

Opening New Doors

2025 Annual Report



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A message from our Board chair

Reflecting on 2025, what stands out most is not any single achievement but the people behind all of them. The families, volunteers, staff, and board members who bring this organization to life every day. That collective commitment is what makes Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia so special.

This past year, we grew in ways that inspire confidence. We expanded our reach across Nova Scotia with the grand opening of our new ReStore in New Glasgow, celebrated meaningful home dedications, launched new programs, and deepened the support we provide to our family partners throughout their journey with us. Our flagship fundraiser, the Habitat House Party, continued to gain momentum, growing in participation and community enthusiasm and cementing itself as a signature event for our organization.

Our growth is built on a solid foundation. We made meaningful progress in strengthening our financial resilience, and we developed our first strategic plan in many years. More than a planning exercise, it was an opportunity to reaffirm who we are and set a clear direction for the years ahead.

I am deeply grateful to our staff and volunteers, who continue to rank among the top performers in the national Habitat family, and to my fellow board members for their thoughtful leadership. Most of all, I remain inspired by the families we serve. The moment a family walks through the door of their new home is one that words struggle to capture. That moment is the heart of everything we do.



Deepak Prasad

Board Chair

A message from our CEO

2025 was a transformational year for Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia.

As the housing crisis continued to impact families across our province, Habitat NS remained focused on expanding our impact, strengthening our sustainability, and evolving how we serve communities throughout Nova Scotia.

This year challenged us to think bigger, collaborate differently, and position Habitat NS not only as a homebuilder, but as a leader in affordable housing conversations across the province and nationally. In 2025, Habitat NS also celebrated two important housing milestones. We welcomed one family into a newly constructed Habitat home and completed the renovation of an existing Habitat home to provide another family with an affordable homeownership opportunity. This marked an important step in exploring how Habitat can continue creating safe, affordable housing opportunities through both new construction and the revitalization of existing homes.

One of the highlights of the year was hosting the 2025 Habitat for Humanity Canada National Conference in Halifax. It was an incredible opportunity to showcase Nova Scotia, celebrate the collective impact of Habitat organizations across the country, and strengthen relationships within the national federation. During the conference, Habitat NS was honoured to receive a national award for Community Engagement, for our Wildfire Rebuild efforts, an acknowledgement of the organization's leadership, compassion, ability to create partnerships and commitment to supporting families and communities in times of crisis.



In 2025, we also officially launched Habitat's Home RePair Program, a new social enterprise designed to support both market-based repairs and critical repairs for low-income families and seniors. This initiative represents an important evolution for Habitat NS as we continue exploring innovative ways to address housing stability beyond traditional homeownership models. Through this program, we are helping families remain safely housed while creating a sustainable revenue stream to support critical repair work for vulnerable households.

In 2025, we also officially launched Habitat's Home RePair Program, a new social enterprise designed to support both market-based repairs and critical repairs for low-income families and seniors. This initiative represents an important evolution for Habitat NS as we continue exploring innovative ways to address housing stability beyond traditional homeownership models. Through this program, we are helping families remain safely housed while creating a sustainable revenue stream to support critical repair work for vulnerable households.



Another major milestone this year was the opening of our second ReStore location in New Glasgow. This expansion reflects the continued growth of our social enterprise operations and our commitment to increasing accessibility, community engagement, and revenue generation to support Habitat's work across the province.

Our signature fundraising event, Habitat's HUGE House Party, also continued to grow in both attendance and community support. What began as a fundraising event has evolved into an important platform for bringing together supporters, partners, sponsors, and community leaders who believe in the importance of affordable housing in Nova Scotia.

In partnership with the **Canadian Home Builders' Association of Nova Scotia** and **Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS**, Habitat NS also co-hosted our first National Housing Day Summit in November. The summit created space for important conversations around housing affordability, innovation, partnerships, and the future of housing in our province. Bringing together leaders from government, construction, development, non-profit organizations, and housing sectors reinforced the importance of collaboration in addressing today's housing challenges.

Advocacy remained a key focus throughout the year, with Habitat NS participating in Habitat on the Hill in Ottawa to advocate for the removal of GST on new housing builds and increased support for affordable homeownership initiatives.

