

2021

annual report



Letter from the **Board Chair** and the **Executive Director**

Dear Friends,

This past fiscal year began shortly after the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. This prompted our organization to find ways to respond to COVID-19 and navigate our new reality while continuing to deliver the quality care provided by Chisholm Services for Children. During these unprecedented times, the Chisholm team has been instrumental in upholding public health direction to ensure the children being served were both physically and emotionally safe, while at the same time receiving the level of care they deserve from both the Child and Youth Caring Program and the LINKS Literacy Program. The team at Chisholm learned a whole new set of protocols in response to COVID-19 with a new vocabulary including our 'new normal', 'socially distancing', 'stay at home orders', 'cleaning high touch surfaces', 'personal masks', 'PPE's', 'self-isolation', 'working from home', 'virtual teams meetings', 'at-home learning', and of course, learning to 'pivot'. The team responded in a professional and therapeutic manner to the reality COVID-19 brought before us. And at all times, meeting the children's needs with safety and stability at the forefront.

Even with the pandemic before us, Chisholm Services continued to enhance service delivery and look to a new tomorrow. In partnership with Chisholm Foundation for Children and the Department of Community Services, Chisholm is charting a path forward to relocate our services to a place that is responsive in meeting the needs of the children living in our Child and Youth Caring Program today, and for those who will need such support in the future. This year also saw the LINKS Literacy Program adapt to new ways of learning, and with the guidance and vision of the LINKS Program Manager, the LINKS Distance Program was launched in the summer of 2020 and will continue to be a part of a blended service delivery model when in person learning is not possible.

As you review Chisholm's 2021 Annual Report, you will note the important role we hold in providing a home away from home for children in our Child and Youth Caring Program, supporting the literacy needs of children in our community and preparing parents to welcome an adopted child into their home. This year has been one of stability for our Child and Youth Caring Program, and one of growth for the LINKS Literacy Program, despite the pandemic. Through partnerships with The Halifax Youth Foundation and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, a commitment to multi-year funding was secured to support the LINKS Literacy Program, helping to expand our reach in communities experiencing financial insecurities. All made possible with the dedication of talented team members who have gone above and beyond to deliver the supportive programming children deserve.

In closing, we would like to extend our gratitude to the community that strengthens our services with special mention of the Halifax Region Children's Aid Foundation, this year's recipient of Chisholm's Community Heart Award. Thank you also to the Department of Community Services for their ongoing support and confidence in Chisholm to meet the needs of the children who live in our Child and Youth Caring Program. Thank you to the Board of Directors for their guidance and support through these unprecedented times, and to the Chisholm and LINKS Literacy team who face each day with confidence and courage ensuring the children we care for and support can do the same.

Finally, and said many times through this past year of uncertainty with COVID-19 before us, 'This is for now, not forever'.

