

Halifax Public  
Libraries

Annual Report 2018 – 19



## A Message From Our Board Chair

Halifax Public Libraries has had another year for the books.

From the launch of kiosks that reach new populations and fly books around the world, to the addition of musical instruments in our lending collection—the Library is always evolving in exciting and unexpected ways.

The work we do is boosted by spaces designed (and renovated!) to inspire, community voices starting new dialogues and movements, Library staff dedicated to finding answers, and the simple joys of discovering a new author or attending a unique event. Possibility is all around us, and it looks different every day. I think that's visible in these pages.

Our community members are our biggest champions and changemakers. I can't wait to see what we do next, together. Thanks for coming along for the journey.

Tara Gault  
Chair, Halifax Regional Library Board



## A Message From Our Chief Librarian and CEO

People are at the heart of what we do. Every time we improve someone's life through their Library experience, we are succeeding. The beauty of libraries is their ability to be just what someone needs at just the right time, whether that's a safe and warm place on a cold evening, an outlet for creative energy, or the source of inspiration through words, music, or friendship.

We love when our Library initiatives surprise and delight our community. These initiatives are often the ones that call on us to redefine the modern library.

Looking back on our 2018-19 year, it's the moments, big and small, that speak to our community impact. It's when a newcomer walks into their first English Language Learning session at the Library; welcoming people to tackle difficult conversations and work on solutions together; and young wizards dancing at our Yule Ball. These many moments define our important role in the community, and our impact.

Åsa Kachan  
Chief Librarian and CEO

# Halifax Regional Library Board



**Tara Gault, Board Chair**

The launch of the Outdoor Library at Dartmouth North.



**Cindy O'Driscoll, Vice Chair**

The launch of the Musical Instrument Lending Library at Alderney Gate.



**Councillor Lisa Blackburn**

The launch of the Sun Life Musical Instrument Lending Library was so moving—and to have our very own Joel Plaskett help kick it off was the cherry on top!



**Councillor Tim Outhit**

Seeing the great Bedford Library staff at Bedford Days every year.



**Sharon Costey**

Meeting friends at the Library to chat about local theatre events.



**Kim Brooks**

Pokémon Bingo at Mini-Con!



**Alfred Burgesson**

The Art of City Building Conference last fall at Central Library: It brought city builders from all over the world to Halifax, and engaged citizens.



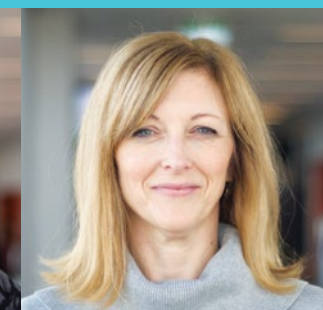
**Mayor Mike Savage**

The launch of the Dartmouth North Outdoor Library. The excitement in the air was a testament to the important, evolving role our Libraries play in communities.



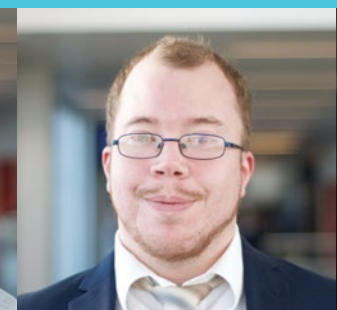
**Marika Warren**

The look of joy and delight on my four-year-old's face when she got her very own Library card.



**Leah Hamilton**

The announcement of the fabulous and very generous gift of the Sun Life Musical Instrument Lending Library at the Alderney branch.



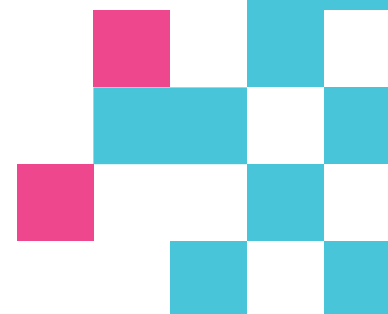
**Brad Munro**

Mini-Con! It was an excellent showcase of the welcoming atmosphere of the Library.



**Åsa Kachan, Chief Librarian and CEO**

Celebrating the inspiring young authors of *R is for Reparations* at their book launch at Halifax North Memorial Library.



