

IN MEMORUIM

The Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers wish to pay tribute to two long-time volunteers with the Colchester Community Support Society. Each served a term on the Board of Directors, and both were devoted to helping their neighbours in need.



Creighton Miller

For over 20 years Creighton Miller (1955-2024) dedicated his time and truck to the work of the Colchester Food Bank/Network. He followed us from Lorne Street, to the Esplanade, to Prince Street, and he is greatly missed.



John Heukshorst

John Heukshorst (1943-2024) was the creator and coordinator of the Food Bank Garden, established in 1992 on his property in Beaver Brook. A joint effort of the Knights of Columbus and the Old Barns Men's Club, it has provided much needed fresh produce for the clients of the Colchester Food Bank/Network. Thank you, John.

COLCHESTER COMMUNITY SUPPORT SOCIETY

Annual Meeting, March 18, 2025

The mission of the Colchester Food Bank is to provide and support, with dignity and respect, programs and services that feed the hungry, promote long-term food security, and improve the social well-being of people in our community.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Welcome and Introductions
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting
6. Business Arising from 2024 Minutes
7. Financial Report
8. Additional Reports:
 - * Chairperson
 - * Executive Director
 - * Updates
9. Nomination Committee Report
10. Further Business:
 - * Auditor
 - * Registry of Joint Stock Companies
11. Adjournment

Colchester Community Support Society

Minutes: Annual Meeting—March 19, 2024

The Annual General Meeting of the Colchester Community Support Society was held on April 25, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vera Faye Smith, who also read the land acknowledgement, at 6:30 pm. Vera Faye introduced staff members present and welcomed volunteers and others who attended.

Attending: Marianne Clark, Aundrea Currie, Vera Faye Smith, Shelly DeViller, Steve Fultz, Paula Whittaker, Leanne Roberts, Gregory Routledge, Gurpinder Loodu, Diane MacLean, Cathy Faulkner, Farrah Allen-McKay, Tammy de Graaf, and 5 visitors/volunteers.

Regrets: Tammy Fox, Steve Dunne, Rebecca Bailey, Laurie McClellan.

Agenda: Diane MacLean moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Paula Whittaker. Motion carried.

Minutes: Diane MacLean moved the approval of the minutes, seconded by Paula Whittaker. Motion carried.

Business Arising: Vera Faye pointed out that this year's Annual Meeting booklet has a new design and the new logo.

Financial Report: Marianne presented the Compilation Report, prepared by Scott Campbell with East Coast Accounting Solutions. She reported that we were able to pay off the mortgage with funds from donations made. Marianne moved the approval of the Compilation Report, Paula seconded. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report: Vera Faye highlighted the closure of the Clothing Bank, the mortgage payoff, and informed the group of the retirements and contributions of former Board members Don Reid, Brenda Chisolm, and Debbie Carroll.

Executive Director's Report: Highlights from this report were the growth in numbers of people using the Food Bank, and the success of the Client Choice Market, which is increasing the open times to include evening and weekend hours. The Annual Food Drive was a great success, thanks to involvement from Pure Country and Bounce Radio, and the introduction of a "Food Fight" incentive. The number of volunteers has grown, with both regular and occasional volunteers contributing. Shelly thanked Ashley Swan, an employee whose term is ending soon, for her hard work and dedication.

North Shore Clothing Bank: This report, prepared by Leanne Roberts, detailed the history of the Clothing Bank, and reasons for the decision to close. Many thanks to Leanne for her many years of dedication to this initiative.

Public Relations/Fundraising: Leanne Roberts spoke of the success of the Annual Food Drive, and the introduction of the Food Fight Trophy, won this year by Truro Mitsubishi.

Nomination Committee: Aundrea Currie moved that 4 nominations for the 2024 year be approved: Vera Faye Smith as Chair, Aundrea Currie as Vice-Chair, Catherine Faulkner as Secretary, and Gregory Routledge as Treasurer, to replace Marianne Clarke. Seconded by Diane MacLean, motion carried. She then moved, and Marianne seconded, that Gregory Routledge have signing authority on all bank accounts for the Colchester Community Support Society. Motion carried.