Respectfully,



Trevor MacDonald
Board Chair



Wade Johnston, MSW, RSW
Executive Director

Friends of Chisholm's Children

INDIVIDUALS: Teresa Albuquerque, David Almon, Celinda Amos, Lindsay Anderson, Taylor Armstrong, Gregor Ash, Randall Aucoin, Gerard Avery, Lindsay Awalt, Suzanne Bachur, Gail Baird, Alex Barrett, Kara Barrett, Joanne Bath, Cecilia Bell, Jennifer Berry, Wendy Birrell, Kim Blinn, Paul Boudreau, Kevin and Pamela Bourke, Suzanne Bowers, Jane Boyd Landry, Dianne Bragg, Faye Brennan, Monica Browne, Peter Browne, Sean Buckland, Shawna Burgess, Katherine Burris, Douglas and Donna Campbell, Galo & Martha Carrera, Debbie Carver, Michelle Chalupa, Nick Chan, Lauren Chaulk, Dennis and Donna Chenault, Stephanie Chipman, Darrell Cochrane CPA Inc., Alyse Comeau, Michel & Trudy Comeau, Adam Connors, Kirby Miller Connors, Jessica Cooke, Valerie Corkum, Simone Cottreau, Norma Craib, Chrissy Crane, Paula Crane, Kristina Creamer, Rosa Cross, Jennifer Crowley, Kris Crundwell, Kelly Currie, Mike Currie, Robert Cyr, Amanda Dean, Rob Dearman, Mario DeMello, David Denny, Duany Diaz, Bill Doane, Chris Donahoe, Lynne Donahoe, Kelly Doney Morrison, John Drisdelle, Michael Dunlavy, Josh Edmonds, Sarah Edmonds, George & Charlene Edwards, John Falkenham, Martha Faron, Martha Faron, Rob Field, Deborah Forsyth, Emily Gallant, Lisa Gardner, Kim Garipey, Bill Georgina, Tanya Giffin, Alex Gillis, Jane Gillis Ring, Joe Gillivan, J.P. Girard, Jennifer Girard, Elaine Gordon Cragg, Jane Grantmyre, Mitchel Gregory, Bonnie Grover, Rajni Gupta, Greg Guy, Shelly Hancock Hurst, Darrell Hardy, Amanda Hatt, Larry Hayes, Erika Heaslip, George & Claudette Hebert, Evan Hickey, Leanne Higgins, Shari Lynn Hiltz, Trudy Hiltz, Judy Hollett, Heidi Holloway, Debbie Hughes, Gary Hurst, Geoff Hurst, Jonathan Hurst, Corrina Hynes, Ryan Inglis, Katherine Isnor, Daryl James, Brandon Jennings, Richard Jennings, Anjali Jensen, Dave Johnson, Monica Johnston, Wade Johnston, Fern Jordan, William Jordan, Brenda Julien, Monica Kennedy, Allan King, Maggie Knox, Perry Lambourne, Rebecca Larlee, Roland Lawless, Jenna Leadbetter, Levon Lindequist, Chris Lydon, Colin MacDonald, Elizabeth MacDonald, Mark MacDonald, Mickey MacDonald, Sheila MacDonald, Trevor MacDonald, Charlene MacDonnell, Janice MacDormand, Lisa MacDormand, Fred MacGillivray, JoAnne MacGillivray, Jane Machum, Jemma MacKay, Peter MacLellan, Ryan MacPhee, Mary Jo Mahody, Shelly Manzer-Currie, Andrew Marriott, Nicole and Kyle Marryatt, Catherine Ann Martin, Tanya Matthews, Amanda May, Gord McComb, Elizabeth McCormick, Andy McGee, Helen McGee, Kiara McMullin, Steve McMullin, Jeff McNeil, Janelle McNulty, Jim Megann, Tammy Mercier, Carri Mitchener, Gerry M.A. Morey, Anna C. Morris, Marsha Morton, Sophie Moryto, Christine Murphy, Mallory Nichols, Brandon O'Brien, Eric O'Brien, Virginia O'Connell, Daniel & Mary Jane O'Halloran, Edith O'Hearn, Carl Osato, Robert Patzelt, John Peach, Lisa Peck, David Pilon, Bettyann Power, Julie Power, Power Family (NS + NL), Stacey Pyke, Karen Raynard, June Rent, Kelly Reynolds Lawrence, Meghan Richard, David Ring, Heather Ritcey-Turner, Maria Rizkallah, Bettyann Rob, Michael Rushe, Pauline Scott, Amber Seymour, Patti Shea, Johanna Shurko, Lynne Simmons, Darlene Singer, Mary Skinner, Sherri Slate, Jayne Smith, Sandy Snide, Monte Snow, Carl Sparkes, Donna Sparks, Dr. Jim Spatz, Jacquelynn Spinney, Kathy Steen, Paula & Alan Stoddart, Lynda Suissa, Deborah Thibault, Lynne Thibeau, Neil Thompson, Susan Tirone, Verity Turpin, Mike Velemirovich, Ulla Wagner, Keith Weagle, Clyde Wetmore, Gina Whitehead, Brad Wilson, Sandra Witherbee and Patricia Woodbury.