### Favourite Library Memories

### Favourite Library Memories





Making healthy snacks at Captain William Spry Public Library.

## Cooking Up Something Good

Halifax Regional Municipality has one of the highest rates of food insecurity in Canada. The Library, as a pillar of our community, has a responsibility to respond to this critical need, and is uniquely positioned to do so.

With the support of many community partners, over the past two years, we have been serving more healthy snacks at our branches and have increased our food programming. Our programs work to highlight local ingredients, and many have an educational component relating to planting and gardening, kitchen basics, grocery budgeting, or nutrition.

### IMPROVING FOOD LITERACY

In Fall 2018, the Library welcomed our new Food Literacy Specialist, Emily Glover. A registered dietician, some of Emily's priorities include planning and hosting food literacy classes for children and teens, sharing culinary tips and skills, celebrating local and global cuisine, and helping to address food security issues within the community.

In Spring 2019, Sackville Public Library opened its new Library Kitchen. We look forward to hosting more hands-on food programs in the space.

### HEALTH-FOCUSED CHANGE

One of our most popular lunches was a bean dip served on multigrain tortillas and topped with melted cheese and fresh tomatoes. The kids went wild for it. One boy in particular was amazed at how good it tasted because he hated vegetables. He came back for seconds and thirds, each time saying, "I can't believe I'm eating this. I love it so much, but I hate vegetables!" He took the recipe home to share with his family.

- Library staff,  
Dartmouth North Public Library

### SHARING CULTURE

We have a couple of boys from Syria who frequently come into the Library. They mostly just use the computers and keep to themselves. However, on the day they came in and saw that falafels were on the menu, their eyes lit up! Here was food they were experts at preparing! The oldest boy began an impromptu demonstration of how to properly build a falafel. It was a big hit. All the kids were laughing and following instructions. This comfort food allowed these young newcomers to open up and have fun. Food really does connect us all.

- Library staff,  
Dartmouth North Public Library

### SOCIAL CONNECTION AND MENTAL WELLNESS

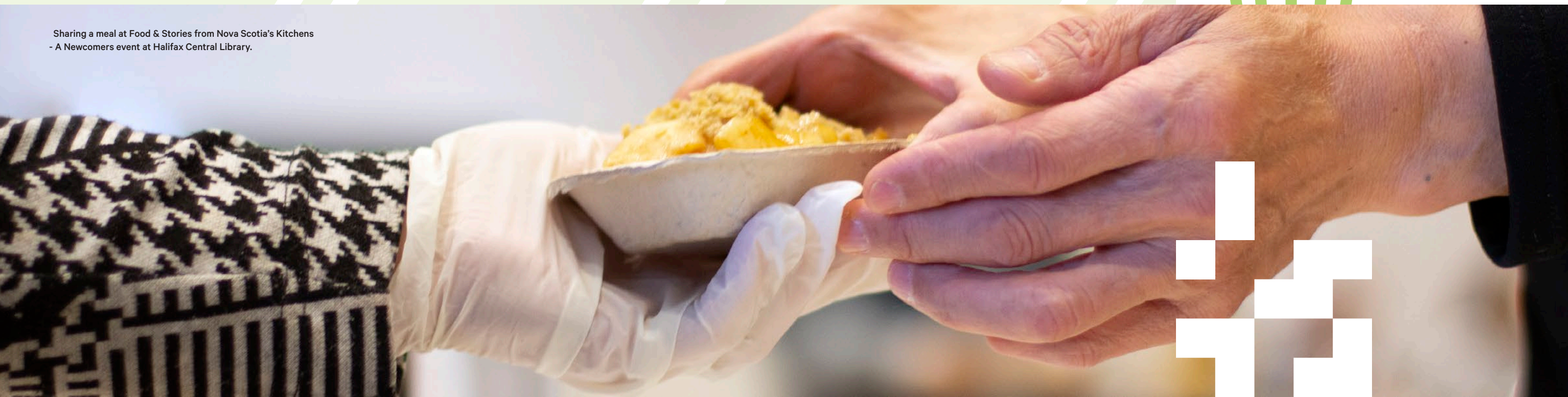
As an adult who is going through a difficult time and suffering depression as a result, the Community Tea events are invaluable. I love tea, and having the opportunity to drink tea, eat good food, and socialize with others who are also there for that express purpose is more than just good for me. With the motivation, self-worth and enjoyment I get from the teas, I'd argue that they are essential for my mood and progress. This program helps me support and feel good about myself.

