



Computers for Schools

Nova Scotia



Second Edition

MARCH 2005

Aliant and Aliant Pioneer Volunteers proud to support Computers for Schools

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Computers for Schools (CFS) is a great example of what governments, businesses and individual Canadians can accomplish when we work together. CFS has diverted more than 26,000 computers from Nova Scotia landfills, while at the same time giving children and young people access to technology that will help them grow into well educated and strong contributors to our communities.

Aliant, in conjunction with our almost 8,000 Aliant Pioneer Volunteers, is pleased to be playing such an important role in offering technology to children and schools in our region. For the past 11 years, our Pioneers have supported the CFS program here in Nova Scotia in a variety of ways. In addition to volunteer support in previous years, and a volunteer who works on the Nova Scotia CFS steering committee, Aliant and the Aliant Pioneer Volunteers also provides a van for CFS use. This van facilitates the pick up of computer donations and the delivery of refurbished computers across the province -- an annual in-kind donation of about \$20,000.

Aliant and the Aliant Pioneer Volunteers are proud to continue our commitment to this rewarding program and ask that other private sector groups join us in supporting an initiative that is contributing so much to the development of our youth.



April 3, 2005

J. Michael Sears
Manager, Aliant Pioneer Volunteers

www.aliantpioneers.com

Supporters

The supporters of our program play a key role in our continued success. CN is one of those valued supporters. Their contribution to the CFS program is in one very important area, transportation; this results in our program saving vast amounts of money. CN provides boxcars for use in transporting computers across the country free of charge. This allows CFS-NS to receive approximately 1,000 computers per year from Gatineau, Quebec at no cost. This savings is significant to our program and without CN we would not be able to receive those computers and distribute to the schools throughout Nova Scotia. The money saved in transportation costs has allowed our program to put the money into other areas of the refurbishing process.

Workshops in Focus

Annapolis Valley Workshop

One of the six workshops in Computers for Schools-Nova Scotia is located in Lawrencetown and operated in partnership with the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board (AVRSB.) Bill Landry, workshop supervisor, reports placing more than 300 computers and other peripherals in Valley schools during the past 12 months, increasing the number of current machines in classrooms and decreasing the student to computer ratio. The Computer for Schools Program has replaced older, unproductive computers with newer more powerful ones resulting in fewer break downs and less time spent by the Technicians on repairs. Students use better equipment, which is more suited to today's software and curriculum needs, thus enabling a greater integration of technology in education. This contribution is only possible with the hard work of technician-trainees who have been hired under the Technical Work Experience Program (TWEPE.) The TWEPE trainees have provided valuable labour both in the shop and extend their training by working alongside AVRSB technicians in schools.

The reception that the Computers for Schools gets from the recipient schools is summed up by one Elementary as, "Hi Bill, Santa arrived in a big white cube van today! Thanks for coming through for us Bill! Regards, Eric P.S."

The Computers for Schools Program is a very worthwhile project and will continue to get better as time goes on. Thanks to those who make the program possible.

Halifax Regional School Board Workshop

CFS-NS has another shop operating in Sackville in partnership with the Halifax Regional School Board. This workshop has been in operation since 1999 and employs a minimum of six trainees under the Technical Work Experience Program (TWEPE) and distributes over 850 computers per year. The following testimonial from a school that has received computer equipment through the shop shows just how valuable the workshop is to the school board and the students:

Dutch Settlement School is a small rural elementary school with 125 students. Our financial resources are limited and achieving equity is sometimes very difficult, but as a school we seek out and utilize any available resources. One resource we have found to be invaluable is the *Computers for Schools* program, putting recycled computers in our classrooms. With this program we have been able to update every computer in our school to standards that allow our students the opportunity to be exposed to technology to enhance their curricular outcomes. Our recycled computers give students access to word processing, presentation software, spreadsheets and subject specific software. The Computers for Schools program has made a significant impact on Dutch Settlement School. Combined with excellent support from board technicians we are well on our way to connecting our students to the 21st century.

*Our Long Time
Partners*





Computers Distributed
October to February
1,682

"I recently graduated from CompuCollege, I find working in the Sackville Technology Recycling Centre location to be a good start to my IT career. I have gained experience with a vast array of technology, new and old. Working here compliments my A+ Certification, and I hope that it may eventually compliment my 4 other certifications. A great working environment, relaxed, but enough work to keep us busy"

Chris Malpage, TWEP Trainee, Sackville Workshop

"As a recent graduate from CompuCollege, I have found that it has been trying at best to find employment. The I.T sector is a highly competitive industry with many qualified applicants. Most prospective places of employment require a minimum of two years experience. The Technology Recycling Program has not only offered me a chance for employment but also given me valuable hands on experience."

Computers Distributed
Since 1994
28,069

Geoff Ginley, TWEP Trainee, Sackville Workshop

"The Technology Recycle Program in its entirety is an incredible program not only for the fact that it gives the schools aptly needed computers for use within their classrooms, but also for the fact that it gives us, the budding IT professionals, a great background for our future careers. My experience at Sackville's recycle depot is an experience that I will take with me, an experience that will help propel me toward my goal as an IT professional. Thanks again so very much for the opportunity."

Glen MacWilliam, TWEP Trainee, Sackville Workshop



TWEP Technicians Hired
October to February
14

Notes from our Clients

“I think the depot is invaluable to education in Nova Scotia...the recycling depot over the past three years has been worth in excess of 1 million dollars for CCRSB schools”

Eric Stoodley, Systems Administrator
Chignecto-Central Regional School Board

“The computers will be an added asset in our ability to provide better instruction to our students”

Victor Chant, Principal
Sandy Lake Academy

“The CFS initiative continues to provide wonderful value for schools in the Strait Region. Without the generous support of donating businesses our classrooms and labs would certainly have nowhere near the level of computer connectivity that we currently have. Keep up the great work in this tremendous program”

Phillip Hall, Coordinator Information Technology Integration



SPOTLIGHT ON DONORS

Without our donors we would not have computers to distribute to the schools and related institutions across Nova Scotia. This section of the newsletter will put the spotlight on a donor and give them the credit that they deserve for helping CFS-NS reach its goals.

In September 2004 Meloche Monnex made a considerable donation to the Computers for Schools – Nova Scotia. They donated 57 PIII 933 computers to the program. The value of this equipment exceeded \$20,000. It is this type of donation by the Private Sector that enables our program to continue to be the success that it has been for the past 10 years. Meloche Monnex contributed to putting much-needed computers into Nova Scotia schools. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Meloche Monnex and their employees for choosing the Computers for Schools – Nova Scotia Program for their surplus computers. CFS-NS looks forward to a continued relationship in the years to come with Meloche Monnex so that we may continue to provide the computer hardware to the schools of Nova Scotia.

Notes from CFS-NS

Please distribute this newsletter throughout your company s that all employees can see how the donation of computer equipment can help our students in Nova Scotia. Thanks!

If you wish to write, please send letters to:

Computers for Schools-Nova Scotia

3770 Kempt Road

Halifax, NS B3K 4X8

To Donate Equipment:

Call Stacy at (902) 424-3596

Website: trp.ednet.ns.ca

Email: trp@gov.ns.ca