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FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Advancing Community Work This February

February is a time to move ideas into action and continue advancing community work across Newfoundland and Labrador. This month's newsletter highlights opportunities to participate, collaborate, and contribute to initiatives that strengthen our communities and support collective well-being.

From open calls and funding opportunities to upcoming new programs, events, volunteer roles, and policy updates, there are many ways to engage and help move important work forward — together.

Open Hearth: Advancing Equity in Nonprofit Leadership

OPEN HEARTH:
Advancing Equity in Nonprofit Leadership

A new mentorship program for women and gender-diverse leaders

- 🕒 **Mentorship & Guidance**
- 🕒 **Leadership Skills & Growth**
- 🕒 **Building Inclusive Workplaces**

Info Session | February 17 | 1:00 PM NST | Online

The graphic features a background image of three silhouetted figures standing on a hilltop with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture against a sunset sky. The text is overlaid on this image in white and yellow.

Community Sector Council NL has partnered with **Capacity Canada** to launch **Open Hearth**, a new mentorship program supporting women and gender-diverse leaders in the nonprofit sector. The program focuses on mentorship and guidance, leadership skills development, and building more inclusive workplaces across the community sector.

Join us on **February 17, 2026, at 1:00 PM NST** for a virtual session highlighting the program's key benefits and launching the mentorship application process in Newfoundland and Labrador.

For questions or more information, please get in touch with Christine Snow, Open Hearth Local Program Manager, CSCNL, at christinesnow@cscnl.ca.

[Register for the Session](#)

Call for Workshop Facilitators | ASCEND – Cohort 3



The poster features the ASCEND logo at the top, followed by the title 'Call for Workshop Facilitators' and 'Cohort 3 start date: March 30'. A central image of a smiling woman is overlaid with a list of workshop topics: 'Soft skills', 'Resume writing', 'Interview skills', and 'Career exploration & goal setting'. A blue banner on the right states 'Deadline for submissions February 26, 2026'. At the bottom, it is noted that the program is funded by the Government of Canada's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, and the Canada logo is displayed. The footer contains logos for CSCNL, Impact Organizations of Nova Scotia, Inspire, community sector, and NANPO.

ASCEND Cohort 3 begins on March 30, and we're inviting experienced facilitators to submit proposals for **virtual workshops** that support youth *personal and professional development*. We're seeking sessions focused on areas such as soft skills, resume writing, interview preparation, career exploration and goal setting, workplace professionalism, digital and financial literacy, and mental health–related topics.

Expressions of interest for other relevant development topics are also welcome.

[View the full EOI](#)

Funded by the Government of Canada's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy | Canada

ASCEND
COMMUNITY WORKS
a program from
cscnl

SPRING 2026 COHORT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

🕒 Apply by March 15, 2026
Employer and youth applications now open!

[JOINASCEND.CA](https://joinascend.ca)

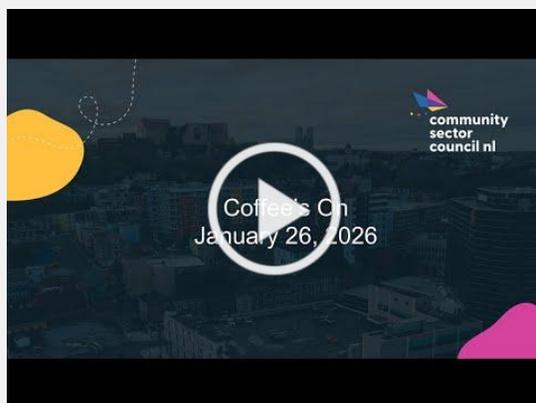
Impact Organizations of New Scotia | cscnl | Inspire | community sector council nl | NANPO

ASCEND Applications Still Open

Applications are still open for **ASCEND Cohort 3 until March 15**. The program connects youth with meaningful work experience while supporting employers through structured placements and mentorship.

[Visit ASCEND](https://joinascend.ca)

Coffee's On: January Session Recap



Coffee's On is a CSCNL initiative under the *Community Vitality & Well-Being portfolio*, creating space for connection, learning, and collaboration across the sector. In January, we were joined by March of Dimes Canada to learn more about the After Stroke program and how it supports stroke survivors and their families across Newfoundland & Labrador.

Interested in being a guest on a future Coffee's On? Email lindseyhynes@cscnl.ca.

Celebrating Community Ownership Through Social Enterprise

Mi'kmaw Cultural Foundation recently shared a video from the **Social Enterprise Acquisition Celebration** held last month in Stephenville. Supported through the **Social Enterprise Through Acquisition (SETA)** program delivered by CSCNL's Social Innovation Lab, the acquisition highlights the power of community ownership and collaboration.



Upcoming CSCNL Events

Webinar: 2024 NL Child & Family Poverty Report Card

Join us for a webinar on **February 26** at 10 am exploring the **2024 Newfoundland and Labrador Child & Family Poverty Report Card**, developed in partnership with *Jimmy Pratt Foundation, Choices for Youth, and Community Sector Council NL*.

