

MUSIC DIRECTOR REPORT

What a year. So much has happened with the music ministry at Cochrane United Church, and I am pleased to be writing you all about it. 2022 has seen a change in music directors, a farewell to an amazing choral scholar, and the return of others. It's been an exciting season of music, and more is sure to come.

First off, I would be remised if I didn't mention the departure of the incredible Evan Smith. Evan was the music director at Cochrane United Church for 5 years and lead the music ministry through likely it's hardest time on any church, the COVID-19 pandemic. He is one of Canada's most talented musicians and continues to shine here in St. John's as one of the most sought-after music directors, singers, collaborative pianists, vocal coach, and so much more. We wish Evan the best in his future endeavours and will keep an eye out for events he's involved with and enjoy his gift and talents.

Along with Evan's departure, the choir lost Claire Hartlen as the soprano Choral Scholar, as she puts her focus on studies and her teaching studio. While we were sad to see Claire leave, we were very happy she decided to join us for our Lessons and Carols service in December and hope to hear her again in the future.

As incoming music director, I cannot write on the first half of 2022, but as of September we've been having a lot of fun with music and choir. We welcomed back Anne Jewczyk and Benjamin James to the choir as choral scholars and continue to seek another choral scholar to join the choir. We have sung music from many different genres, and will aim to challenge in genres, language, and music in the coming year.

We managed to have some additional friends join the choir over the fall and Advent including Adrien Edward playing trumpet at Remembrance Service, and members of Projekt Chamber Voices for Cochrane's annual Lessons and Carols service. Cochrane also hosted the annual Christmas on Cochrane partnered with First Light this year entitled "Songs and stories of Christmas in Labrador" which although we weren't involved with musically, supported and hope to continue this event in years to come.

It has truly been a pleasure working in this ministry at Cochrane United Church, and although our future is still in the works, we know that the ministry of music will continue to stay alive in the church. To say I have felt welcomed and appreciated by everyone in the congregation is an understatement. It has been 5 years since I last worked in music ministry, and I cannot think of a warmer and more welcoming congregation. I am looking forward to more music to come and will continue to create music for the congregation on organ, piano, choirs, and much more.



Tristan Cleveland-Thompson
Music Director

ARCHIVES REPORT 2022

Our records and other material continue to be housed in the storage unit. It appears that this will continue for some time as, at present, I am unaware of any plans to return the Archives to the church building.

The work of the Archives continues. The Historic Roll has been the main area of work in the past year. A number of transfers from the congregation have been entered in the Roll as have deaths of members of the congregation. At times I have found members of the congregation with no longer a relationship with the congregation who have died. Their deaths have been noted next to their names in the Roll.

To review: The Historic Roll records everyone who has joined Cochrane Street congregation either through profession of faith (confirmation) or transfer from another congregation. Our Rolls date from 1916; prior to this members are listed as being in class lists. No name is ever erased from the Roll. Indications of death or transfer to another congregation are noted next to a member's name. From time to time, a "current" Historic Roll is produced. All versions of the Roll are permanent records, must be kept in paper form, and no versions can be destroyed.

A major ongoing project is the updating of the Historic Roll. This should be done on a regular basis through the Church Board or Council, but as I have reported in the past this has not been done since 1979. The project started in 2022 and because of the complexity of the project will continue well into 2023. I am assisting Council and their member Brian Johnston tasked with this endeavour with research on persons on the Roll. Several people have come forward to assist with this huge effort and this is acknowledged with gratitude.

The Roll lists hundreds of names and due diligence must be undertaken before Council, which has the authority to do so, decides to indicate in the Roll that some persons are no longer members of Cochrane Street congregation. The reasons for removal may include having no relationship with the congregation for some time or living far enough away to be unable to be involved in the congregation.

(Living away from the city is, in itself, not a reason for removal. If a member can be contacted and wishes to remain on the Roll, then Council could decide that they will. This also applies to those who do not have a relationship with the congregation at the present time but still consider themselves a member of the United Church of Canada through Cochrane Street United Church.)

As many persons as possible are being contacted to obtain their wishes as to their membership. Unfortunately, because of the number of years that have passed, a large number of persons are either unknown to us and / or untraceable. This would be another reason for indicating a removal from the Roll.

The production of the Roll will take many months. Your help would be greatly appreciated. This is a complex, time consuming project and it would be wonderful if it could be completed in 2023 as we begin the 141st year of worship on Cochrane Street.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Bowden".

Linda Bowden
Volunteer Archivist

The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.
Report of the Chairman of the Board
To the 2023 Annual General Meeting

We continue to make improvements to our cemeteries each year. In addition to our regular maintenance at all three Cemeteries, we filled, leveled and re-sodded a large number of graves and levelled up a number of headstones. We use several thousand square feet of sods per year.

