



Better together. Today.

Annual Report 2023/2024



prescott.

Our Mission

Prescott Group's mission is to support people with disabilities to experience choice & opportunity, with recreation, meaningful relationships, skills development, and work in our communities.

Our Vision

People with disabilities direct their own lives in welcoming, inclusive communities.

Diversity & Inclusion

We are committed to providing safe spaces where all people are valued, respected, and celebrated — places that value diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion.

Our Future is Bright.

With Club Inclusion, Prescott now serves members aged 11 to 81, offering a wide range of programs designed to provide choice, training, and an improved quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families. We are excited about the opportunities ahead of us, as we support people to lead full lives within the community.

Being together is important to us.



**CLUB
INCLUSION**

This year, Club Inclusion became part of Prescott Group!

**Pinkie's
Thrift**


**NORTH END
BAKING co.**


joblinks

 **MAIL
SERVICES**

Together we have even more opportunities for people of all ages, with stronger infrastructure, increased organizational knowledge, and more choice.

Importantly - we have many more opportunities to make friends!

Choices

Prescott Group with Club Inclusion has a huge offering including:

Theatre Club

Supported employment at fair wages

Business and Recreation Programs

North End Baking Cafe

Saturday Job Program

Prescott Mailing Services

Home Services

Craft skills

Mobile Food Market Food Bundles

Employment Development

Music and Movement

Walking Clubs

Custom Creations

Entrepreneurship Support

Lunch Club

Date Nights

Caregiver support

Equine Therapy

Supper Club

Life Skills Programs

YMCA Days

Giving Back Program

Respite connections

Pop Up Shops

Food Handlers Training

Fitness in Community

Drop In Club

Health and Wellness Activities

Leaders in Training

March Break Camps

Upcycling

Prescott Online Auction

Job Links

Parties and Events

Live Music

Dance Programs

Pinkies Thrift

Summer Camps

Community Inclusion Training

Youth Transition Programs

Job Coaching

Family Days

Inclusive Choir

Sustainable shopping

Club Dartmouth

Pinkies Thrift

Companionship for Seniors

Sexual Health

One-off employment contracts

Expressive Arts & Exhibitions

Swimming

Bowling

Volunteering

Consignment

Customer Service Training

...and more!



Where to...

...together
today.



Youth Services

At Prescott Group, we understand the vital importance of community inclusion during the teen years and into adulthood. Through Club Inclusion and Club Dartmouth, young people and adults build meaningful friendships and self-confidence, helping them to thrive.

Our diverse programs, including Drop-In sessions, Supper Club, Inclusive Choir, Camps, and special events, provide opportunities for members to discover their talents, learn new skills, and develop a strong sense of purpose and pride. These activities are designed to support personal growth and community connection.

This year, hundreds of young people have come together through our Club programs, enjoying fun with friends and celebrating each other's achievements. These experiences not only foster joy and camaraderie but also reinforce our mission to empower individuals with disabilities by providing inclusive and enriching opportunities.

“Summer is usually a patchwork of family helping me, maybe one camp, and a lot of piecing respite workers together. Club Inclusion camp allowed my camper to be around friends. She stayed active. The cost was so much more reasonable than other camps I’ve tried.”

Kelly Vassaur, mom.

“At Club Inclusion - we belong. We feel included. We feel valued. They do an incredible job making every member’s time spent there a good experience. It provided the entertainment and socialization required to keep our girl happy. This is a great support to our family; knowing she is happy allows us to do the things we need to do without having to be concerned about her.” *Kristal Gray, mom to McKayla Gray*

On a scale of 1 to 10, how satisfied are you with your overall experience at Club Inclusion's Summer Camp?

10

How did attending summer camp benefit you, your family or supports, and overall well-being?

Increased sense of community and engaging with peers.

Would you recommend Club Inclusion Summer Camp to a friend?

Yes

Do you have any other comments or feedback you would like to share about Summer Camp?

This camp is AWESOME. Thank you so much for supporting this camp and making it possible for our kids to have this amazing chance to live, be included and be themselves.

