

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SEPTEMBER 23 2015

(This report covers the period from August 1 2014 to July 31 2015)

It has been another successful year at New Start.

Our success can be seen primarily through our staff. We have been able to maintain a very stable staffing complement with experienced staff doing exceptional things. For a small organization, I continue to be impressed with the staff's capacity to be involved at both the provincial and national levels in sharing their work with other professionals. A number of organizations have benefitted by hearing from them about what happens at New Start. Our clients benefit from them every day.

Our success can also be seen in our Board. We have been fortunate to have had a small but strong Board of Directors to discuss, plan, make decisions and guide the governance of New Start to its current place. I am confident we are in a healthy place as I move off the board to let others take the lead. Our website has been launched and our branding is strong. We have the beginning of a corporate fund raising strategy, with the capacity for people to make donations online. We have increased funding by our clients as well. The fiscal situation, although still a shoe string budget, is promising.

The Department of Community Services continues to be our main funding source, although attempts have been made to engage the Department of Justice. The Department of Community Services will be looking to engage New Start in a service agreement in 2016 and we are prepared. There are good policies, practices and procedures already in place and we are happy to work at organizational issues to ensure we meet their mandate. Hopefully, through the process funding will increase as well.

I would like to thank the staff for their ongoing commitment to New Start and the leadership provide by the Executive Director. Our thanks go to Carole Sandy as she moves in to another stage of her professional career. She provided a strong presence and she will be missed for her passion and collegiality. Thanks to all the interns who come through our doors. I know they leave with more skills and are better prepared to practice under Jane Donovan's guidance. Thanks to Eric Ross and Stephanie Wells for bringing their unique approaches to the work.

I wish New Start well in the years to come. It has been a pleasure being your board chair over the last six years. Thank you for this opportunity to be a part of such a dynamic organization.

Respectfully submitted

Ken MacLean, Board Chair