During the year we had 250 burials, an increase of 24 over the previous year, of these 169 or 67.60% were cremations, a decrease over the previous year. The following breakdown may be of interest:

Burials in:	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>
The General Protestant Cemetery	12 (5.61%)	20 (8.85%)	10 (4.00%)
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	161 (75.23%)	159 (70.35%)	190 (76.00%)
The Field of Honor	21 (9.80%)	12 (5.31%)	24 (9.60%)
Memorials Gardens Cemetery	20 (12.11%)	35 (15.49%)	16 (10.40%)
Total Burials	214 100 %	226 100%	250 100 %
Cremations Included	156 72.90%	173 76.50%	169 67.60%

Your Board met nine times this year.

Our Trust Fund for Perpetual Care last year was \$267,500.00. This year we added \$15,000.00. The fund now totals \$282,500.00. This is invested in GICs to earn an average rate of approximately 0.069%.

Since 2012, we have taken \$424,000.00 from our trust fund to complete Memorial Gardens. We have paid \$168,252.00 back into the trust fund. We will eventually pay back the full amount.

There have been 141 burials in Memorial Gardens 26 of these were in 2022.

All maintenance at Memorial Gardens such as grass cutting, snow clearing etc. is done by our own staff.

We have signed a contract with Murray's Landscaping Services for landscaping at Memorial Gardens Cemetery with work to begin in early spring.

This year we installed a double foundation for two Columbariums at Memorial Gardens at a cost of \$17,500.00. We have ordered one Columbarium at a cost of \$80,000.00. It will be installed in the spring of 2023.

We have sold all of the niches in the Columbarium installed at Mount Pleasant in 2015 and 115 of the 125 niches in the Columbarium installed in 2019. We installed another 125 niche Columbarium in July 2022 and 60 niches have already been sold.

The Memorial Service at Mount Pleasant was held on July 4. The attendance was very good but the offering was down from the last service held in 2019. The service at General Protestant was held July 18. We are getting less attendance there each year. Memorial Gardens service was held on August 1 with good attendance but the offering was low.

We appreciate those member churches that support the cemeteries financially and otherwise and thank them most sincerely. Each representative should make sure that their Church's assessment is paid each year.

I am pleased to place on record thanks to our cemetery staff. We have a dedicated staff, and the feedback from the public is excellent. We appreciate the work done by Bill, Vince and Graham. We operate six days a week, sometimes through difficult and challenging situations, especially during the winter months.

A special thanks to the members of the Board who have given me their full support during the past year. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Chubbs
Chairman of the Board

TREASURER'S REPORT

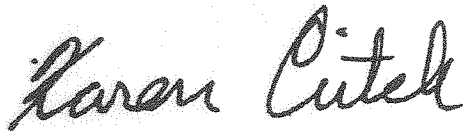
I am pleased to provide the 2022 Treasurer's report for Cochrane Street United Church and the proposed budget for 2023. 2022 has been a different year where for a half a year we had a full-time minister and the other half we had various lay people and other clergy take part in the services. Our congregation has adapted well with the changes. We continue to support our ministries in many ways such as the choral scholars, Bridges to Hope and Mission & Service.

Thank-you to all of you that continued to support our ministries throughout this year. Your givings to our collection plate went down a little but our fundraising increased by the same amount! Although I say this all the time it can never be said to often – thank-you, thank-you, thank-you. Your givings help us to continue to adapt and provide the ministries relevant for these times.

The budget amount budgeted for fundraising was \$5000 we exceeded this by \$1,1000 having raised \$6,100, this amount was less than the previous year of \$7,300. With the numbers and the aging of the congregation we were unable to carry out many of the traditional fundraising activities of our congregation. We have applied for several grants that help take the pressure off fundraising; there is The New Horizons for Seniors which is a grant to bridge the young with the seniors. We have received \$9,800 for this grant and this is used for our choral scholars. We also received \$2,000 from the City of St. John's; this is used to help with the expenses for Christmas at Cochrane. We also received a grant of \$5,300 from the Justice and Reconciliation section of the United Church. We used the money for a training session on the legacy of residential schools in Labrador.

We paid off the loan we had with the United Church the amount was \$6,400. The money we had accumulated with the savings without a minister, the council agreed to pay off the debt before we enter the MAP process that has been initiated since the minister leaving.

We had a great financial year and I encourage you to read through the financial statement for 2022 and if you have any questions you can call me at 743-1277 or email me the question at csuctreasurer@gmail.com.



