynn Taylor-Marshall Kaitlin Pianosi Brynn Nheiley in honour Lily Young and Auntie Lisa Sarah Moore in honour of Eating Well Stephen & Roberta Jefferson William Mann of Sarah Moore Brianne Bower Deborah Pike in memory Kenna Manos Peter Moores in memory of Levi Pike and in memory Nicolas Bower of Lita Delaney Caroline Manuel of Mildred Pike Susan Newhook in Evan Moorhouse Shirley Marriott Chris I. Pilkington in memory memory of Ray Guy Norma Morash of Lynn Holman, R.N. and in Jane Mason-Browne Maureen C. Nolan in honour memory of Marie Pilkington Christopher Morel in Mellen Mathers in honour of of Gail Emsley's 7th Birthday memory of George M. Tracy Piltman Lian Cunningham - Grandson William Norman Nancy Morgan in honour Zalmon Pober in memory Tanya Matheson in memory Meg Norris in honour of of Marj & Bill Morgan of Michael Goodman of Mary Jane Webber The Nerdfighters, DFTBA Megan Moriarty in honour The Popuri family in memory of Rick Mathews Jan Nugent of Peter Moriarty Smt. Laxmi Kondagunta Puranam Ann Marie McAleenan Amanda and Ryan Alexander Alice Moriarty Alayne & Vincent Pothier Trevor McCann in honour Catherine O'Hara Megan Moriarty lennifer Power of Patrick Cassidy and in Bobby O'Keefe in honour honour of Sarah Cassidy Carol Morris Jason Prager of Rita O'Keefe Anne C. McCluskey Rosalind & Peter Morrison in The Pratley Family Agnes O'Neill memory of Bruce Mosher Flizabeth McCormack in honour Colleen Prentice Heidi Taylor & Denis Leclaire of Colleen McCormack Linnie MacAulay John Rumsey & Barbara Pritchard Michelle Paradis Kahlan Kaida Head Fli Moscovitch in honour of Doris & Victor Rumsey

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Eve Wickwire in honour of my grandchildren

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