Computers for Schools

This Issue

Connecting to Our Future

As I sit at my desk preparing a plenary session for Contact 2008, Classroom Connections, I am reminded of the many connections Computers for Schools supports. As a teacher, principal and coordinator of programs, I saw firsthand the important work that Computers for Schools was doing. The computers received in our schools supported students in their learning. I also saw how teachers were supported in enhancing their teaching using the technology afforded them through Computers for Schools.

This spring I assumed the role of Executive Staff Officer for the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and with this role came the responsibility to sit on the CFS Steering Committee. In this brief time, I have had the opportunity to see the wonderful work of staff and volunteers who make Computers for Schools so successful. Here public and private sectors connect and work cooperatively together to improve education in our province. This connection showcases what can be done when individuals and groups work together with one vision.

My plenary session opens with the words of one of Nova Scotia's great leaders, Joseph Howe,

"My public life is before you; and I know you will believe me when I say, that when I sit down in solitude to the labours of my profession, the only questions I ask myself are, What is right? What is just? What is for the public good?"

When I think of the Computers for Schools program, I think the answers to Joseph Howe's questions would be affirmative. This program ensures our children and those in their trust are provided with resources to assist them in their educational journey. Supporting our students with an excellent education ensures that they are prepared for not only a life, but a good life.

Betty-Jean Aucoin—
Executive Staff Officer,
Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Donate Your Surplus Computers

Does your company have computers you no longer use or plan to upgrade? If so, donate them to the Computers for Schools program and they will be refurbished and put into public schools, private schools, First Nations schools, libraries, and related institutions across Nova Scotia. These computers will be used to further the IT learning of children and adults alike. Please call Stacy at 424-3596 or email trp@ednet.ns.ca for further details. We provide tax receipts for eligible equipment and will pick up the equipment from your company as well. Please read our **Acceptable Equipment for Donation** *section on page 5 for more details.*

What Impact has the Computers for Schools Program had on your School?

A school in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia was asked the question, "What impact has the Computers for Schools program had on your school?" The response received was that the program has touched all students in the school. The school that answered the question was Admiral Westphal Elementary School, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

The computers received by the school have been used to create a computer lab where whole classes are able to work together on projects. Search stations were set up in the library to be used as a research tool, and to access the web-based library index. The school also noted,

"For many of our students, the only access they have to technology is at the school."

Admiral Westphal was able to replace what they described as *"a hodgepodge"* of computers with a *"more consistent level of working technology that allowed our students and teachers to work together without the high degree of frustration."*

"The level of technology integration that we have been able to achieve would not have come as quickly or as efficiently if it had not been for the recycling program."

Computers for Schools, Nova Scotia is happy we were able to make such an impact on a school and its students.

Computers shipped to date: **46,711**

Donation—Elections Nova Scotia

What is needed in order to continue the success of Computers for Schools? Donors!

Recently, CFS-NS received a large donation of computers from Elections Nova Scotia. The donation consisted of 85 computers, 2 laptops, 19 monitors and 33 printers. This is a sizeable donation and has a great value to our program. The equipment will be spread over several schools and have an impact on hundreds of students.

With continued receipt of equipment from donors like Elections Nova Scotia, CFS-NS will continue to provide a positive and important impact on the educational tools required for our students, young and old, to achieve the skills necessary to either begin their career path or start a new one.

We at CFS-NS would like to thank Elections Nova Scotia for their donation and continued support, and look forward to a continued, successful relationship.

Our Partners

Industry Canada / Industrie Canada

Computers for Schools

novaknowledge
Behind forward thinking.

NOVA SCOTIA
Education

Pioneers
Aliant Volunteers

Canada

Computers for Schools, co-founded in 1993 by Industry Canada and the Telecom Pioneers, refurbishes computers and related equipment donated by governments and businesses. These computers are distributed across Canada to schools, libraries and registered not-for-profit learning organizations.

45,000 Celebration Event

Computers for Schools, Nova Scotia celebrated the distribution of its 45,000th refurbished computer. The event took place on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at the Bicentennial School in Dartmouth. On hand to mark the occasion were representatives from the Federal and Provincial Governments, and members of the private sector and non-profit sector including Aliant and nova**knowledge**.

During the celebration, the Bicentennial School was presented with 22 computers to be used in the classrooms and library. The Halifax Regional School Board superintendent Carole Olsen, who was present for the celebration and presentation stated,

"I want to thank both our government and business partners for their continued support of Computers for Schools. In every one of our schools there is a good chance students have learned, or are in the process of learning, basic computer skills on

computers donated through this program. It is helping our students and teachers bridge the digital divide."

In a statement released prior to the event, Federal Industry Minister Jim Prentice stated,

"CFS continues to be an innovative and smart investment that ensures Nova Scotia students and other learners have a technology-rich education, and in these times of changing technology and rising educational skill requirements, CFS is more important than ever."