Karen Critch
Treasurer

BUDGET 2023

	Budget	Actual	Actual	Projected	Variance	%
2023 Projected Budget	2023	2021	2022	2022	2022	Change 2022
Employee Related Expenses	60000	102865	60050	85000	-24950	-29%
Office & Ministry Operations	20000	16846	19046	16000	3046	19%
Bank, Professional Fees & Insurance	15000	8889	13466	9000	4466	50%
Other United Church (assessment)	5562	5854	5860	6000	-140	-2%
United Church Line of Credit Repayment	0	4657	9265	4800	4465	93%
Music Ministry	19000	15373	\$18,580	15000	3579.88	24%
	\$ 119,562.00	\$ 154,484	\$126,267	\$ 135,800	(\$9,533)	-7%
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Projected	Variance	%
	2023	2021	2022	2022	2022	Change
Regular Offering	45000	43014	44546	43500	\$1,046	2%
Regular PAR	57000	62572	61262	60000	\$1,262	2%
Cash	800	763	967	750	\$217	29%
Fundraising	6500	7634	6160	5000	\$1,160	23%
Special offering, groups	29500	27336	\$27,540	\$26,030	\$1,510	6%
Grant - New Horizons for Seniors Program	9800	0	9800	9800	\$0	0%
Grant - City of St. John's	2000	0	2000	2000	\$0	0%
Grant - Social & Injustice	0	0	5500	3700	\$1,800	49%

		\$	\$	\$	\$		
		150,600.00	141,319.00	140,475.06	135,280.00	\$5,195	
Bank Balance at Dec 31		62664	41057	62664	41057	\$21,607	53%
		Budget	Actual	Actual	Projected	Variance	% Change
		2023	2021	2022	2022	2022	
Congregational Donation Cochrane Centre		18000	18000	16660	18000	1340	7%
Congregational Donation Cemetery		1500	1000	1225	1000	-225	-23%
Congregational Donation Bridges to Hope		5000	1090	1740.06	1285	-455.06	-35%
Congregational Donation M & S		5000	6016	4845	5560	715	13%
Congregational Donation Ukraine Relief		0	0	1145	0	-1145	
Congregational Donation SJNEC		0	1230	1925	185	-1740	-941%
		29500	27336	\$27,540	\$26,030		0%
		\$ 31,038.00	\$ (13,165.00)	\$ 14,208.18	\$ (520.00)		
<u>Peter's Organ Fund</u>							
Beginning Balance	\$	57,012.00					
Additions:	\$						
Market Value	\$	8,378.00					
Deductions - 2 Invoices	\$	(4,812.00)					

Ending Balance	\$ 60,578.00						
---------------------------	-------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Cochrane Street United
Church
Financial Statements**

Draft - For Management

	<i>Page</i>
Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report	
Financial Statements	
Statement of Financial Position.....	1
Statement of Operations.....	2
Statement of Changes in Net Assets.....	3
Statement of Cash Flows.....	4
Notes to the Financial Statements.....	5

Draft - For Management Only

To the Members of Cochrane Street United Church:

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Cochrane Street United Church that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2022, and the statements of operations, 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 (ASNPO), 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 entity, 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.

Conclusion

Based on our review, 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 Cochrane Street United Church as at December 31, 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit org

Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador

Chartered Professional Accountants

**Cochrane Street United
Church
Statement of Financial
Position**

	As at 2022	2021
Assets		
Current		
Cash	62,664	41,057
Accounts receivable	-	2,377
Marketable securities	55,112	65,389
Harmonized sales tax recoverable	787	881
	118,563	109,704
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accruals	11,529	9,823
UCOF Picnic	112	112
Due to Cemetery Fund	110	355
Due to Cochrane Centre	667	1,637
Due to Mission and Service	-	1,996
Current portion of long-term debt	-	4,657
	12,418	18,580
Long-term debt (Note 3)	-	4,608
	12,418	23,188
Net Assets		
General Fund	52,477	25,938
Peter's Organ Fund	53,668	60,578
	106,145	86,516
	118,563	109,704

Approved on behalf of

Director

Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**Cochrane Street United
Church
Statement of Operations**

	<i>For the</i>	2022	2021
Revenues			
Regular offerings		106,775	106,349
Special purpose collections		37,746	32,642
Fundraising		6,160	7,634
Christmas at Cochrane		2,000	-
Total revenue		152,681	146,625
Expenses			
Archive storage fees		3,668	2,492
Assessment		5,860	5,854
Employee related expenses		60,050	102,865
General operating expenditures		34,070	30,030
Insurance		1,235	695
Interest and bank charges		1,763	2,183
Interest on long-term debt		1,932	235
Office equipment lease		-	436
Office expenses		3,829	2,582
Postage		-	569
Professional fees		8,536	6,471
Training		5,324	72
Total expenses		126,267	154,484
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses before other items		26,414	(7,859)
Other income			
Government assistance		-	18,432
Investment income		125	-
Excess of revenues over expenses		26,539	10,573