How did attending summer camp benefit you, your family or supports, and overall well-being?

As a parent, this was perfect. It was cost effective and my camper loved it and I knew for 4 weeks of the summer she had a blast.

How does Club Inclusion summer camp compare to similar programs/camps you have attended?

It doesn't!
It is the best thing we have ever found!! No other programs operate so well. Club is one of a kind amazing.



Inclusive community centres can benefit our mental health and Prescott Group is excited to be partnering with the YWCA, the Youth Project and the MacPhee Centre for Creative Arts, to establish an integrated youth services site in Halifax in the coming years. Funded through the IWK Foundation and with government support, this will be one of eight sites, across the province, that will provide support related to employment, training, and education; youth and family peer support programs; recreational and life skills programs; and support for mental health issues.

Learning skills and building experience can help youth build a fuller future. This year we have provided a wide range of programs focused at building employment readiness for young people. Leader in Training, Youth Transition Program and our new Saturday Job Programs have all given young people practical experience, vocational training and employment paid at fair wage.



joblinks

Joblinks gives youth and adults an introduction to work and support applying for jobs. This year we partnered with Citadel High School to give young people their first paid Saturday job.

“Our students beam with proudness when they talk about their Saturday jobs. It makes my heart full.”

Charlotte Kang, Citadel High School Teacher

“The program has been life changing. Not just for these young people but for their families. It is truly such a great experience for me as a mom to let him gain some independence without a ton of anxiety and worry.

Thanks so much Prescott Group, you have changed our family for the better.”

Sharon Kearley

***“I have
fun here.”***

Dhan Bhandari



My Home my Rights

In early December 2023, the My Home, My Rights Collective travelled to a conference at Ghent University in Belgium to present their multimedia art show and host a roundtable about arts-based research and advocacy.

The My Home My Rights Collective is an action research collective that includes members of Prescott and Club Inclusion and we were delighted to be able to take part in this incredible experience. Together we presented at a Human Rights Conference in Belgium.

“At first I was a little bit nervous to go to an international conference but after a while I wasn’t nervous anymore. We were able to teach other people about human rights in Canada and learn from them too. We were there to remind them that we’re here.” Conar Clory



Age Friendly

We're building community for all stages of life. Prescott supports seniors to stay in their homes for longer through our Home Services and Age Friendly programs.

We employ people with disabilities, at fair wage, to provide support services for seniors in their homes, free of charge. Light housekeeping, gentle yard work, errands and companionship visits, all help combat isolation and provide practical support.

Our team puts together fresh fruit and veg bags, at low cost thanks to the Mobile Food Market – these help seniors access healthy foods at low prices.

“I like the surprise of finding out which produce I've got this week. It encourages me to try new recipes at home and keeps me healthy.”

We're also building relationships for people of all ages and abilities, with group activities for local seniors at Prescott. Workshops this year included water colour painting, Nordic walking, acrylics, card making, flower arranging, stencilling on wooden eggs, glass painting, yoga, tea parties, social events, and free coffee and cookies for seniors in our café. Halifax Roving Knitters meets once a week in our café and the Helen Creighton Folklore Society have been telling stories.

These sessions are a chance to be together, make friends, try new things, while becoming comfortable with one another in a relaxed environment.

Thanks to Home Services Nova Scotia, Directions Council, Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada New Horizons Funding.

The Halifax Roving Knitters enjoying the cafe.



Where to today?

Getting out and about in Halifax and Dartmouth improves our quality of life, and exploring with friends makes it even more fun!

Through our day programs people with IDD's are able to make their own plans for the future, and come up with ideas for places they would like to visit, or spend more time. We've got three wheelchair accessible vehicles now, and this has meant even more opportunity in community.

Look out for our special events and community outings in the evenings through Drop In Club and Club Dartmouth too.

The places we go...

Ferry rides, malls, arcades, swimming, comedy festivals, concerts, Jazz Fest, Waterfront, Libraries, swimming, Holiday events, trails, beaches, markets, bars, restaurants, cafes, forests, sports fields, Wildlife parks, SPCA, Art galleries, movies, museums, drumming workshops, cultural centres, Universities, historic properties, parks... and more!

