WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

A CASE FOR SUPPORT

Fifty years of writers helping writers.
The next fifty begin now.



A PROVINCE THAT WRITES

Nova Scotia has always been a province of storytellers. From Mi'kmaw oral tradition to the voices being discovered in classrooms across this province today, storytelling is woven into who we are, both individually and as a community.

The **Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia (WFNS)** exists because writers are stronger together. Founded on the simple but powerful idea that writers can help each other, WFNS has grown over **five decades** into the home for Nova Scotia's literary community: hobbyists and professionals, poets and novelists, those just beginning and those who have shaped our national literary culture.

We believe that the written word is a powerful tool for self-expression, and that we all benefit when underrepresented voices are uplifted, supported, and heard.

Today, with **900 members across the province**, WFNS is larger and more vibrant than ever before. We are asking for your support to ensure the organization can meet the moment — to invest in the people and infrastructure that sustain this remarkable community.

WHO WE ARE

WFNS is a **small but dynamic arts non-profit**: a collective voice, a professional resource, and a creative gathering place for writers across Nova Scotia. Our community is diverse with writers from every region of the province, every genre and form, every age, and every background. We are hobbyists and prize-winning authors. Our membership includes new and emerging voices as well as established figures in Canadian literature.

What binds us together is a belief in the power of the written word, in community, and in the ability of Nova Scotian stories to resonate far beyond our borders.

Our mission is to foster creative writing and the profession of writing in Nova Scotia; to provide advice and assistance to writers at all stages of their careers; to encourage greater public recognition of writers and their achievements; and to enhance the literary arts in our regional and national culture.

WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

OUR VALUES

- We value **the diversity of writers** in all regions of Nova Scotia and strive to be inclusive of all backgrounds, abilities, and languages represented in the province. We value all genres of writing and aim to create a welcoming, accessible, and supportive atmosphere for all writers.
- We value **the practice of writing** and the importance of developing our skill and craft as writers.
- We value **writing as a profession and a creative pursuit**. We strive to support and represent the interests of all writers.
- We value **community building among writers**. We encourage writers to connect to readers, services, and resources. We have an appreciation for writing and a commitment to supporting its role in the life of Nova Scotians. We value the contributions of Nova Scotian writers regionally, nationally and internationally.
- We value the **inherent skills and resources of our community** and, where possible, will use the skills and resources of our membership and community at large.
- We **value professionalism** and conduct ourselves with a high level of integrity. We are resourceful and creative in how we manage our organization's operations.

> The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia has been with me every step of my career. As a new, fledgling writer, their weekly newsletters were a lifeline, providing me with a crash course on the local literary landscape. I took their courses and performed at their virtual open mic during the pandemic. As I progressed, I began promoting my own events in their calendar and teaching their courses. I have won their Rita Joe Poetry Prize and was recently awarded a sponsored residency at Jampolis Cottage. My debut memoir is forthcoming in fall 2026 and I have no doubt their unwavering support will continue.
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> Even more than these tangible examples of support, most valuable of all are the knowledgeable, dedicated staff and the community they have fostered. They provide a vital space — physical, virtual, and intangible — for writers to connect, learn, and evolve. Without them, the literary landscape of Nova Scotia would be a shadow of itself.
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> **- Lindsey Harrington, poet and memoirist, Rita Joe Poetry Prize winner**

WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

OUR IMPACT

WFNS programs reach writers at every stage of their journey. From the classroom to the published page, we are here to help.

In 2026, we engaged 900 members across Nova Scotia. In the 2025/26 school year, we sent professional authors to schools across the province for nearly 200 subsidized classroom visits. In 2025/26, we awarded $53,000 in awards and prizes and paid $96,000 to writers for their professional services.

Our programs:

- The **Alistair MacLeod Mentorship Program** pairs emerging writers with established authors for intensive manuscript development
- **Writers in the Schools** sends professional authors into classrooms to bring stories and representation to young readers across the province
- The **Jampolis Cottage Residency Program** provides writers with dedicated time and space to develop their work
- **Five literary awards**, including the Thomas Raddall Award for Atlantic Fiction — one of Canada's most prestigious literary prizes
- **Three Emerging Writers Prizes** recognize barriers to literary creation.
- The **Nova Writes Competition** provides developmental and publication opportunities to emerging writers
- **Booktoberfest**, a annual literary fair at the Halifax Central Library
- **Creative writing and professional development workshops, open mic events, a manuscript review service, a micro-anthology series, and more!**

> Simply put, my writing career would not exist without the support I've received from the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia. As an emerging artist, I benefitted tremendously from WFNS' stellar workshop offerings, and my time in the Alistair MacLeod Mentorship Program helped me take my first novel from a rough outline to a fully fledged story. Now, as my own skills in storytelling and teaching have grown, it has been my privilege to offer my time and expertise back to the Fed as a workshop facilitator and jury member. Every dollar invested in WFNS pays untold dividends into our local creative industry and the artistic future of our province.
>
> **- K.R. Byggdin, author and winner of the 2023 Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award**



Photo: Stoo Metz Photography

WRITERS' FEDERATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

THE NEED

WFNS has grown significantly over the past five years. Our programming has expanded, our membership has increased, our reach across the province has widened. And yet the operational infrastructure that supports this growth (the staff, systems, and resources that make it all possible) has not kept pace.

The most urgent need is unrestricted revenue.

Government funding for arts organizations has become increasingly precarious. The provincial and federal landscape has shifted in ways that make diversified, community-based revenue more important than ever. WFNS cannot rely on any single source of support to sustain what we have built. That's why we need you.

Investing in WFNS means investing in the people who show up every day to serve this community: the small but mighty staff who coordinate programs, support members, and bring a high standard of care to everything they do.

This is also a milestone moment. WFNS turns 50 — and the question before us is not just how do we celebrate five decades, but how do we build the foundation for the next fifty years?

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your gift to WFNS is a gift to every writer we serve, and to the readers and communities that benefit from their work.

Your support gives WFNS the flexibility to direct resources where they are most needed: strengthening our team, expanding programs, and ensuring that our home for writers remains open, welcoming, and sustainable.

Whether you are a longtime supporter of the arts, a reader who has been moved by a Nova Scotian book, or an organization that believes in the power of storytelling — there is a place for you in this work.

Writers helping writers. That's where we started. That's where we're going.

We hope you'll join us.

To learn more or to make a gift, contact:

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