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**Cochrane Street United
Church
Statement Changes in Net Assets**

	General Fund	Peter's Organ Fund For the	2022	2021
Net assets, beginning of year	25,938	60,578	86,516	72,377
Excess of revenues over expenses	26,539	-	26,539	10,573
	52,477	60,578	113,055	82,950
Investment income	-	1,418	1,418	-
Increase (decrease) in market value of investments	-	(6,883)	(6,883)	8,378
Funds used	-	(1,445)	(1,445)	(4,812)
Net assets, end of year	52,477	53,668	106,145	86,516

Draft - For Management Only

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**Cochrane Street United
Church
Statement of Cash Flows**

	<i>For the</i>	2022	2021
Cash provided by (used for) the following activities			
Operating			
Excess of revenues over expenses		26,539	10,573
Changes in working capital accounts			
Accounts receivable		(3,249)	(2,377)
Harmonized sales tax recoverable		94	(160)
Accounts payable and accruals		1,706	2,621
		25,090	10,657
Financing			
Repayment of long-term debt		(9,265)	(4,565)
Increase (decrease) in due to Cemetery fund		(245)	275
Increase (decrease) in due to Cochrane Community Outreach and Performance Centre		(970)	837
Increase (decrease) in due to Mission and Service		(1,996)	1,996
Peter's Organ Funds used		(1,445)	(4,812)
		(13,921)	(6,269)
Investing			
Change in market value of investments		(6,883)	8,378
Investment income earned on Peter's Organ Fund		1,418	-
Increase in cash resources		5,704	12,766
Cash resources, beginning of year		106,446	93,680
Cash resources, end of year		112,150	106,446
Cash resources are composed of:			
Cash		57,038	41,057
Marketable securities		55,112	65,389
		112,150	106,446

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

1. Incorporation and nature of the organization

Cochrane United Church (the "Church") is a not-for-profit organization incorporated provincially under the Corporations Act of Newfoundland and Labrador. As a registered charity the Church is exempt from the payment of income tax under section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The Church is a congregation of the United Church of Canada and performs sacraments and pastoral care locally.

2. Significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations set out in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook - Accounting, as issued by the Accounting Standards Board in Canada 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.

Fund accounting

Cochrane Street United Church follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions except for funds in the general fund where the deferral method is used.

The General Fund accounts for the Church's program delivery and administrative activities. This fund reports unrestricted resources as they are received or become receivable and restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

The Peter Organ Fund is an externally restricted fund that reports only contributions and the related expenses for the repair of the organ.

Other investments

Marketable securities have quoted prices in an active market and are carried at fair value. Unrealized gains or losses are reported as part of net income.

Contributed services

The operations of the Church depend on both the contribution of time by volunteers and donated materials from various sources. The fair value of donated materials and services cannot be reasonably determined and are therefore not reflected in the financial statements.

Revenue recognition

The Church uses the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions related to Peter's Organ Fund are recognized as revenue of the Peter's Organ Fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Endowment contributions are recognized as revenue in the Endowment Fund.

Restricted investment income earned on Peter's Organ Fund resources is recognized as revenue in the related fund. Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue in the General Fund when earned.

Financial instruments

The Church recognizes financial instruments when the Church becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

Arm's length financial instruments

Financial instruments originated/acquired or issued/assumed in an arm's length transaction ("arm's length financial instruments") are initially recorded at their fair value.

Cochrane United Church
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2022

At initial recognition, the Church may irrevocably elect to subsequently measure any arm's length financial instrument at fair value. The Church has made such an election during the year.

The Church subsequently measures investments in equity instruments quoted in an active market and all derivative instruments, except those designated in a qualifying hedging relationship or that are linked to, and must be settled by delivery of, unquoted equity instruments of another entity, at fair value. Fair value is determined by published price quotations. Investments in equity instruments not quoted in an active market and derivatives that are linked to, and must be settled by delivery of, unquoted equity instruments of another entity, are subsequently measured at cost less impairment. With the exception of financial liabilities indexed to a measure of the Church's performance or value of its equity and those instruments designated at fair value, 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 excess of revenues over expenses. Conversely, transaction costs and financing fees are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at cost or amortized cost.

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.