- Food Literacy program participant,  
Alderney Gate Public Library

19,373  
youth snacks served



Sharing a meal at Food & Stories from Nova Scotia's Kitchens  
- A Newcomers event at Halifax Central Library.





Susan "the Sketcher" MacLeod attended and sketched the *R is for Reparations* book launch during TD presents African Heritage Month.



F IS FOR  
FEARLESS.

I WILL  
SPEAK UP.

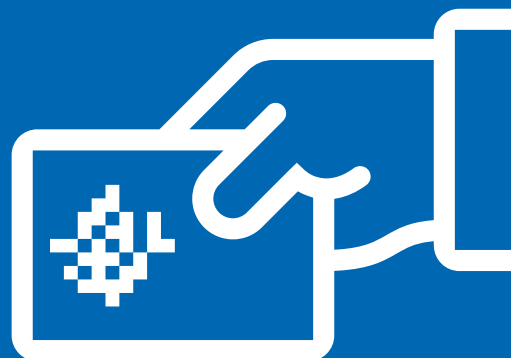
Enjoying a traditional Mi'kmaw performance by Trevor Gould at Woodlawn Public Library.



Playing around at Cole Harbour Public Library.



Over  
**3.6**  
Million  
visits to our Libraries



Jodie Upshaw performs at the Lift Every Voice Musical Showcase, part of TD presents African Heritage Month at Halifax Public Libraries.



Andy Hay, runner-up on MasterChef Canada 2018, judges Dartmouth North Public Library's Youth MasterChef Challenge.



## Library Kiosks

This year, we popped up permanently in two new locations with colourful, vending machine-style kiosks, stocked with books for all ages and interests. These new community touchpoints extend Library service beyond our physical locations and create connections to our community in convenient places, building awareness and encouraging reading.

### BOOKS NOW BOARDING

Haligonians and worldwide travelers alike can now grab and return books on the fly.

Through a partnership between Halifax Public Libraries and Halifax Stanfield International Airport, in June 2018, a Library returns box and two book kiosks—one pre-security, and the other near Gate 14—were installed at the Airport. The kiosks have been met with great enthusiasm by fliers in need of reading material, welcoming committees, and passersby.

The idea has quite literally taken off. Multiple libraries across Canada have been inspired to create similar airport partnerships in their cities.

### EASTERN PASSAGE, MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBOUR

We often heard from Eastern Passage residents about distance-related barriers to accessing Library services.

In response to this need, in September 2018, the Tallahassee Recreation Centre in Eastern Passage became home to a Library kiosk. Upon its installation, we saw an initial increase of new Library cardholders in the area.



Checking out the new Eastern Passage book kiosk.

## New Additions

### CARSHARE

Through a partnership with CarShare Atlantic, Central Library's garage is now the proud resting place for a new, rentable accessible van. The All Abilities Van provides people with physical challenges and those who care for them access to hand or foot pedal-controlled transportation, and is parked in an extra wide spot so the side ramp can fully deploy.