Getting to know a place over time helps build confidence and helps us become more independent. This year we've had long term programs at the YMCA, Halifax Lancers equine therapy and Halifax Dance.

Rain or shine

No matter the weather, you'll find us using recreation to improve our lives. We support individuals to set their own goals and take part in fun activities to achieve them. Communication, healthy relationships, wellness, fitness and life skills are just some of the areas that our programs address every day.



No limits.

The city is ours.



Drop in Club.

At Club Inclusion, we create a welcoming and close community for all our Drop-In Members. Whether you're seeking companionship, creativity, or just a fun way to spend your day, our doors are always open during regular Drop-In Club hours.

An inclusive social, cultural and recreational program accessible for people of all abilities.

Every month, we build an exciting calendar of activities and events designed to engage and delight our members. This calendar is sent directly to your inbox via our mailing list and is also available on our website, so you'll always know what's happening and can make a plan for your visits.

Our programs include a variety of fun activities that are suited to different interests and preferences. Enjoy the performing arts with our Theatre Club or express yourself through song in our Karaoke sessions. If you find joy in music, our Music Therapy sessions are a perfect fit. For those who enjoy staying active, our Walking Club provides a wonderful opportunity to explore the outdoors and get some exercise. Artistic members can indulge their creativity in our Art classes, while dance enthusiasts can groove to their heart's content in our Dance sessions.

Theatre & Inclusive Choir

The creative arts are vital at Prescott Group, enriching our members' lives and fostering community engagement. Last year, Club Inclusion Theatre Group, was featured at Alderney Landing Theatre as part of the Stages Festival.

Our Inclusive Choir performed at various venues, including Port Wallis United Church, Grace United Church, Northwood, and Bedford Baptist Church with Enchor East and Halifax Newcomer Choir. They also performed at seniors' homes, the Best of Local event, and the Brian Hennan Community Lecture at Dalhousie University, showcasing their talents and bringing joy to diverse audiences.

These artistic endeavors align with our mission to support and empower individuals with disabilities, enhancing their lives and building community.

Thanks to the actors, artists, singers and dancers, and all of our choir members and performers for your hard work and amazing talents!

**Act together,
sing together,**





...perform together.

Supported Employment

Joblinks, Leaders in Training and our on the job coaching and support, help people succeed in finding jobs and keeping them.

“The tools that help me in the workplace are noise cancelling headphones, five minute breaks, stress toys and support with questions. Work sometimes can be hard, sometimes can be not the best, but sometimes I actually accomplish something and then I can say ‘Hey I actually did this’ and I’m feeling really proud of myself that I did this, and I can feel more excited.”

Heather McNamara, employee, North End Baking Co.

Our job coaches and employment support team helps people find permanent an ongoing employment throughout Halifax.

We work hard to discover niche opportunities for community employment, including acting work, positions in craft breweries, and paid research roles for first-voice participants. Furthermore, we are developing our Home Services offerings for seniors, to create paid employment

Community Employment:

Department of National Defence

Two Crows Brewing

Scotiabank Centre

Stantec

McInnis Cooper

CCA (Custom Clean Atlantic)

Walmart; Bayer’s Lake

Walmart; Bedford Commons

Sobeys; Spryfield & Tantallon

Winners; Mumford

Pizza Hut

Homesense

Halifax Convention Centre

Atlantic Superstore; Quinpool & Sackville

Davis Pier

Accomplish Content

Entrepreneurship

Everyone has a different dream for their future, and for many people running a small business provides extra income, a way to connect with others, and a sense of real purpose. We support people to learn the skills they need to run their own ventures whether it's designing t-shirts, making bath bombs, making dog treats, cleaning, car detailing, gardening, designing crafts or creating jewelry. Members also get support to manage their money, understand their costs and profits, and expand their sales.

“When I started my dog treats business I didn't know if I could make them by myself. Now I do them mostly on my own! I have customers who rely on my treats!” Tegan Bielawski

Look out for craft fairs and pop up events at our Prescott St and Club Inclusion sites, and product sales in Pinkie's and North End Baking Café.