This session will highlight key findings, policy trends, and the realities of housing and food insecurity affecting families across the province, with space for reflection and discussion.



2024
Newfoundland and Labrador
Child and Family Poverty Report Card

Presenting the Report Card
February 26 | 10:00 AM NST | Online

[Register for the Webinar](#)



SAVE THE DATE
April 29 – May 1, 2026

COMMUNITY
Ideas Festival
2026

Reminder: Have Your Say — Pre-Budget Survey



cscnl

HAVE YOUR SAY: PRE-BUDGET SURVEY
Help shape our pre-budget submission

If you haven't had a chance yet, there's still time to share your perspective through CSCNL's **Pre-Budget Survey**. Your input helps inform advocacy, policy work, and the development of our pre-budget submission on behalf of Newfoundland and Labrador's community sector.

The survey takes **about 10 minutes**, and all responses are confidential and reported only in aggregate.

[Take the Survey](#)

Grants & Funding



Enabling Accessibility Fund – 2026 Call for Proposals

Government of Canada is accepting proposals for projects that improve accessibility in workplaces and communities and support employment for persons with disabilities, including in Indigenous communities.

[Check Eligibility](#)



IELCC Quality Improvement Projects Funding

Government of Canada is now accepting applications for Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Quality Improvement Projects. Funding supports Indigenous-led initiatives that strengthen and improve early learning and child care programs.

[Learn More](#)



2026 Summer Employment Program

The Government of NL is now accepting applications for the 2026 Summer Employment Program for Students. The program supports non-profit organizations, private sector employers, and municipalities seeking to hire students over the summer.

[Apply Now](#)



NLFC Co-operative Outreach Fund

Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Co-operatives offers the Co-operative Outreach Fund to support small co-ops in Newfoundland and Labrador with travel and outreach activities that strengthen co-op knowledge, partnerships, and sector growth. Co-ops may apply for up to \$1,000 per fiscal year.

[Explore the Fund](#)



2026 Community Challenge Grant

ParticipACTION is accepting applications for the 2026 Community Challenge grants of up to \$1,000. Funding is available to support physical activity and sport programs taking place in June 2026, with a focus on increasing participation among equity-denied groups. Applications close February 10, 2026.

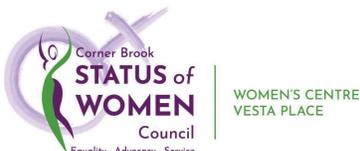
[View Details](#)



Scotts Gro for Good Grant

Scotts is accepting applications for the Gro for Good grant, providing up to \$4,500 for projects focused on health, wellness, edible gardening, and environmental enhancement. Open to non-profits, municipalities, and schools. Applications close February 28.

[Explore Funding](#)



Violence Prevention Funding – Western Newfoundland

Corner Brook Status of Women Council is offering funding to support violence prevention projects, workshops, and community initiatives in Western Newfoundland.

Applications close February 23.

[View the Call](#)

Funding for Outdoor Play in NL

Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador has launched Free to Play, supporting community-led initiatives that encourage outdoor, imaginative play for children across Newfoundland and Labrador. Funding will be allocated through a participatory cohort process.

[Submit your Letter](#)

Air Canada Foundation – Big Dreams Grant

Air Canada Foundation is accepting applications for the Big Dreams Grant, offering up to \$100,000 to Canadian charities using sport and active recreation to support physical health, inclusion, and life skills for equity-deserving youth and children with disabilities.

[Apply for the Grant](#)

Programs & Opportunities



Board Volunteer Opportunity for Legal Professionals

United Way Newfoundland and Labrador is seeking a legal professional to join its Board of Directors. This volunteer opportunity offers a meaningful way to contribute your expertise to an organization supporting vital charitable programs and services.

[Explore More](#)



Explore Community Programs with AMAL

AMAL – Unite & Empower offers a wide range of free, inclusive community programs — from language exchange and wellness to dance, sports, and live music. Everyone is welcome, and all activities are designed to foster connection, well-being, and belonging.

[View Events](#)



Become a Mentor in 2026

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Newfoundland is seeking volunteers to support children waiting for a mentor. Currently, 65% of those waiting are boys — and they need men willing to step forward. Volunteering as a mentor is a meaningful way to build connection, purpose, and lasting impact in a young person's life.

[Become a Big](#)



Call for Board Members: Trans Support NL

Trans Support NL is seeking passionate individuals to join



Volunteer for the 2026 NL Summer Games

The 2026 NL Summer Games volunteer application is now



St. John's Applause Awards

The City of St. John's is now accepting nominations for the

its Board of Directors. This volunteer opportunity offers a chance to support trans and gender-diverse communities and help create inclusive, affirming spaces across Newfoundland and Labrador.

[Apply to Join](#)



Volunteer with Planned Parenthood NLSHC

Planned Parenthood NLSHC is now accepting applications for Centre Volunteers. Volunteers play a vital role in day-to-day operations and help support accessible, inclusive sexual health services across the province. Training will take place March 7–8, 2026. Applications close February 25, 2026.

[Apply to Volunteer](#)

open! As the Games celebrate their 50th anniversary, volunteers are needed to help create an unforgettable experience for athletes, families, and communities.