ORGANIZATIONS: Alumitech Architectural Glass & Metal Ltd., Ambassatours, Aptitude Digital, Arthur J. Gallagher (Canada) Group, Atlantic Elver Fishery Inc., Be Responsive Media Inc., Bell Aliant, Belmont Health & Wealth, Benevity Community Fund, Bluenose Marathon, Bowers Construction Inc., Bryant Realty Atlantic CanadaHelps, Canadian Progress Club Halifax Citadel, Catalyst Sales and Marketing, CBCL Limited, CFB Halifax, Chatters, Chicken Little Café, Chickenburger, Chisholm Foundation for Children, CN Halifax Community Board, Cyclesmith, Department of Community Services (Child, Youth & Family Supports), Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Fishermans Market, Francis J. Robinson Estate, Halifax Cornwallis Progress Club Chairtable Foundation, Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, Halifax Region Children's Aid Foundaion, Halifax Youth Foundation, Hartman Matthews Family Trust, Harvest Wines and Spirits, IBM Canada Employees' Charitable Fund, Interlude Spa, Jost Wine, Maritime Beauty, Mercantile Social, MICCO Group, MOVE 100 FM Radio Station, Mrs. Robinson's Children's Centre Too, Nelson Whynder Elementary School, Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame, O.E. Smith Estate, ORB Toys, Parkhill United Church, Ray F. Fredericks Insurance Limited, RBC Spring Garden Branch, RBC Wealth Management, Riverside Pub and Eatery, Rockhead Wine & Beer Market, RockHead Wine and Beer Market, Royal Bank of Canada, Rudy's Catering, Sherwood Park Preschool, Sisters of the Good Shepherd - Toronto, Stewart McKelvey, Sunnyside Restaurant, Surrogate Technology Management Inc., TELUS, TELUS Friendly Future Foundation, Tuna Blue Inn and Restaurant, United Way of Greater Toronto, Westside Beer Wine Spirits, Wilson's Gas Stop, WORKSPACE Atlantic Bayers Lake, and WORKSPACE Atlantic Bedford.

2021 Fiscal Highlights Year at a Glance



Days of Care	1,995
Admissions	5
Average Age	9.6
Average Grade	5.1
Average Length of Stay (days)	473
Discharges	4
Children Served in Child & Youth Caring Program	8
LINKS Registered Students	166
Total Number of Youth and Children Served Since 1972	2,299

CHISHOLM A-OK PROGRAM – ACTS OF KINDNESS

The Chisholm Acts of Kindness Program is a project of Chisholm's Mission and Values Committee. In 2017, this committee recognized that children referred to our residential program routinely scored low in age-appropriate social skills, based on the use of the Adaptive Behavioural Assessment System (3rd Edition). Competency in this area is a predictive factor in short term success when projecting a child's development with the goal of transitioning into a family environment, and long-term success in academic functioning and workforce engagement. Through monthly activities, our children explore the topics of The Chisholm Way values of Hope, Respect, Compassion, Collaboration and Belonging. Because this year was a challenge to participate in formal activities as the community was shut down to donations and contributions due to COVID-19, the children were celebrated for doing Acts of Kindness around the house. This included helping keep the house clean and sanitized, sharing toys and contributions from Halifax Central Library, and even baking and cooking for each other to celebrate birthdays and other milestones throughout the year.

VOLUNTEER ADOPTION PROGRAM

In partnership with NS Department of Community Services Adoption Services, Chisholm Services for Children closed the fifth cohort and launched the sixth cohort of the IDEAL award-winning Volunteer Adoption Program (VAP). This program is available to approved, and recently adoptive parents. The content focuses on evidence-based trauma-informed care giving and family development with children who have disrupted attachment and/or experienced trauma. Meeting virtually once monthly to review course material, participants of this program also have the opportunity to participate in Chisholm Services for Children HIGH FIVE® programming with our children and Child and Youth Care team. Due to the pandemic, volunteering with the team was put on hold this year. In 2020/2021, this program supported 25 families on their adoption journeys.

CHISHOLM CENTRE – CHILDREN'S TRANSITIONS

Through the 2020-2021 year, Chisholm welcomed five children into the program. These children all came to us from places of safety. Four children transitioned out of Chisholm in this reporting period. Of these discharges, placements were returning to family, foster families, and to other residential programs to continue their growth and development. The shortest stay this year was 300 days, and the child discharged this year with the longest placement at Chisholm Centre was 684 days. We are proud of all of the children who experienced a transition this year.

CHISHOLM TEAM DEVELOPMENT / COMMUNITY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

This past year, Team Development focused on skill enhancement and improved service delivery. Training opportunities were offered in: Enhanced Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, Management of Harmful Behaviour, Administration of Medication, Fire Safety, Emergency First Aid / CPR, and Food Hygiene (Food Handler) Training, Child Safeguarding (Sisters of the Good Shepherd), North American Council on Adoptable Children: Adoption and Foster Care Conference, Canadian Center for Diversity and Inclusion: Diversity and Inclusion Fundamentals, Good Shepherd Racial Equity Panel, Trauma-Focused CBT Certification (UMASS & IWK), Establishing Safe Connections: Creating Transformational Trauma-Resilient Systems that Care.