Further Business: Audrea thanked the staff and volunteers, without whom the Food Bank would not be able to operate. She also expressed appreciation to long-standing members as well as the new people who have joined our Board.

Adjournment: Leanne moved adjournment of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Faulkner

Secretary

Colchester Community Support Society
Colchester Food Network
Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

Draft - For Discussion Purposes Only

Colchester Community Support Society
Colchester Food Network
Contents

For the year ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

	<i>Page</i>
Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report	
Financial Statements	
Statement of Financial Position.....	1
Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets.....	2
Statement of Cash Flows.....	3
Notes to the Financial Statements	4

Draft - For Discussion Purposes Only

To the Board of Colchester Community Support Society:

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Colchester Community Support Society (the "Society") that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the Society, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for Qualified Conclusion

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Society derives revenue from fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to us obtaining evidence we considered necessary for the purpose of the review. Accordingly, the evidence obtained of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to fundraising revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, current assets as December 31, 2024 and 2023 and net assets as at January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2024 and 2023. Our opinion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

Qualified Conclusion

Based on our review, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Colchester Community Support Society as at December 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Comparative Information

Without modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note 2 to the financial statements which describes that Colchester Community Support Society adopted Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations on January 1, 2024 with a transition date of January 1, 2023. These standards were applied retrospectively by management to the comparative information in these financial statements, including the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023 and at January 1, 2023, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2023 and related disclosures. We were not engaged to report on the restated comparative information, and as such, it is neither audited nor reviewed.

Other Matter

The financial statements of Colchester Community Support Society for the year ended December 31, 2023 were prepared as a compilation by another practitioner on March 12, 2024.

Truro, Nova Scotia

Chartered Professional Accountants

Draft - For Discussion Purposes Only

Colchester Community Support Society
Colchester Food Network
Statement of Financial Position
As at December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

	2024	2023 <i>(Restated)</i>	January 1 2023 <i>(Note 2)</i>
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	717,371	470,451	769,386
Accounts receivable	12,632	9,081	2,730
Marketable securities/Portfolio investments	15,173	-	-
Prepaid expenses and deposits	8,574	7,653	6,921
	753,750	487,185	779,037
Capital assets (Note 4)	680,908	679,894	674,660
	1,434,658	1,167,079	1,453,697
Liabilities			
Current			
Accounts payable and accruals (Note 5)	38,791	12,848	5,192
Deferred contributions (Note 6)	108,771	27,661	6,921
Current portion of long-term debt	-	-	16,002
	147,562	40,509	28,115
Deferred contributions related to capital assets (Note 7)	27,167	-	-
Long-term debt	-	-	241,322
	174,729	40,509	269,437
Net Assets	1,259,929	1,126,570	1,184,260
	1,434,658	1,167,079	1,453,697

Approved on behalf of the Board of Directors

Chair

Treasurer

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Colchester Community Support Society
Colchester Food Network
Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets
For the year ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

	2024	2023 (Restated)
Revenue		
Donations	562,324	422,651
Donations - bequest	100,000	5,179
Grant revenue (Note 10)	266,525	153,206
Fundraising	678	3,142
Interest	8,899	219
Amortization of deferred contributions (Note 7)	3,019	-
	941,445	584,397
Expenses		
Amortization	26,019	23,533
Bank charges and interest	500	300
Donations & gift cards	6,000	-
Food bank garden	-	3,873
Food purchases	295,742	318,051
Grants	161,922	39,579
In-kind donations expense (Note 11)	23,558	-
Insurance	4,031	3,439
Miscellaneous	1,636	2,342
Office expenses	6,533	11,621
Professional fees	21,971	9,295
Property taxes	33,376	29,882
Repairs and maintenance	14,630	12,967
Salaries and benefits	166,492	136,027
Supplies	4,213	9,211
Telephone	2,767	2,778
Transportation	11,397	16,575
Utilities	23,815	22,616
Volunteer appreciation	3,484	-
	808,086	642,089
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	133,359	(57,692)
Net assets beginning of year	1,126,570	1,090,038
Transition to Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (Note 2)	-	94,224
Net assets, beginning of year, as restated	1,126,570	1,184,262
Net assets, end of year	1,259,929	1,126,570