[Sign Up](#)



Call for Board Members: TechNest Community

TechNest Community is strengthening its Board of Directors as it enters a new phase of growth. The organization is seeking experienced professionals for strategic, governance-focused board roles in Finance & Governance, Partnerships & Ecosystem Development, and Legal & Policy.

[Express Interest](#)

St. John's Applause Awards, celebrating individuals and organizations whose leadership, creativity, and service contribute to the city's quality of life and long-term sustainability. Nominations close March 1.

[Submit Today](#)

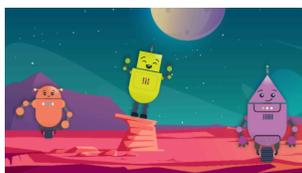


Social Ventures Incubator

Memorial University Centre for Social Enterprise is accepting applications for its Social Ventures Incubator. Open to Memorial University students and recent alumni, the program supports social ventures through training, advising, funding, and access to a collaborative space. Selected participants will join the cohort in May 2026.

[Apply to Incubator](#)

Tools & Resources



A Better World: Interactive Storytelling for Youth

A Better World is a free, interactive activity that helps children ages 7–12 explore fairness, inclusion, and gender equality through storytelling, teamwork, and imagination.



Free Placemaking Courses (Self-Paced)

Placemaking.Education offers free, self-paced courses designed to help communities strengthen public spaces through placemaking. Learn at your own pace with practical tools and real-world examples.



Help Keep 211 Up to Date

211 Canada is the country's largest source of information on government, community, and social supports. If your organization offers services to the public, take a moment to check whether your program is listed in the 211 database — or help us add or update it

Ideal for classrooms, community programs, and family learning.

to ensure people can find the support they need.

[Explore the Activity](#)

[Explore the Courses](#)

[Add a Program](#)

Policy Matters

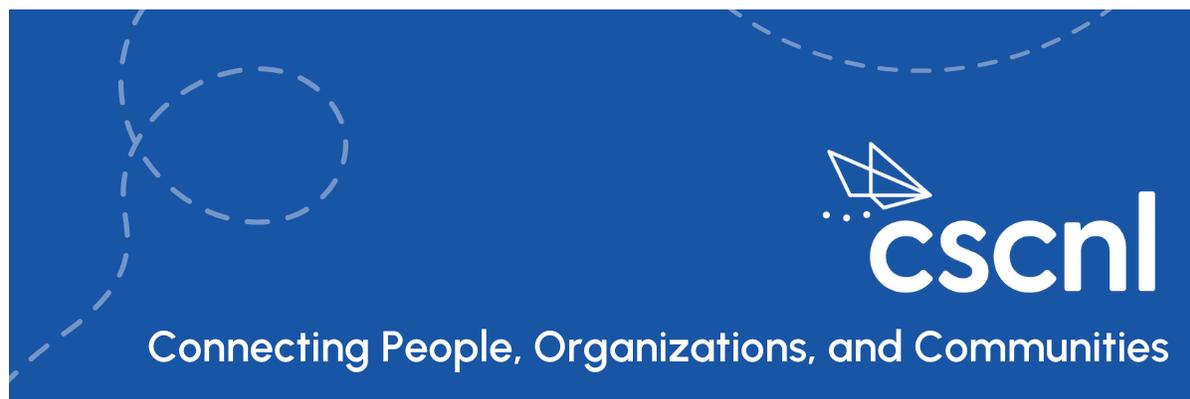
Want to stay on top of policy matters? Below is a round-up of recent government announcements, reports, and invitations for public feedback that may impact our sector:

- ◆ **Update on Social Supports and Well-Being Initiatives Released:** The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has shared updates on initiatives related to social supports and well-being, outlining ongoing efforts and priorities to support individuals and families across the province. → [Read the release](#)
- ◆ **Public Engagement Open: Budget 2026:** The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is inviting residents and organizations to share input through the Budget 2026 public engagement process. Feedback will help inform provincial priorities and decision-making. → [Participate in the consultation](#)
- ◆ **Lobbying Act Information Sessions Available:** The Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying is offering information sessions to help organizations understand lobbying requirements and registration thresholds. → [View session details](#)

Careers in the Sector

- ★ **Youth Support Worker** - Community Education Network (Stephenville, NL)
- ★ **Director of Community Wellness** - First Light NL (St. John's, NL)
- ★ **Program Coordinator** - Skills Canada NL (Mount Pearl, NL)
- ★ **Project Manager, Construction** - Built Collective (OAWA-NL) (St. John's, NL)
- ★ **Fund Development & Marketing Coordinator** - Home Again Furniture Bank (St. John's, NL)
- ★ **Revenue Development & Grant Writer** - Shallaway Youth Choir (St. John's, NL)
- ★ **Fund Development and Communications Assistant** - Easter Seals NL (St. John's, NL)
- ★ **Developmental Support Worker** - Momentum Developmental Support (Corner Brook, NL)

Have a nonprofit job to share? If you're a board director, hiring manager, or recruiter, [contact us](#) to have it featured in our newsletter.





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