### PRESSREADER

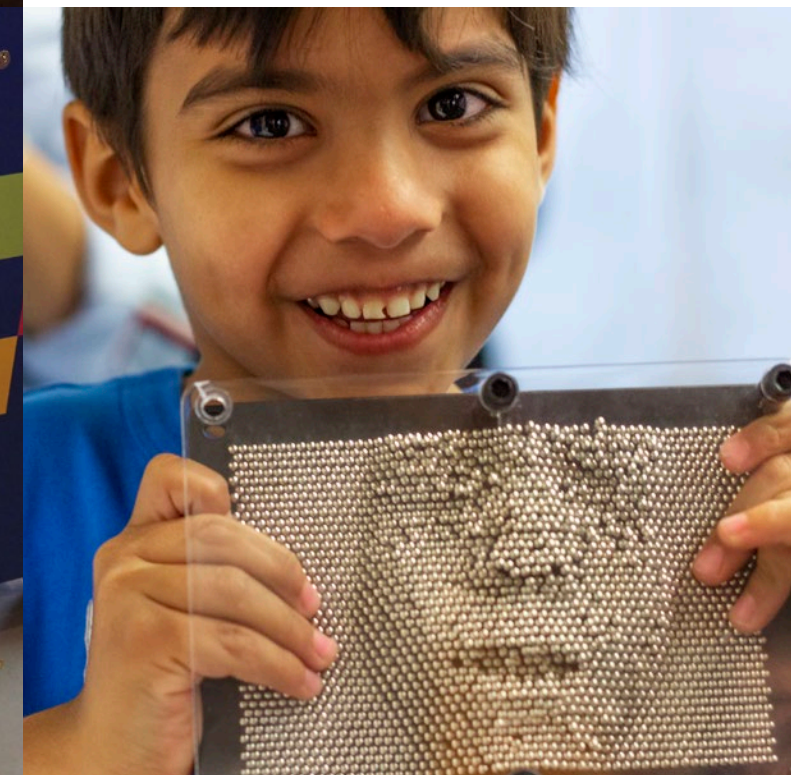
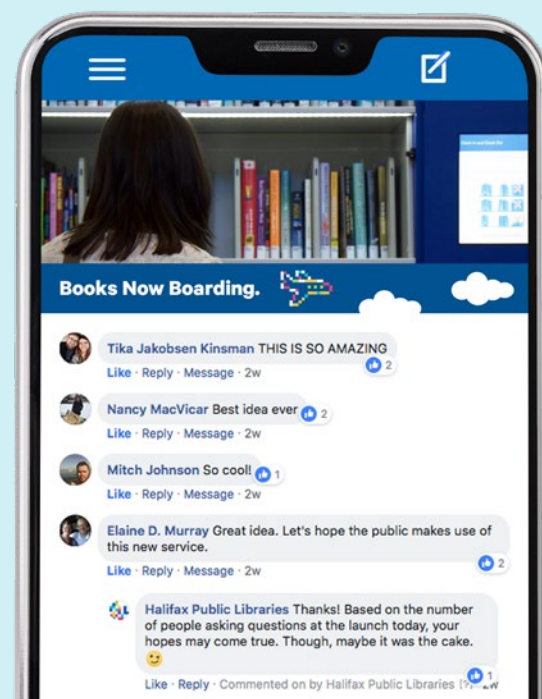
This year, we went international by adding PressReader to our growing collection of online resources. This tool enables Library visitors to search thousands of publications by country and language, read translated articles instantly, and even borrow foreign editions of digital magazines.

### COMMUNICATION TOOL KIT

In 2017, we partnered with Autism Nova Scotia to add three different Autism Tools kits to our collection for individuals and families to borrow and explore: Sensory Tools, Visual Tools, and Fidget Tools. On World Autism Acceptance Day—April 2, 2019—we celebrated the launch of a fourth kit: Communication Tools.

The expertise and guidance of Autism Nova Scotia led to the creation of a kit that supports skill-building and encourages verbal and alternate communication including hand gestures, facial expressions, written notes, and pictures.

Exploring Autism Tool Kits at Keshen Goodman Public Library.





A book was returned to us after nearly 60 years! Read all about it on our website.



Celebrating volunteers at Sackville Public Library.



In June 2018, we launched  
a new, more user-friendly  
**WEBSITE**  
and online catalogue



Prom dress 'shopping' for free gowns with the Glass Slipper Organization at Halifax Central Library.



Dancing the night away at Halifax Central Library's Yule Ball.



Proud to be part of your story:  
Walking in the 2018 Halifax Pride Parade.





Joel Plaskett performs at the Sun Life Musical Instrument Lending Library Launch.

Light Therapy  
To-Go Lamps  
were checked out

478  
TIMES

### TUNING IN WITH THE MANDOLIN

Kyle Andrus has a passion for music and an appreciation for its many genres, and although he knows his way around a guitar, he was eager to try his hand at something new.