“I love my job.”

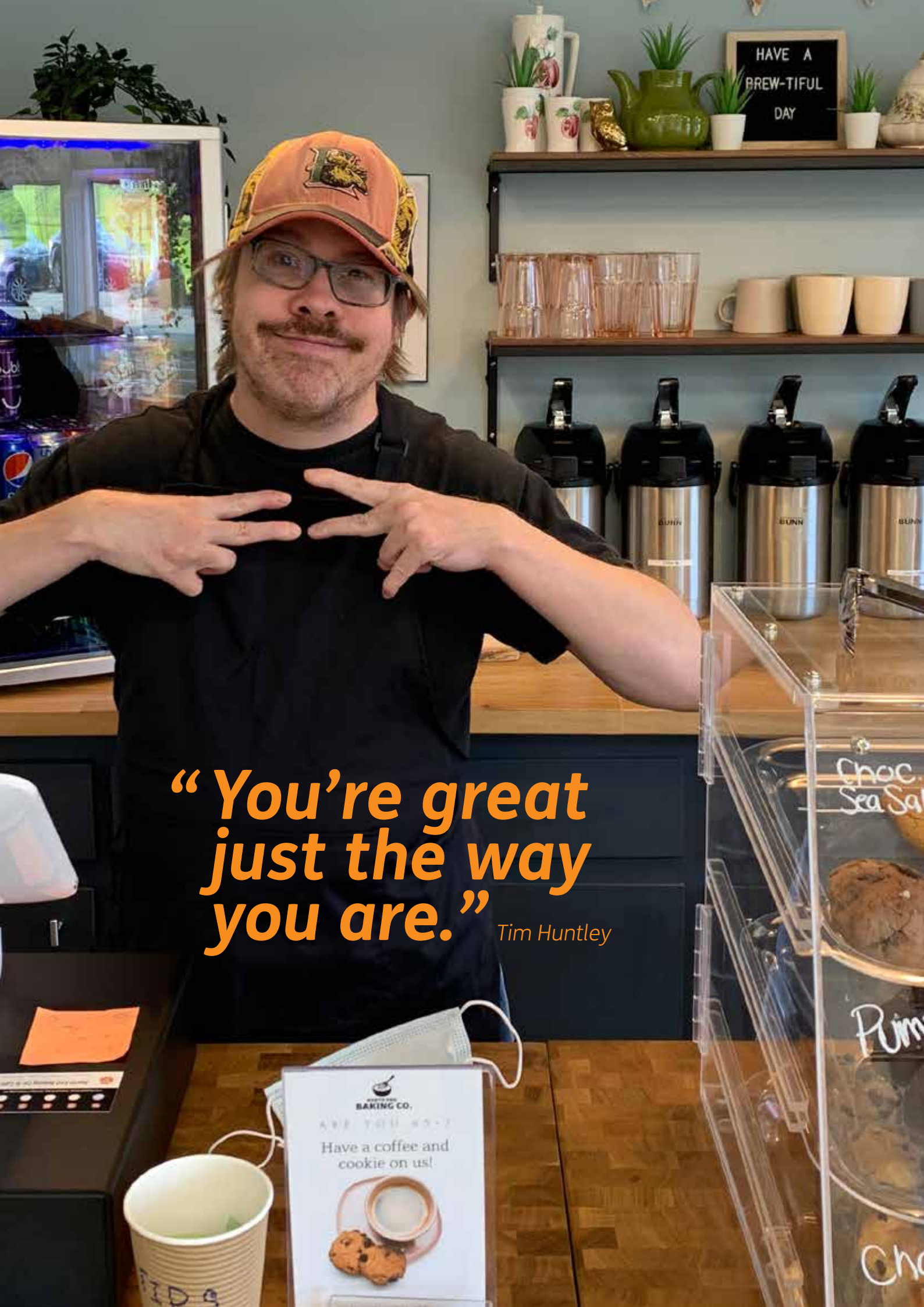
Prescott Mailing Services

“I can see the work I’ve done at the end of my shift. The pile of envelopes makes me happy that I have done a good job.”