Accounts receivable are stated after evaluation as to their collectability and an appropriate allowance for doubtful accounts is provided where considered necessary. Accrued liabilities are based on actual invoices or may be estimated based on management's knowledge.

By their nature, these judgments are subject to measurement uncertainty, and the effect on the financial statements of changes in such estimates and assumptions in future could be material. These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary they are reported in excess of revenues over expenses in the years in which they become known.

3. Long-term debt

	2022	2021
United Church of Canada loan bearing interest at 2% per annum, repayable in monthly blended payments of \$400. The loan was repaid during the year.	-	9,265
Less: Current portion	-	4,657
	-	4,608

Interest on long-term debt amounted to \$1,932 (2021 – \$235).

4. Financial instruments

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

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Church will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Church's exposure to liquidity risk is dependent on the receipt of funds from its donors and other related sources. This risk has not changed from the prior year.

Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or foreign currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market. The Church's investments in publicly-traded securities and corporate bonds exposes the Church to price risk as these investments are subject to price changes in an open market due to a variety of reasons including changes in market rates of interest, general economic indicators and restrictions on credit markets. This risk has not changed from the prior year.

Draft - For Management

BRIDGES TO HOPE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT TO OUR SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS

Once again the Staff, Volunteers and Board of Directors would like to express our sincere thanks for the ongoing support of Bridges to Hope by our founding and supporting congregations. Our core mission remains an important one, *to reduce the effects of poverty on individuals and families through access to essential food, and other programs that help empower our clients.*

Operations: It's been another year of operations under the cloud of a pandemic, but with gradual return to more "normal" conditions. Our invaluable and loyal volunteers are back in action, in the pantry as well as the kitchen, which is a huge relief for our staff and a boost in morale. We are not yet at the point of having clients enter the building, given health and safety concerns, but our goal remains to move to a more customized and interactive service going forward, providing more dignity for our clients and lowering wastage through providing the most suitable food for all.

Staff: We have had some significant changes in structure in 2022, with Jody Williams becoming our Executive Director, and Lesley Burgess becoming our Operations Manager. Raylene Roche, as Intake Coordinator, and Emily Noel as Food Support Worker round out an extremely strong and dedicated team. Jody's ability to focus primarily on public awareness, funding applications, donor relationships, and strategic initiatives has already led to increased support from individuals and businesses in 2022. Of course, this has been a year where inflation, particularly in terms of groceries, has had a huge impact on our clients, and also on our cost of operations.

Demand: The number of clients coming to Bridges to Hope has been increasing steadily through 2022, primarily as a result of rises in the cost of living from inflation. We provided support to over 11,000 people in 2022. In order to assist those in poor paying day jobs, we started evening openings in the Fall, which are being well attended.

Higher needs and demand has been apparent across the food support system in St. John's and the Province as a whole, as is evident most nights on the news. It is expected that closures of some of the existing food banks in the region will see a transfer of clients to our organization, especially as we pride ourselves in being open and supportive of all, regardless of religion, race, status or location.

Programs: Bridges to Hope continue to offer very essential programs and services. In addition to normal food support services, we had our Bags to School program in late summer, which distributed 460 Back Packs full of quality curriculum based, age appropriate, school supplies to students of all grades. We distributed 2,021 Smart Snack Kits with healthy after-school snacks for school age children, and through our annual Christmas program, funded by Rotary, we distributed \$75 gift cards for groceries from Colemans for 343 of our clients.

Support: Bridges to Hope remains very grateful for support from our founding churches, during universally challenging times. We remain an Outreach Ministry of the United Church of Canada, with financial assistance from First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council of the United Church, as well as the Presbyterian Synod of the Atlantic Provinces. And of course, donations and volunteerism from congregational members remain crucial to our ongoing mission.

Individual and corporate donations are a critical part of our funding, in addition to grants and funding from community service groups. The people of our province, and beyond, remain faithful supporters, even as the costs of living increase. Bridges to Hope have seen good response to appeals for regular monthly donations, which helps even out the financial support stream through the year.

2022 saw a resumption in food drives, with Covid measures easing, as well as planning for significant fundraising events (such as the Songwriter's Circle event, March 16th with Music NL, Gower St. United Church... Tickets are available on the Bridges website www.bridgestohope.ca - mark your calendar!)

The Future: Bridges to Hope has completed strategic planning for the next 3 to 5 years. We will be building upon and enhancing our core mission offerings, while adding new services and elements. We will be building new collaborative relationships with similarly-minded groups. A particular area of focus is seniors, and those with accessibility issues. We are, and will be, working with other not-for-profit organizations, as well as advocating to government, to continue and improve these crucial support services.

Submitted by:

Ewan Cumming

Board Chair, Member from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church