“It’s a neat initiative, to be able to try an instrument before you buy it,” says Kyle. His curiosity led him to borrow a mandolin from the Library.

The mandolin is part of the string family, tuned with a set of four, five, or six doubled strings. You’ll often hear it played in folk, country, and bluegrass music.

Kyle has been teaching himself to play the mandolin based off his knowledge of guitar chords. The challenge, he says, is not only the different chord shapes, but the tiny neck of the instrument. He says taking on this new challenge has been a rewarding experience and worth every bit of practice.

And, Kyle’s already decided the next instrument he’ll tackle in our collection—the banjo.

Kyle Andrus plays his borrowed mandolin.

## Striking a Chord

On July 11, 2018, at Alderney Gate Public Library, Halifax Public Libraries, Sun Life Financial, and community members celebrated the beginning of a new musical venture.

Sun Life Financial donated 150 instruments to our Library collection in an effort to make the arts more accessible to our community. Violins, guitars, ukuleles, keyboards, doumbeks, mandolins, banjos, and bongos in varying sizes are now available to be borrowed from all 14 Halifax Public Libraries branches. The collection features a Tenor guitar donated by JUNO and East Coast Music Award-winning artist, Joel Plaskett. Following the launch, many generous community members also donated lightly used instruments to be added for public use.

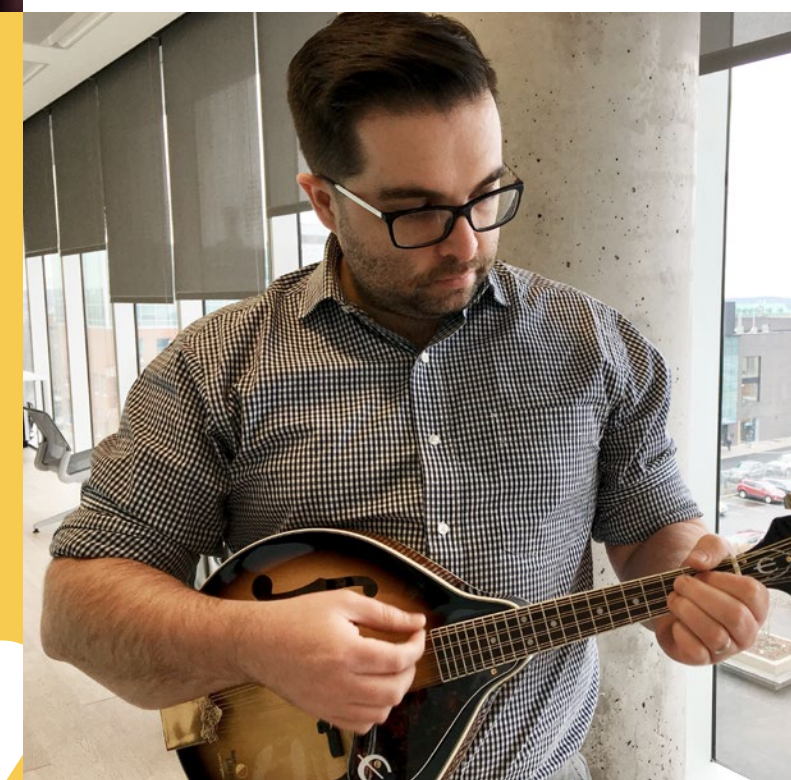
Just like a book, instruments can be checked out using a Library card and are loaned for three-week periods.

“

There’ll always be books at the Library, but it’s incredible that you can just borrow an instrument and teach yourself. Totally worth the wait.

- Kyle Andrus

”







# 9,422

Library programs  
ACROSS 14  
BRANCHES

## Vibrant Spaces

### LET'S TALK LIBRARIES: BEDFORD

We have been working on creating a foundation for improving Library access and services in Bedford.

Through conversations, an online survey, and pop-ups at special locations in Fall 2018, we talked with community members about the future of Bedford Public Library. We asked: "What does the best possible Library service look like to you?"

Moving forward with this community feedback on features, spaces, and access, we're working on finding the best possible location for a new Bedford Public Library.