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Colchester Community Support Society
Colchester Food Network
Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

	2024	2023
Cash provided by (used for) the following activities		
Operating		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	133,359	(57,692)
Amortization	26,019	23,533
Amortization of deferred contributions for capital assets	(3,019)	-
	156,359	(34,159)
Changes in working capital accounts		
Accounts receivable	(3,551)	(6,351)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	(919)	(732)
Accounts payable and accruals	25,943	7,656
Deferred contributions	81,110	20,740
	258,942	(12,846)
Financing		
Cash contributions received for capital assets	30,186	-
Repayment of long-term debt	-	(257,324)
	30,186	(257,324)
Investing		
Receipts of marketable securities	(15,173)	-
Purchase of capital assets	(27,035)	(28,765)
	(42,208)	(28,765)
Increase (decrease) in cash resources	246,920	(298,935)
Cash resources, beginning of year	470,451	769,386
Cash resources, end of year	717,371	470,451

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Colchester Community Support Society
Colchester Food Network
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2024

1. Incorporation and nature of the organization

Colchester Community Support Society (the "Society") is a local society dedicated to alleviating food insecurity through the provision of food, education, and various programs. The Society is incorporated under the Societies Act as a not-for-profit organization and is a registered society under the Income Tax Act.

2. Impact of adopting accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations

These are the Society's first financial statements prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO). The accounting policies in Note 3 have been applied in preparing the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2024, the comparative information for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the opening ASNPO statement of financial position as at January 1, 2023 (the Society's date of transition to ASNPO).

In preparing these financial statements, the Society has elected to apply the following transitional provision permitted by Section 1501 *First-time adoption by not-for-profit organizations* at the date of transition to ASNPO:

The total impact of corrections on the comparative figures are summarized as follows:

Explanation of charges to net assets at January 1, 2023

	Adjustments to Opening Net Assets
Recognition of land at fair market value at date of contribution	131,100
Recording amortization of assets retrospectively	(36,876)
	94,224

Reconciliation of excess of revenues over expenses for the year ended December 31, 2023

	Previous accounting treatment 31/12/2023	Adjustments	ASNPO 31/12/2023
Recognition of grant revenue	143,332	9,874	153,206
Recognition of property tax expense	-	29,882	29,882
Recording amortization expense retrospectively	-	23,533	23,533
Reallocation of capital assets from repairs and maintenance expense	31,732	(18,766)	12,966
	31,732	34,649	66,381
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	111,600	(24,775)	86,825

3. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO) and include the following significant accounting policies:

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include balances with banks and short-term investments with maturities of three months or less. Cash subject to restrictions that prevent its use for current purposes is included in restricted cash.

Colchester Community Support Society
Colchester Food Network
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

3. **Significant accounting policies** *(Continued from previous page)*

Capital assets

Purchased capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution plus all costs directly attributable to the acquisition.

Amortization is provided using the declining balance method at rates intended to amortize the cost of assets over their estimated useful lives. In the year of acquisition, capital assets are amortized at one half of the normal rate.

	Rate
Buildings	4 %
Equipment	20 %

Impairment of long-lived assets

Long-lived assets consist of capital assets. Long-lived assets held for use are measured and amortized as described in the applicable accounting policies.

When the Society determines that a long-lived asset no longer has any long-term service potential to the organization, the excess of its net carrying amount over any residual value is recognized as an expense in the statement of operations. Write-downs are not reversed.

Revenue recognition

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets.

Restricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

Fundraising revenue is recognized when the event occurs. Donation revenue is recognized as received. Interest revenue is recognized on an accrual basis. All revenue is recognized when collectability is reasonably assured.

Deferred contributions related to capital assets

Deferred contributions related to capital assets represent the unamortized portion of contributed capital assets and restricted contributions that were used to purchase various capital assets. Recognition of these amounts as revenue is deferred to periods when the related capital assets are amortized.