We folded, stuffed and sealed approximately 470,000 bingo cards for Heart and Stroke and Kinsmen Bingo, and managed many large mail outs for customers such as the (HANS) Health Association, Nova Scotia and The Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

Our social enterprises have thrived this year, enabling us to employ more individuals and provide additional working hours for those who seek them. We have 51 active participants making a fair wage in the mail services. Employees enjoy the relaxed and friendly atmosphere and the rhythm of the work.

113 people received fair wages working in our social enterprises this year. Prescott Mailing Services, North End Baking Café & Bakery, Pinkie’s Thrift, Prescott Online Auction.



***“You’re great
just the way
you are.”***

Tim Huntley

North End Baking Co. & Café

Prescott Group's bakery has been a beloved fixture in Halifax since 1977, delighting the community with delicious baked goods, exceptional food services, and top-notch catering. Our establishment has a rich history of excellence and community service.

I want to let people know that they can believe in themselves and they can put their mind to anything. Heather McNamara, North End Baking Co.

Our café is more than just a place to enjoy food; it's a training ground for Prescott Group participants. Individuals gain valuable experience in food preparation, baking, customer interaction, and other life essential responsibilities. As a fair-wage employer, we proudly hire people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, fostering an inclusive work environment.

In October 2021, we opened the **North End Baking Co. & Café** and expanded our offerings by providing Haligonians with a variety of satisfying gluten-free options. At North End Baking Co. & Café, our commitment to community, inclusivity, and culinary excellence shines through in every bite. Whether stopping by for a treat, a meal, or catering an event, we promise a delightful experience that keeps you coming back for more.

www.northendbaking.com



“The cookies and muffins were amazing. It’s so nice to be able to walk into a store and be able to eat anything without a worry.”

★★★★★

“Such an amazing little cafe, it’s so rare to find somewhere so understanding of so many allergies”

★★★★★



Pinkie's Thrift

Pinkie's Thrift Store, part of the Prescott Group, is a vibrant community hub in Halifax. Offering a wide range of gently used clothing, accessories, household items, and unique treasures, Pinkie's is a favorite for thrifty shoppers and eco-conscious consumers.

“Just the nicest people and a wonderful place to shop. Such a pleasure to go there.”

What sets Pinkie's apart is its commitment to social responsibility. The store provides work experience and training for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, helping them gain essential skills in retail, customer service, and inventory management. This inclusive environment fosters personal growth and community.

By supporting Pinkie's, customers make sustainable choices and contribute to a vital cause. Sales revenue supports Prescott Group's programs, enhancing the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

www.instagram.com/pinkiesthrift

**Pinkie's
Thrift**

***“Super
kind staff”***

***“A fun
shoppe!!”***

★★★★★

***“I like coming to
the store and the
friendly service
I get there. I also
like the wide
variety of things
on display for sale!”***

★★★★★



Online Auction

The Prescott Online Auction, offers an exciting and convenient way to support a great cause from the comfort of your home. This online platform features a wide array of items, from unique collectibles and artwork to household goods and gift certificates, all available for bidding.

We love the Prescott Online Auction site. Some unique finds and pick up is a breeze and staff are very friendly and professional. Sue McLearn

What makes the Prescott Online Auction special is its dual purpose of providing valuable services while promoting inclusivity. The auction raises funds for the Prescott Group's programs, which support individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

By participating in the Prescott Online Auction, bidders support a community-focused initiative that enriches lives. Proceeds directly benefit the Prescott Group's mission to enhance the quality of life for its members.

Whether you're looking for a unique find or wanting to contribute to a meaningful cause, the Prescott Online Auction offers an enjoyable and impactful way to make a difference.

www.facebook.com/groups/PrescottOnlineAuction



“Love the online auction, it is a great cause and has unique items, I have also donated to Prescott as well”





“I love going on all the outings, hanging with my friends and keeping everyone happy” *Liam Johnson*



“I liked playing games about money”
Abishek Balamurugan



“I liked getting to roleplay and learn customer service in the café!”
Roma Login



I’m feeling really proud of myself that I did this, and I can feel more excited.
Heather McNamara



“I had fun doing my play. The dances were my favourite.”
Jared Rose



Remember you’re nice and believe in yourself”
Elisabeth Graves-Smith

Message from the Chair.