### DARTMOUTH NORTH OUTDOOR LIBRARY

The great outdoors are incredibly great in Dartmouth North.

On June 29, 2018, Halifax Public Libraries and the Halifax Regional Municipality officially unveiled Dartmouth North Community Centre and Library's Outdoor Library and playground.

Much to our delight, the sun decided to join us just in time for our Summer Celebration. A large crowd of families, community leaders, and Library partners filled the new local "backyard" for an afternoon of activities and fun.

Now, through the seasons, the Outdoor Library comes to life in so many different ways, from outdoor movie screenings and tea parties, to snowman-building competitions and cooking demonstrations.

The space was made possible through the generous support of TD Bank Group's Friends of the Environment, ACOA, and HRM capital funds.

Experiencing a cooking demonstration at Dartmouth North's Outdoor Library.



Bedford Public Library users share their thoughts at a Let's Talk Libraries pop-up event.



Dacia MacDonald (third from left) receives her award.



Marcus James (right) receives his award.

## Awarding Excellence

### HAROLD CROWELL SOCIAL INNOVATION AWARDS

The Harold Crowell Social Innovation Awards recognize thoughtful, resourceful, and inspiring initiatives in Halifax, and the people who have made them possible. In 2018, two of the three recipients included Library staff members, and the third recipient was a Library-partnered initiative.

Marcus James, Community Library Assistant at Halifax North Memorial Public Library, was celebrated for his role in starting the organization 902ManUp and helping create a more positive future for young Black men in Halifax. Dacia MacDonald, Librarian at Keshen Goodman Public Library, was recognized as part of a collaborative team with representatives from the Ecology Action Centre and Stone Hearth Bakery, for their innovative work at the Mobile Food Market.

Tara Kinch of Chebucto Connections was also recognized for her work with ECHO: Diagnosing Poverty. Library staff at Captain William Spry Public Library were proud to support Tara's work in connecting 210 residents of Spryfield to much-needed services in their community.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Halifax Public Libraries was honoured to be recognized by two of our community partners this past year for ongoing work in support of their organizations. Teen Services staff across the Library system received the 2018 Community Spirit Award from our friends at The Youth Project; and the Library was named the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Nova Scotia Chapter's Community Partner of the Year for 2018.





### ANDERS BALDERSTON

**Children's Programmer**  
**Halifax Central Library**  
**Began working with us in 2013**

Anders has a big hug for everyone in his path, a song in his heart, and an eternal optimism. He brings the same level of creativity, joy, and enthusiasm to his programs each and every day, and the kids ask for him by name constantly.



### ANDY CONRAD

**Graphic Designer, Photographer**  
**Marketing & Communications**  
**Began working with us in 2001**

Andy has a special way of telling Library stories without words: through the camera and by using his artistic talents. He captures special moments in magical ways (which can be seen among these very pages!). He has an innate ability to make people feel comfortable, and his genuine enthusiasm for the job is contagious—which is always apparent from the big grins seen in his photographs!



### SHANNON HANSEN

**Community Outreach**  
**Halifax North Memorial Public Library**  
**Began working with us in 2018**

Shannon's driving passion is to demonstrate to youth in our community that there are opportunities in the wider world for them to take advantage of. Every day at the branch and in his community, he models teamwork, compassion, and discipline, volunteering his time outside the Library to coaching and supporting teens in his neighbourhood.



### JASMIN WOOD

**Materials Preparation**  
**Collection Management**  
**Began working with us in 1988**

Jasmin is one of the hardest-working people in the Library. She's incredibly organized, reliable, and full of creative ideas. She's also a party planner extraordinaire, making sure every social or organizational event she's involved with (potlucks, fundraisers, etc.) goes off beautifully and without a hitch. She always has a good story to share, can make anyone laugh, and is incredibly thoughtful.

# Lou Duggan

On September 9, 2018, family and friends of the late Lou Duggan gathered in the newly named Lou Duggan Creative Studio at Halifax Central Library. The room was filled with smiles, laughter, and a few tears, as Library staff and family alike reflected on Lou's life and legacy.