Contributed materials and services

Contributions of materials, including in-kind donations, are recognized both as contributions and expenses in the statement of operations when a fair value can be reasonably estimated and when the materials are used in the normal course of the Society's operations and would otherwise have been purchased.

Income taxes

The Society is exempt from income taxes under Section 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act.

Measurement uncertainty (use of estimates)

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period.

These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary they are reported in excess of revenues over expenses in the periods in which they become known.

Colchester Community Support Society
Colchester Food Network
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

3. Significant accounting policies (Continued from previous page)

Financial instruments

The Society recognizes its financial instruments when the Society becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. All financial instruments are initially recorded at their fair value, including financial assets and liabilities originated and issued in a related party transaction with management. Financial assets and liabilities originated and issued in all other related party transactions are initially measured at their carrying or exchange amount in accordance with Section 3840 *Related Party Transactions*.

At initial recognition, the Society may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any financial instrument at fair value. The Society has not made such an election during the year.

The Society subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market at fair value. Fair value is determined by published price quotations. Investments in equity instruments not quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at cost less impairment. All other financial assets and liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

Transaction costs and financing fees directly attributable to the origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption of financial instruments subsequently measured at fair value are immediately recognized in the excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the current period. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

Financial asset impairment:

The Society assesses impairment of all of its financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost. The Society groups assets for impairment testing when available information is not sufficient to permit identification of each individually impaired financial asset in the group; there are numerous assets affected by the same factors; no asset is individually significant, etc. Management considers whether the issuer is having significant financial difficulty; whether there has been a breach in contract, such as a default or delinquency in interest or principal payments; etc. in determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists. When there is an indication of impairment, the Society determines whether it has resulted in a significant adverse change in the expected timing or amount of future cash flows during the year. If so, the Society reduces the carrying amount of any impaired financial assets to the highest of: the present value of cash flows expected to be generated by holding the assets; the amount that could be realized by selling the assets; and the amount expected to be realized by exercising any rights to collateral held against those assets. Any impairment, which is not considered temporary, is included in current year excess of revenues over expenses.

The Society reverses impairment losses on financial assets when there is a decrease in impairment and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognized. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the excess of revenues over expenses in the year the reversal occurs.

4. Capital assets

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2024 Net book value	2023 (Restated) Net book value
Land	131,100	-	131,100	131,100
Buildings	685,260	171,400	513,860	522,077
Equipment	50,726	14,778	35,948	26,717
	867,086	186,178	680,908	679,894

Colchester Community Support Society
Colchester Food Network
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

5. Accounts payable and accruals

Included in accounts payable and accruals is government remittances of \$5,747 (2023 - \$2,824).

6. Deferred contributions

	2024	2023
Property Tax Forgiveness Grant - Town of Truro	8,574	7,653
Community Outreach Grant - Colchester County	14,280	-
Meal Support and Programming Grant - Community Health Board	5,000	-
Food Insecurity - Province of Nova Scotia	80,917	-
Capacity Boost - Food Banks Canada	-	18,377
New Horizons - Government of Canada	-	1,631
	108,771	27,661

During the current year, the Society received \$245,149 (2023 - \$28,766) in restricted contributions and recognized \$164,039 (2023 - \$8,026) as revenue, as expenses were incurred in accordance with the agreements.

7. Deferred contributions related to capital assets

Deferred capital contributions consist of the unamortized amount of contributions received for the purchase of capital assets. Recognition of these amounts as revenue is deferred to periods when the related capital assets are amortized. Changes in deferred capital contributions are as follows:

	2024	2023
Amount received during the [year]	30,186	-
Less: Amounts recognized as revenue during the [year]	(3,019)	-
Balance, end of year	27,167	-

8. Financial instruments

The Society, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the Society is not exposed to significant interest, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risks arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

Credit concentration

Credit concentration is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Society's main credit concentration risk relates to its cash and cash equivalents. The Society is exposed to concentration risk on its cash and cash equivalents in that all of it is held with one financial institution. To minimize the credit risk the Society places cash and cash equivalents with a high quality financial institution of Canada.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. Changes in market interest rates may have an effect on the cash flows associated with some financial assets and liabilities, known as cash flow risk, and on the fair value of other financial assets or liabilities, known as price risk.