This year has been significant for Prescott Group. Club Inclusion is now officially part of our organization, and overseeing this transition has been a major focus for the Board. We conducted focus groups, a 'World Café' event, worked with Members Councils, and surveyed staff and members to enhance opportunities for people with disabilities in HRM. Our shared resources and training have expanded opportunities for members and staff, making our dream a reality. Thanks to Jackie Rivers, Club Inclusion staff, parents, volunteers, and members for shaping this vision.

Our Board collaborated with Horizons Community Development to revisit our Strategic Plan, ensuring we support individuals and families through changing times. We're excited about the legal Remedy providing more individualized options for people with disabilities in our Province and will continue to build community, opportunity, and support. Advocacy for our vulnerable population is vital, and we worked closely with our community to promote their rights.

I'm delighted to lead a passionate Board, including two parents and past Club Inclusion Board members, Uta Donahue and John Thompson, and two member representatives, Kendra Larade and Christine Riley. Special thanks to our Committee Chairs: Mallory Mills, Mark Tector & Jessica Severeys-Deveau, David DiPersio, Bud Malay, Cindy Mills, and Ian MacArthur.

Our work wouldn't be possible without our amazing staff and Executive Director, Alice Evans, whose tenacity and creativity have given us a clear vision for the future. Thanks to our funders, particularly the Province of Nova Scotia Disability Support Program, United Way of Halifax, Canadian Progress Club, and the Federal Community Development Fund, for realizing our objectives.

As we move forward, we are confident in our robust community organization's ability to thrive in difficult times. By listening to each other, we will find the answers we need and become stronger together.

Derek Flynn

Board Chair

Members council

Our participant's councils enjoy coming together in-person and sharing ideas and perspectives. We meet weekly, and this allows us to share our thoughts ideas on the future.

During our meetings, we contribute to the planning of events, like the Spring Dinner and Dance, a picnic, and volunteer opportunities in our communities.

Our participant council's let people know about upcoming events, making sure more people can enjoy them and nobody misses out. We are also dreaming big and making plans to visit different areas of our province, enjoy movies and entertainment in our neighborhood, go to the library regularly, go swimming and walking at our local beaches and parks, and more.

We welcome everyone to join us and be a part of the discussion.

Kendra Larade & Christine Riley

Member Council Representatives

Board 2023/24

Board Members

- Derek Flynn, Chair
- Cindy Mills, Treasurer

- Bud (Edgar) Malay
- Dave DiPersio
- Ian MacArthur
- Jessica Severeyns-Deveau
- John Thompson
- Mallory Mills
- Mark Tector
- Uta Donahue
- Kendra Larade (Member Representative)
- Christine Riley (Member Representative)

Committee Members

- Kirby Putnam (Facilities)
- Qura-tul-ain (Annie) Haider (Strategic Planning)
- Participant & Members Councils include people who use our programs and services

Financials 2023/24

Prescott Group's financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2024, have been prepared by Grant Thornton Chartered Professional Accountants.

The March 31, 2024 year end shows a surplus for the year of \$31,060.

Revenues

Government grants	\$ 3,753,320
Sales and contracts	531,104
Other grants	216,844
Donations, fund-raising and memorials	139,380
Investment income	72,214
Other	24,329
Total Revenues	\$ 4,737,191

Expenses

Salaries and benefits	3,380,155
Cost of sales and contracts	125,787
Rent and facilities	476,699
Programming	451,544
Administration	196,094
Amortization	75,852
Total Expenses	\$ 4,706,131

Treasurers Report

Annual Highlights

We have had an exciting year at Prescott. Combining staff and programs between existing Prescott Group and Club Inclusion has brought new possibilities for staff and participants while increasing grant funding to facilitate person-directed activities and programs. Our social enterprises income is reinvested into our programs, and provided 113 people with disabilities employment at a fair wage. For fiscal 2023-24, Prescott Group finished the year with a surplus of \$31,060.

