

3rd Edition
August 2005

Computers for Schools

NOVA SCOTIA

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Minimum Standard of Computer for 2005/2006

Each year CFS-NS sets a minimum standard on the lowest level of CPU that it accepts to be used in the schools. The standard for 2005/2006 is a PIII. If you or your office have any PIII or larger CPUs that are not being used, in good condition and they require a new home, please call our office at (902) 424-3596.

Nova Scotia Department of Education

Public School Students Benefit from Computers for Schools

From its humble beginnings as a pilot project in January 1994, the Computers for Schools program has made a significant contribution to the infrastructure that supports student learning in public schools across Nova Scotia. Today, about 50% of the computers in schools have been refurbished by workshops, which also provide an important work experience for recent graduates of technical training programs.

The Department of Education is proud to be one of the founding sponsors of Computers for Schools and is thankful for the ongoing commitment of Industry Canada, NovaKnowledge, Aliant and Aliant Pioneer Volunteers and school boards across the province.

Approximately 30% of the computers refurbished in CFS workshops, come from the Provincial Government.

I encourage businesses and individuals in Nova Scotia to donate to the program computers and accessories for which they no longer have a use. Contact information is found elsewhere in this newsletter. Computers for Schools is working with other agencies to minimize eWaste and you can help.

Jamie Muir
Minister of Education

Supporters – Microsoft

The supporters of CFS-NS continue to make it possible for our program to maintain its success it has had over the past years. Microsoft Canada is one of those supporters who have provided a vital part of the program. Each computer that is distributed to the schools in Nova Scotia is loaded with a Windows operating system that is generously donated by Microsoft Canada free of charge. Over the past 11 years, Microsoft has donated more than 25,000 copies of Windows operating systems.

Workshop in Focus – Sydney, Nova Scotia

Our Long Time Partners



In partnership with Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board, CFS-NS has a shop located in Sydney, Nova Scotia. This shop has been in operation since 1996 and is supervised by Robert Palmer, Network Administrator for the School Board. Since 1996, the workshop has produced more than 3,000 computers. They have given more than 22 recent IT graduates their first job experience. As a result of the Technical Work Experience Program (TWEP) the School Board has hired more than 10 of those recent IT graduates as full time employees. Currently the workshop is producing approximately 400 computers per year.

Workshop in Focus – Truro, Nova Scotia

In partnership with Chignecto-Central Regional School Board, CFS-NS has a shop located in Truro, Nova Scotia. This shop has been in operation since 1999 and is supervised by Eric Stoodley, Systems Administrator for the School Board. Since 1999, the workshop has produced more than 4,200 computers. They have given more than 35 recent IT graduates their first job experience. Currently the workshop is producing approximately 500 computers per year. In recent years the workshop in Truro has also had a “workshop within a workshop” in terms of having a First Nations shop operating in conjunction with the CFS-NS workshop and CCRSB’s own technology workshop. This has enabled the First Nations community to refurbish their own computers for use in their schools. The First Nations workshop is employed with First Nation employees in partnership with the Atlantic Canada’s First Nation Help Desk.



CFS-NS and Recycling



Computers for Schools- Nova Scotia continue to be a part of the recycling efforts that are taking place in our Province. We distribute more than 4,000 computers to Schools, Libraries and other related organizations each year. That is approximately 100 tonnes of equipment that is being diverted from the landfill for re-use by consumers. This extends the life of the equipment and gives us more time to find a solution to the increasing technology recycling issue we are facing. CFS-NS is very careful about how it disposes of equipment; it works with a local scrap dealer that takes our un-useable

equipment and recycles all that is possible from it; this diverts another 100 tonnes of equipment from our landfills each year. We work with the Nova Scotia Department Of Environment and keep on top of the options available to us in terms of recycling and keeping our province as green as possible with the current legislation and options available.

Nova Scotia Department of Environment & Labour (NSEL) is reviewing all comments received from stakeholders regarding the current draft electronics industry stewards program. CFS took this opportunity to provide their suggestions to NSEL regarding the draft regulations. The regulations will provide residents and businesses with the opportunity to have their computers and televisions diverted from disposal and recycled. Once the comments are assessed the regulations will be redrafted for eventual consideration by the government. – *update from Bob Kenney, Solid Waste-Resource Analyst with NSEL*

Computers for Schools- Nova Scotia

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E-MAIL:
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Tax Receipts

Your donation may
qualify for a tax
receipt!

We're on the Web!

See us at:
trp.ednet.ns.ca

Spotlight on Donors - CIBC

CIBC has been a supporter of Computers for Schools both nationally and here in Nova Scotia for many years. Here in Nova Scotia they have donated many CPUs, Monitors and other related computer equipment to the program. In 2005, CIBC has to date donated 125 PIII computers to the CFS-NS program. The value of that equipment is in excess of \$40,000. This is a considerable donation to the program and has a great value to the schools in Nova Scotia. The donation of

the 125 computers came from branches of CIBC all over Nova Scotia and wherever that branch was located, the computers stayed in the area based on School Board regions. For example if the branch was located in Sydney then the computers were given to the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board. CIBC donation has reached schools from one end of Nova Scotia to the other. We at CFS-NS would like to thank CIBC for their donation and continued support of the program and look forward

to a continued, successful relationship. "At CIBC we are very proud to team up with Computers for Schools to get essential computer technology into the schools of Nova Scotia" Terry Gardiner, vice-president, retail banking, Atlantic Region, CIBC. "Getting students access to quality, up-to-date computer technology is vital to the success of the next generation of all Canadians as well as Canada's future ability to compete on a global scale."

Notes from Clients

"Since our involvement in the program commenced in 2003, we have successfully supplied over 150 computer systems to small businesses and non-profit organizations across the HRM municipality. I wish to offer my thanks to the project leaders of the Computers for Schools-NS Program for their constant service and support on our behalf."

Jonathan Chapman
IT Coordinator
Halifax Regional Development
Agency

"Our partnership with the Computers for Schools - Nova Scotia program has brought tremendous value to our organization and our clients. We have two technicians who refurbish the computers provided by CFS-NS and then we provide the computers at no charge to our students and clients. For families living at the lowest income levels in HRM, the offer of a computer opens many doors to education and employment. Many of our refurbished computers are also donated to clients of the Metro Immigrant Settlement Association (MISA). Our new immigrants face the challenge of learning a new language, and access to a computer at home opens up many opportunities for improving their English skills, easing their children's integration into the school system, and accessing employment resources."

*Thank you from all the staff and clients of the
Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank.*

Progress Report..

**Computers
Distributed
April 1, 2004 to
March 31, 2005**

5,005

**Computers
Distributed
April 1, 2005 to
June 30, 2005**

1,112

**Technical Work
Experience
Program (TWEP)
trainees hired
since April 1, 2005**

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**STAY TUNED! CFS-NS WILL SOON BE REACHING ANOTHER
MILESTONE OF 30,000 COMPUTERS SHIPPED SINCE JANUARY 1994**

Computers for Schools, Co-Founded in 1993 by Industry Canada and the Telecom Pioneers, refurbished computers and related equipment donated by Governments and businesses. These computers are distributed across Canada to Schools, Libraries and non-profit learning organizations