The Society is exposed to interest rate price risk on its cash equivalent as it as at a fixed rate or 5.15%.

Colchester Community Support Society
Colchester Food Network
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

9. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation.

10. Contributions by major source

During the year, the Society received contributions from the following sources:

	2024	2023
Government of Canada	1,630	20,241
Province of Nova Scotia	142,705	56,948
Municipal Governments	45,096	39,839
Food Banks Canada	64,831	1,778
Other not-for-profit organizations	12,263	34,400
	266,525	153,206

11. In-Kind Donations

The Society has not recorded in-kind donations for the year 2023 however, the omission of these donations does not result in a material misstatement of the financial statements. The value of the in-kind donations is relatively small compared to the Society's total revenue and expenses. As such, their exclusion does not significantly impact the financial position or performance of the Society. While it is best practice to record all transactions, the non-recording of these in-kind donations does not compromise the accuracy or reliability of the financial statements.

COLCHESTER COMMUNITY SUPPORT SOCIETY - CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Glass half full or half empty? We often hear that question posed when we think of certain events or situations that confront us. It is no different at the Colchester Food Network. It would be easy to see 2024 as a glass half empty. Food prices continued to rise, as did the cost of housing, fuel and power. We saw many new faces as families turned to the Colchester Food Network for assistance.

But, truly, the glass of 2024 has been over half full. Thanks to the continued support of the Colchester community we have been able to serve over 10,000 households. Just imagine! And it was the generous donations from businesses, service groups, faith communities, and countless individuals that enabled us to provide "Hope Not Hunger" to so many.

In addition, we had amazing support from all three levels of government. Federal, provincial, and municipal grants supported food insecurity, funded new staffing, and approved much needed improvements to our building. Examples include: food pantries in our rural areas, a financial boost to clients in December, replacement flooring, and security lighting.

It was also grants that allowed us to expand our staffing in 2024. Executive Director Shelly DeViller and Client Services Coordinator Farrah Allen-McKay were joined by Food Literacy Coordinator Tammy de Graff and part-time Financial Assistant Ziba Mashkuri-Najfi. What an awesome team!

Our Board of Directors was fortunate to welcome six new members in January. They have added valuable insight to the various committees currently on the go. Sadly, we had three resignations over the course of the year, all due to personal commitments. Thanks to Tammy Fox, Laurie McLellan, and Rebecca Bailey for their contributions to the Board.

I would also add that we have a retiree. Marianne Clarke has been with the Board since the days of Lorne Street. She has served as Vice Chair and Treasurer, volunteering many an hour to "balancing the books", as well as serving on several committees. "Retirement" well deserved!

Finally, after two terms, I am "moving on" from Board Chair to Past Chair. It has been a great pleasure to serve the Colchester Food Bank/Network over the last many years. I first joined the Board while we were still at the Lorne Street location. The dedication of the many Board members, staff and volunteers over that time has been inspiring. Thanks to you all!

Our Vice Chair, Aundrea Currie, will begin her term as Chair following the Annual Meeting. I know she will continue to further our mission as we do our best to provide assistance to community members in need of our support.

Vera Faye Smith

Chair

**Colchester Community Support Society
Colchester Food Network
Executive Director Report**



The Colchester Community Support Society (CCSS) had another year of considerable growth. With major funding and guidance coming from the Province of Nova Scotia our organization became a Collaborative Food Network. There are seven across Nova Scotia. This created an operating name change for the Colchester Food Bank to Colchester Food Network (CFN). The name better reflects the depth of the work we are now able to do.



Food Literacy Education

CFN was able to hire a Food Literacy Coordinator to develop and run programming in-house and out in the community. “Cooking on a Shoestring Budget” for adults and “Kid’s Kitchen Adventures” for children are two of the main programs the organization has been able to offer. We have received favourable feedback from the participants and partnered organizations like Steps on Arthur, Future Worx and West Colchester Consolidated School.