Lou Duggan was an incredible friend to libraries across our city, province, and country. Friendly, enthusiastic, and dedicated, Lou served as the President for The Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA); Dalhousie School of Information Management Associated Alumni Association President; and worked with many library association committees.

Halifax Public Libraries has always had a special relationship with Lou. Before he passed away, Lou met often with our Chief Librarian and CEO, Åsa Kachan, to discuss his legacy. Lou wanted—as always—to give back to his community in a way that would inspire minds of all ages, and create new opportunities for creativity to thrive in a Library environment.

"I hope you feel Lou's spirit shining through the windows when you use this space," Åsa Kachan said to the group gathered to celebrate. "Learning takes all forms. Lou knew that, and the activities in 'Lou's Studio' will reflect that every day."

The Library is honoured to have received a memorial endowment from Lou Duggan and the Duggan family to renovate our Central Library creative studio. Formerly known as the 'Creative Lab,' this room on Floor 2 of the Library, overlooking Queen Street and Spring Garden Road, is being transformed into an updated and modern community makers-space. New, high-end technology; top-of-the-line crafting tools; updated furniture; and kitchen infrastructure will speak to Lou's bright spirit and his passion for libraries. Additionally, an internship program for young professional librarians to work in the studio has been funded by the legacy gift.





Meeting creatures from Hope for Wildlife during March Break at Sheet Harbour Public Library.



Rolling through Bike Week at Musquodoboit Harbour Public Library.



Learning to camp with Parks Canada at Halifax Central Library.



Almost  
**4 Million**  
WIFI CONNECTIONS



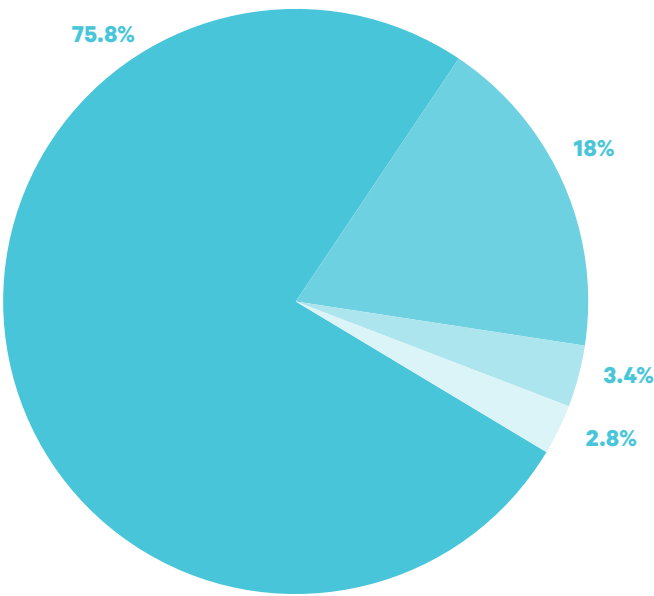
# Halifax Public Libraries

## Revenue & Expenditures 2018-19

### Revenue

\$20,970,525	Municipal
\$4,989,167	Provincial
\$948,711	Library-Generated
\$763,524	Special Projects & Donations/Gifts

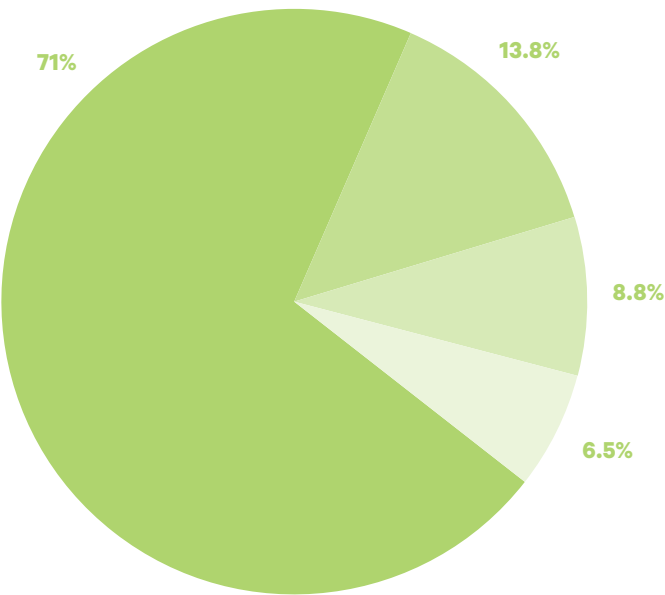
**\$27,671,927**



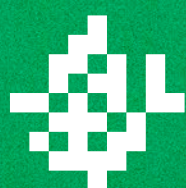
### Expenditures

\$19,389,186	Salaries & Benefits
\$3,756,344	Facilities & Operations
\$2,392,554	Library Materials
\$1,766,290	Special Projects & Other