Chisholm Service for Children also led and facilitated community training sessions this year in Trauma-Informed Care to: Nelson Whynder Elementary, Peer Outreach Support Services and Education (POSSE) Project, NSCC Child and Youth Programs Ivany and Truro Campuses, NSCC Therapeutic Recreation Programs Ivany and Truro Campuses.

2021 Fiscal Highlights

LINKS CHILDREN'S LITERACY PROGRAM "LEARN TO READ, AND READ TO LEARN"

This is the eighth year LINKS has been with Chisholm Services, and as with many organizations across the HRM, this last year has been both challenging and eye opening. We have worked to re-imagine the way our program operates during the pandemic and how we may be able to best meet the needs of our communities today and tomorrow. We reflected on the lessons we have learned regarding adaptability, accessibility, and availability beyond the current norm into a post-pandemic future.

Due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to run our 2020 Spring term, cutting significantly into our overall enrolment numbers this fiscal year; however, we were afforded the opportunity to launch LINKS Distance Program over the Summer with the support of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) and SchoolsPlus. This move to remote instruction allowed us to provide literacy support for 166 students over 3 terms.

Of the 166 students, 101 students were subsidized through grant funding secured by Chisholm, with an additional 18 supported by the Children's Aid Foundation and another 8 subsidized through individual Halifax Region Centre for Education (HRCE) resources. We once again received the Out-of-School-Time Learning grant which allowed us to subsidize 18 students from Harbour View Elementary (Dartmouth) and from Saint Joseph's Alexander McKay Elementary (Halifax) each term. Through the Halifax Youth Foundation, in partnership with the EECD, we were able to move forward with a three-year initiative to open new LINKS sites at Rockingstone Heights (Spryfield) and Sycamore Lane (Lower Sackville). This funding allows 24 students who would not otherwise be able to afford the session to participate in LINKS at no cost. While all sessions were virtual this year, it is our goal to run on-site programming in those communities in the future as public health protocols allow.



Responding to community accessibility needs, our program has made it possible to register via online forms; and, with the generous donation of seven Chromebooks through Surrogate Technology Management Inc., we have been able to support students who did not have devices in their home by lending computers for their LINKS term(s). With financing through the government Diversity and Community Capacity Fund/Cultural Communities and Identities Fund, we will be able to purchase an additional 10 Chromebooks for this purpose.

Moving into the 2021 fiscal year, our Spring term began strong with 73 students registered. We are optimistic about running a summer program with funding from the HRCE and SchoolsPlus.

We are grateful for the continued support of our Chisholm community, including organizations such as the HRCE, SchoolsPlus, the Halifax Youth Foundation, the The Canadian Progress Club – Halifax Citadel, the Halifax Region Children's Aid Foundation, and grant funding through the HRM – who together ensure that LINKS is able to provide affordable literacy instruction to students from some of our most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Thank you for believing in LINKS.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

In building on Chisholm's Strategic Plan and Operational Plan, Chisholm's activities in the coming year will focus on:

- Continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and support the children and team with the Provincial and Public Health roll out of the vaccine schedule and Reopening Nova Scotia Plan
- Focusing our vision on future service delivery and pursuing an alternative location to best meet the needs for children requiring placement in our Child and Youth Caring Program
- Redesigning Chisholm Services for Children's website with a vision of delivering a user-friendly experience that better informs the viewer of the range of services offered by Chisholm and the impact the community can have for children in supporting our programs
- Continuing to offer the LINKS Literacy Distance learning program with a view of providing a blended service delivery model of both on-site and distance programs
- Supporting the initiatives of the Inclusion, Diversity and Anti-Racism committee in building cultural competency within all aspects of Chisholm's service delivery model
- Exploring the opportunity to enhance the scope of the Child and Youth Caring Program with a Transition Support Program
- Strengthening our community partnerships to better align mental health services and supports as part of our therapeutic programming