The CFN is now offering meal kits that come complete with recipe and a QR code for

demonstration videos that are posted on our website. Approximately 400 households receive these meal kits per month.

Community Pantries

One of the things we have been able to do this year is continue to address the need for emergency food while addressing food literacy. The need for emergency food in our communities is growing. In order to address this, we are supporting seven community pantries throughout Colchester with everything from emergency food support to building the actual pantry. Each community has taken the lead in helping their neighbours. This fits our motto of “Neighbours Helping Neighbours” well.

Client Choice

The Client Choice Market has expanded, but we have been unable to significantly increase the number of people using it. In 2025 we will expand the “Market” again with software allowing us to have every client walk-in and shop at anytime. However, all clients are able to choose what food they take. I believe that because of this we came under budget even though we served more people.

Opportunities as a Result of Grants

Accessing our location can be very difficult when living in poverty. Through grants we have been able to extend delivery services to West Colchester and provide taxi rides to others in the Truro and surrounding area.

The organization has lacked the ability to promote itself effectively over the years. Hiring a professional to manage the website and social media has been extremely beneficial. I believe it has helped to increase the awareness of the work we do in

community and, as a result, donations have increased.

One of the things that is most overlooked because of lack of funding in general is creating a welcoming space. While we certainly have a relatively new building it was bland with the white walls and lack of style. With a grant we added colour and style. We added a play area for children. We added sound panels to reduce the echo in the room. We also added soft music.



One of the barriers to expanding the Client Choice Market was refrigerators and freezers were needed. We added a new fridge and freezer, allowing us to have more food product choices.

We know that providing food literacy education is one of the keys to addressing food insecurity. The only way to offer these programs is through various grants.

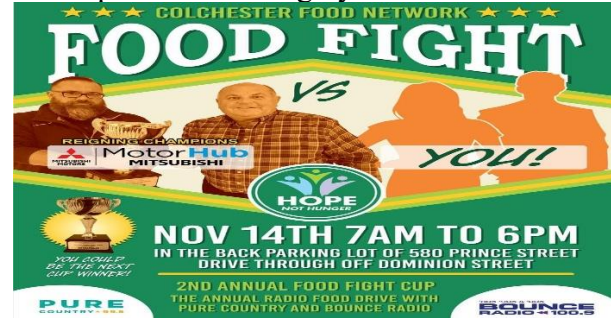
Volunteers/Staff

The CFN increased the number of regular volunteers from 40 in 2023 to 55 in 2024. This does not include our school groups or work experience placements.

The CFN increased its staff capacity in order to keep up with the organization's growth. CFN employs one full time Client Services Coordinator, one full time Food Literacy Coordinator, one full time Executive Director and one part time Financial Assistant.

The volunteers are the backbone of the organization and, without them, we could not

exist. Nor could we exist without the talents and expertise of the highly talented staff.



Annual Radio Food Drive

The Annual Radio Food Drive hosted by Pure Country and Bounce Radio did not disappoint, raising \$58,160 the largest amount of money ever donated and 8922 pounds of food. Thanks to our partners at Mitsubishi Motor Hub for their sponsorship and commitment to the CFN.

2024 Statistics

Visits	21191
Unique Individuals	4382
Households Served	10056
Clients in Canada less than 10 years	19%
Brand New-1st time users	30%
Individuals Under 18	29%
Individuals over 65	8%
Individuals 18-65(working age)	63%

Racial Identity

Indigenous	4%
Black	12%
White	63%
Filipino	6%
South Asian	4%

Pounds of Food Donated 511,308.50

Nominating Committee Report

Colchester Community Support Society

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the following people have been nominated for the 2025 year:

Chair: Aundrea Currie

Past Chair: Vera Faye Smith

Vice Chair: Steve Dunne

Secretary: Cathy Faulkner

Treasurer: Greg Routledge

Directors: (returning Directors are indicated by an asterisk *)

Leanne Roberts*

Gurpinder Loodu*

Diane McLean*

Steve Fultz*

Paula Whittaker*

Resignations

Rebecca Bailey

Marianne Clark

Respectfully submitted,

Aundrea Currie

Nominating Committee