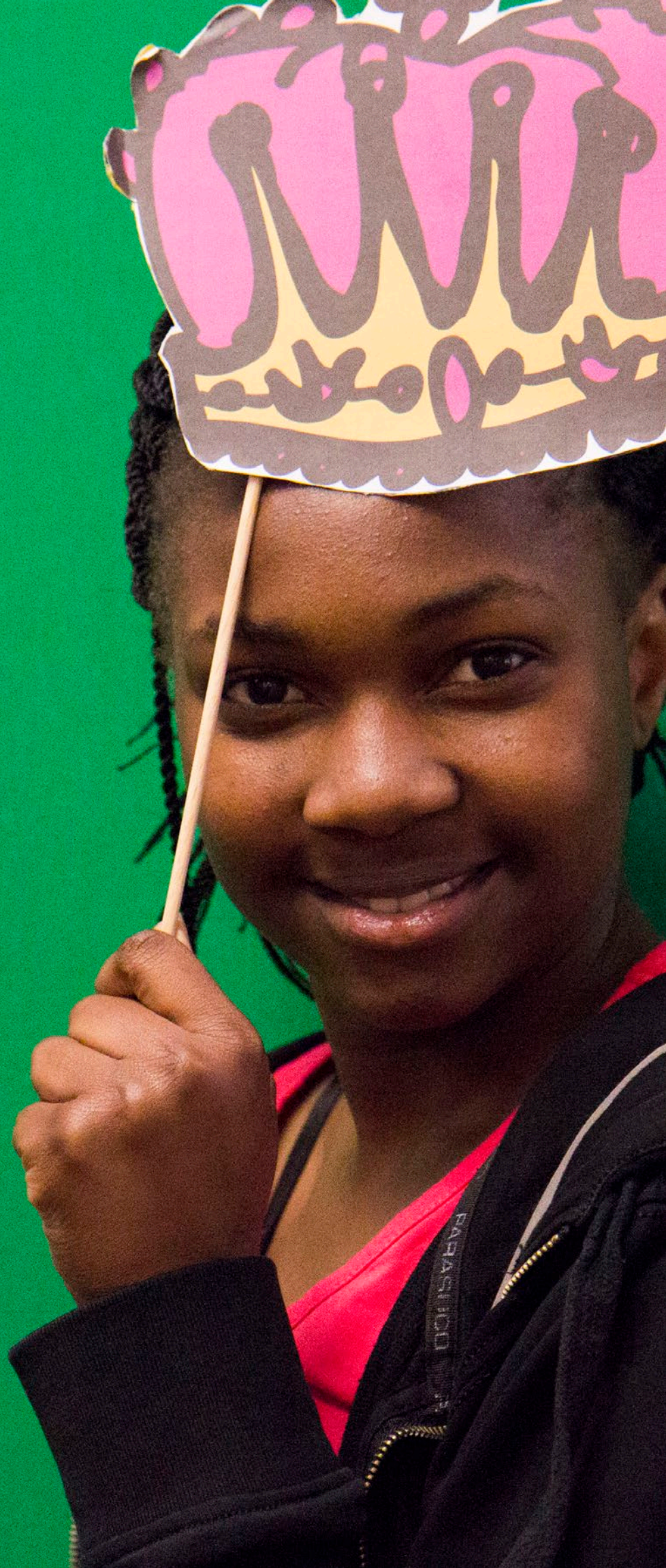
**\$27,304,374**







Halifax Public  
Libraries



Celebrating the release of *Black Panther*  
at Halifax North Memorial Public Library.