The Department of Education has been a partner with Computers for Schools, Nova Scotia since the program began in 1994. They have continually maintained their involvement and support for the program by providing workshops, operational space and support staff. Education Minister, Karen Casey recognizes Computers for Schools as a unique partnership, involving the Department of Education, nova**knowledge**, Industry Canada, Aliant Pioneer Volunteers and others.

"The Department of Education is proud to have been an active partner since the program started in 1994", she said. *"Computers for Schools is a key component of our strategy to refresh technology in schools. I am also pleased that some of the refurbished computers are also being provided to libraries, literacy groups and other not-for-profit organizations."*

The event was a great success. Thank you to everyone who attended for helping us celebrate 45,000 computers.

TWEP
Technicians
hired to date:

245

Guest Speakers

Computers donated to Bicentennial School

How Can I Receive Computers?

The type of organization you are will determine if, and how you may request computers from Computers for Schools, Nova Scotia. Below is a list of organizations provided with computers and how you can request refurbished computers from our program:

Public Schools—Contact the technology department of your regional school board and submit a request for computers. All requests must be approved and submitted by the principal of the school.

First Nations Schools—Contact the Atlantic Canada First Nations Help Desk at 1-877-484-7606.

Private Schools—There are a limited number of computers available for private schools in Nova Scotia. Please contact the Computers for Schools program directly at (902) 424-3596 or email us at trp@ednet.ns.ca.

Provincial Library—Contact Robert Samson at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, at (902) 424-3944 or email samsonrp@gov.ns.ca.

C@P Site—Contact Karen Parusel at the Nova Scotia C@P Association at (902) 424-1723 or email parusekl@gov.ns.ca.

Literacy Nova Scotia—Contact the Literacy Nova Scotia office in Truro at 1 (800) 255-5203 or email literacyns@nscc.ca or visit their website at http://www.ns.literacy.ca and click on the menu item *Advancing Learning Technology* and select the "to sign up for computers" link on the front page.

Non-profits— Please call the Computers for Schools office directly as there are requirements that must be met in order to qualify for computers.

Our Steering Committee

Computers for Schools, Nova Scotia is governed by a group of volunteers referred to as the Steering Committee. The members of the Committee meet quarterly and make decisions on program polices, and budgetary issues. They continue to search for ways for improve CFS-NS and ensure that the mandate to supply computers to schools and related institutions is not only met, but exceeded.

The staff at CFS-NS would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the members of

the Steering Committee and thank them for their continued support, their valuable time and shared goal of making CFS-NS the success that is has become and continues to be.

Bernard Hart, Chair

Phyllis Collier, nova**knowledge**

Michael Jeffrey,
Nova Scotia Department of Education

Gerard Costard,
Halifax Regional School Board

Michael Sears, Aliant Pioneers Volunteers

Betty-Jean Aucoin, Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Alanna MacPhee,
RRFB Nova Scotia

David Rideout, LakeCity Employment Services

Fraser Muir, Robertson Surrette

Sue Taylor-Foley, Nova Scotia School Board Association

Acceptable Equipment for Donation

Computers for Schools, Nova Scotia will take used but still useable computer equipment.

Computers for Schools, Nova Scotia (CFS-NS) will accept any and all equipment that meets the minimum standards listed on this page. Our minimum standard is based on what is useable in schools and input from each of the School Boards within Nova Scotia is given to assist in this process. Any equipment that meets the minimum standard will be accepted, refurbished and given, free of charge to schools, (including public, private and First Nations), and libraries and related institutions across Nova Scotia. Your efforts to recycle this equipment will aid us in continuing to help our schools with the IT technology that they need and will also help the Environment by diverting the equipment from the landfill.

Contact information for the CFS-NS program is:

Stacy Barnes, Administrator, Computers for Schools, Nova Scotia

Phone: (902) 424-3596
Fax: (902) 428-5826
Email: barnesse@gov.ns.ca

Acceptable Equipment

Major Components

- Personal computers (Pentium 4 or better)
- Keyboards (PS/2 or USB)
- Printers (laser jet 4 or better)
- Laptops (Pentium 4 or better) (complete unit)
- Servers (P4 or better)
- UPS (1,000 watt or bigger)
- Monitors (17" CRT or 15" LCD or better)
- Mouse (PS/2 or USB)
- Powered Speakers including adapters
- Scanners (USB)
- Network Switches (3COM only)

Parts

- Sound Cards (PCI)
- Video Cards (PCI or AGP)
- Parallel or USB Printer Cables
- Hard disk drives (IDE 20GB or better)
- CD/DVD Drives (CD-ROM drives, 40x or better)
- Media (CD-RW, DVD-ROM, DVR-RW)
- Memory (DDR/DDR2, 256MB or better) (SDRAM, 256MB or better)

Our Location:
Computers for Schools, Nova Scotia
7037 Mumford Road, Unit 7
Halifax, NS B3L 2J1

Phone: (902) 424-3596
Fax: (902) 428-5826

Website: trp.ednet.ns.ca
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