Community Collaborations

Canadian Centre for Child Protection, Canadian Core Group, Captain William Spry Community Centre, Department of Community Services (Child, Youth & Family Supports), Department of Community Services (Central Region Adoption Services), Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Girl Guides Nova Scotia, Gorsebrook Junior High School, Halifax Public Libraries, Halifax Regional Centre for Education, Halifax Regional Municipality, Harbour View Elementary School, Inglis Street Elementary School, IWK Health Sciences Centre, Kids Help Phone, Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services, Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU), MSVU Department of Child and Youth Studies, MSVU Department of Education, Nova Scotia Community College - Truro (Child and Youth Care Studies), Nova Scotia Community College - Ivany Campus (Child and Youth Care Studies), Nova Scotia Department of Community Services (Child, Youth & Family Supports), Nova Scotia Federation of Foster Families, Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union (NSGEU), Nova Scotia Office of the Ombudsman, Pinwheel Communication Design, Rockingstone Elementary School, Saint Joseph's - Alexander McKay Elementary School, Schools Plus, Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon, Shelter Nova Scotia, Sir Charles Tupper Elementary School, Sycamore Lane Elementary School, TESS – Trafficking and Exploitation Services System (YWCA), Worker's Compensation Board of Nova Scotia, and WORKSPACE (Bayers Lake and Bedford locations).

Board of Directors

Trevor MacDonald (Chair), Amanda Hatt (Immediate Past Chair), Kelly Currie (Vice Chair), Elizabeth MacDonald (Interim Treasurer), Susan Tirone (Secretary), Sheila MacDonald, David Pilon, Deborah Thibault, Verity Turpin (Past Treasurer), and Wade Johnston (*ex officio*).

Employees and Students

ADMINISTRATION: Wade Johnston (Executive Director), Tamsyn Brennan (Director Clinical Services), Sean Clarke (Program Coordinator), Becks Levick (Manager, LINKS), Geoff Hurst (Director Business Development), Arun Jose (Bookkeeper / Payroll), Leanne Higgins (Supervisor), Michael Shea (Supervisor), Melissa Wilson (Supervisor), Shawna Burgess (Office Administrator), and Rodney Beaton (Maintenance).

YOUTH CARE WORKERS: Jessica Abbey Weyman, Amy Baltzer, Rachel Bell, Mary Campbell, Gemma Coley, Alyse Comeau, Christina Crane, Emily Crosby, Ashley Dye, Rachel Eisenhauer, Tiauna Francis, Mike Frizzell, Veronica Green, Hayley Hilchey, Laura Hutt, Kristan Jack, Isaac LeBlanc, Kaitlyn Leslie, Alexa MacDonald, Logan MacKinnon, Kahlyn McIntyre, Brittany Minnis, Emily Murphy, Kasey Newell, Teruko (Koh) Niita, Ashley O'Brien, Sheena Purdy, Kate Robart, Marie Robicheau, Tyson Smith, and Ian Surette.

LINKS LITERARY INSTRUCTORS: Brianna Baker, Leandra Bowman, Lucy Burns, Claire Chadwick, Jennifer Crouse, Michelle Doucette, Clare Fitzpatrick, Lavinia Ford, Katie Gordon, Meghan Jamieson, Laura Knaption, Lola Leving, Ben MacGillivray, Anik Obomsawin, K. Power, Breana Rubin, Leah Simonot, Emily Walker, Rachel Watts, Jill Westhaver, Lauren Willis, and Judy Zinck.

STUDENTS: (Chisholm) Natalia Byard, Sam Clark, Bridget Higgins, McKayla O'Brien, Marie Robicheau, Kayla Slawter; (LINKS) Ashley Billings, Laura Knaption, Emily Scott, Ashley Sousa, Quinn Stewart, Emily Walker, and Zoe Whitehead.

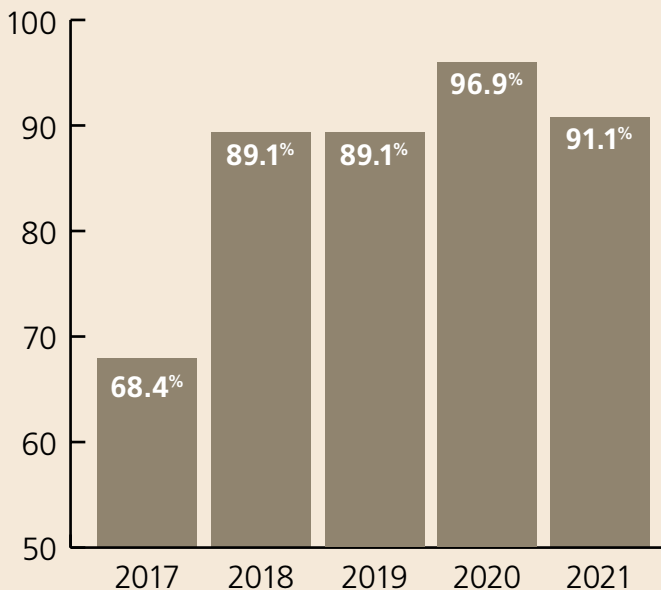
“Guiding children to a brighter future is not only our passion, its our privilege.”