The Year Ahead

Prescott Group's 2024-25 budget will be the first full year of combined programs and services. Funding provided will be used to offer a wide range of opportunities and programs for participants in line with our strategic plan.

The Audit and Risk Committee, along with the Board, monitor Prescott Group's finances, balancing programs for participants and staff within the resources available. I wish to thank the members of the Board and staff for their continued dedication and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Mills

Treasurer

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to everyone who has so generously donated to Prescott Group and supported our Fundraisers: Giving Tuesday, Annual Appeal, Bluenose Marathon, Prescott Walkathon, event fundraisers and raffles.

We are honored to have been the recipients of various bequests and memorials. Our thoughts are with their friends and families.

Funders and Donors

Province of Nova Scotia, Department of Community Services, Disability Support Program
United Way, Halifax

Canadian Progress Club, Halifax

Canadian Red Cross Society

Community Services Recovery Fund

Arts Nova Scotia

Bethany United Church

Canadian Tire Jumpstart

Capital Health, Community Health Board Wellness Fund

City of Halifax, Community Grants Program

Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine

Davisco Excavating Limited

Employment and Social Development Canada

Flemming Foundation

Government of Canada – New Horizons for Seniors

Government of Canada – Participaction

Halifax Dispensary

Home Services Nova Scotia, Directions Council

KBRS Employees

Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia

NSLC For the Good of our Community Fund

Province of Nova Scotia Community Services Youth Development Initiative

Province of Nova Scotia, Labour, Skills and Immigration

Sobeys Community Action Fund

Stantec

The Ritcey Family

The Bert and Shari Frizzell Family Foundation

Walmart

We're all family

Special appreciation to our community partners and those who have contributed to our activities of over the past year.

St James Anglican Church
Grace United Church
Alderney Library
Aurora North End Parish Church
All About Inclusion
Andrew Ritcey
Bluenose Marathon
Canadian Council on Work and Rehabilitation
Charles Ritcey
Chebucto Links
Christopher & Joanne Murphy
Citadel High School
Dalhousie Food Services
Dalhousie School of Performing Arts
Dalhousie Women in Sport
Easter Seals
Emily Rodgers Coaching
Every One Every Day
Garrison Brewing
Getting Everyone Online Nova Scotia
Gerald McNeil
Glenn and Joyce Saunders
Halifax Dance
Halifax Lancers
Halifax Waste Management
Halifax Sexual Health Center
Helen Creighton Folklore Society
Hercules SLR
Hike NS
HRM Recreation
Halifax Yoga
Halifax Roving Knitters
Heart and Stroke Bingo
House of Eights
Inclusion NS
ISANS
Jan Vosman
Kinsmen Bingo
Kyle Clarke
Maplestone Advanced Care
Maritime Conservatory
Melissa Shephard
Metroworks
Mission Mart
Mobile Food Market
Mount St Vincent University
Museum of Natural History
My Home My Rights Collective
New Leaf Catering
NSCC
Northwood
Prescott Street Community Garden
People First Nova Scotia
Queensbury Rules Boxing Club
RBC
Ready Willing and Able
Schoolhouse Bakery
Sheila Wildeman
Soaring Crane Sushi
Skills Canada
Skills Nova Scotia
Stages Theatre Festival
Waye Mason
Windsor Senior Bus
Wontanara Drum and Dance
YMCA, Halifax
YWCA, Halifax

And, of course to our loyal customers and all the individuals, family members, volunteers and students who have participated in our programs.

Thank you for supporting our Programs and Services.

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www.prescottgroup.ca

Charitable Registration Number: 1216 97338 RR0001



Prescott Group is part of the DirectionNS Council, and funded by the Province of Nova Scotia, Department of Community Services, Disability Support Program, Government of Canada, United Way, Halifax and Canadian Progress Club.

Photography: David Simmonds, Melissa Shepherd