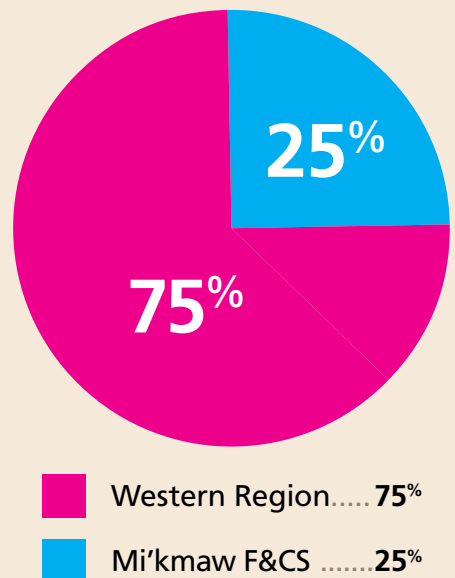
Financial Summary

REVENUE	2021	2020
Province of Nova Scotia	\$1,895,134	\$1,808,015
LINKS Revenue	\$77,864	\$83,368
Other	\$86,907	\$42,721
	\$2,059,905	\$1,934,104
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,622,473	\$1,552,420
Administration	\$89,579	\$77,278
Operations	\$161,033	\$153,128
LINKS Program	\$86,829	\$77,490
	\$1,959,914	\$1,860,316
Excess (<i>Deficit</i>)	\$99,991	\$73,788
<i>Net Assets (Beginning of the Year)</i>	\$121,630	\$47,842
<i>Revenue over Expenses</i>	\$99,991	\$73,788
<i>Net Assets (End of the Year)</i>	\$221,621	\$121,630

Average Occupancy



Referral Source



Our **Mission**

Chisholm Services for Children provides care for children who have complex needs by providing a safe environment while fostering a sense of personal value, self-worth and the development of life skills.

Our **Vision**

Chisholm Services for Children is a leader in Nova Scotia in providing safe, community-based care for children 12 years of age and younger. Our therapeutic residential and non-residential programs successfully support children to transition into their community.

Our **Values: *The Chisholm Way***

Chisholm Services for Children provides care for children who have complex needs by providing a safe environment while fostering a sense of personal value, self-worth and development of life skills. To accomplish this mission, the Chisholm Way is rooted in the legacy of the founders, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, and in our collective commitment to embody these values in all that we do. These values guide us through our relationships with our employees, stakeholders, and the broader community. We are accountable to ourselves, each other, and the wider community to embody these values.

COMPASSION

We are compassionate towards each child's life journey, acknowledging that they are in need of care, consistency, and nurturing. We exemplify compassion by our commitment to creating a safe community with the children and families we serve. Compassion is evident when we are present, understanding, and responsive to each other. Compassion allows us to use forgiveness as an opportunity to strengthen ourselves and each other.

HOPE

We believe that children are not defined by what has happened to them, and that change is possible. Through our commitment to emotional, physical, cultural, spiritual and social safety, children and adults alike support and assist one another. We strive to be better at who we are, which becomes possible when we encourage, support, and believe in one another.

RESPECT

We believe in the intrinsic value and individual worth of each person. Respect is non-judgemental of the journey that has led children and families to our services. In all that we do, we are committed to the dignity of oneself, the respect and safety for each other and the environment. We respect that the future is yet to be written.

BELONGING

We believe that every child and family has the basic right to belong and have a sense of place and acceptance. Belonging requires each of us to remain vigilant to the safety and wellbeing of everyone. Belonging is rooted in the individual worth of each person and must reflect a spirit of sanctuary that is the foundation for physical, emotional and spiritual healing and personal growth.

COLLABORATION

We recognize collaboration is the cornerstone of the care provided to our children. Children's healthy growth requires collaboration with them, their family, teachers, care providers and broader community. We model justice, fairness and healthy relationships through mutual collaboration, striving to achieve a collective impact.



Chisholm Services for Children

5724 South Street

Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 1S4

Tel: 902.423.9871

Fax: 902.422.3725

chisholm4children.ca

[f /chisholm4children](https://www.facebook.com/chisholm4children)

[@chisholm4c](https://twitter.com/chisholm4c)