This year, Habitat NS was also honoured to be recognized as a finalist for Not-for-Profit of the Year, while I was personally honoured to be named a finalist for Leader of the Year through the Halifax Chamber of Commerce. These recognitions reflect the dedication of our staff, volunteers, board members, partners, donors, and supporters who continue to strengthen communities across Nova Scotia every day.

Behind the scenes, 2025 was also a year of reflection and planning, as Habitat NS began developing a new three-year strategic plan to help guide the organization through an increasingly complex housing landscape. Despite ongoing challenges related to construction costs, land availability, and housing affordability, this year demonstrated Habitat NS's commitment to evolving, innovating, and leading. None of this work would be possible without the dedication of our staff, board, volunteers, donors, sponsors, partners, ReStore customers, and Habitat families, whose support continues to make a meaningful difference across Nova Scotia. I remain incredibly proud of what this organization has accomplished and optimistic about the future ahead.

Donna Williamson

CEO

Who we are

vision

A Nova Scotia where families have a fair and supported path to homeownership and where safe, inclusive, attainable housing is a foundation for thriving communities.

mission

We build attainable pathways to homeownership, partnering with families and communities to advance housing equity, transform lives, and move Nova Scotians from surviving to thriving.

about us

Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia is a registered non-profit organization that brings communities together to help families in Nova Scotia build strength, stability and independence through affordable homeownership. We have partnered with over 80 families in Nova Scotia since being founded in 1992.

Our model of affordable homeownership bridges a gap for people who face barriers to homeownership and would otherwise not have an opportunity to buy a home. Partner families volunteer 500 hours and pay an affordable, no-down-payment mortgage – geared to their income – to buy their home at fair market value. All Habitat homeowners go through an application process to determine their level of housing need, ability to repay an affordable mortgage and willingness to partner with us. Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia is one of 45 affiliates in Canada and part of hundreds of affiliates across more than 70 countries.

Our values



empowerment



inclusiveness



transparency



partnership



community

2025 Board governance

Deepak Prasad

Board Chair

Matthew MacEachern

Vice Chair

Bill Gullage

Treasurer

Kayla Smith

Secretary

Nick Misener

Member

John Wills

Member

Enkelejda Shytaj

Member

Rany Ibrahim

Member

Angela Simmonds

Member

Rodney Small

Member

2025 Staff

affiliate team

Donna Williamson
CEO

Danielle LeRoux
Director of Finance

Michelle Harrison
Director of Operations

Vanessa Jones
Director of Fund
Development and
Communications

Cory Sanford
Director, Restore
and Strategic
Partnerships

Harsh Patel
Director of Restore
and Facilities

Michael Kennedy
Fund Development
Manager

Prasad Patil
Marketing and
Communications
Manager

Krista Gaudet
Office Manager

Adam Dziaronwski
Carpenter

Jon King
Labourer

2025 Staff

continued...

ReStore Dartmouth team

Mike Burke

Warehouse Manager

Seref Turker

ReStore Manager

Judy MacLean

Lead Sales Associate

Jaskirat Kaur

Donations Experience
Coordinator

Maddi Lawson

Sales Associate

Susie Crooks

Sales Associate

Nate Cartier

Sales Associate

Tyler Crooks

Sales Associate

Babak Salimiha

Warehouse Associate

Kurt Hershey

Sales Associate

Adre Simmonds

Warehouse Associate

Rowan Williamson

Warehouse Associate

Scott Gidney

Warehouse Associate

Ken Grainger

Warehouse Associate

Wasiu Azeez

Warehouse Associate

Brandon Forrester

Warehouse Associate

Kunal Jain

Warehouse Associate

Lakhwinder Singh

Warehouse Associate

Zeynel Ugurlu

Warehouse Associate

2025 Staff

continued...

ReStore New Glasgow team

David Graham

ReStore Manager

Brandon Sheppard

Warehouse and
Logistics Lead

Wendy Ward

Sales Associate

Leslie Kitson

Sales Associate

Sandy Reid

Warehouse Associate

Elijah White

Sales Associate

Conner Hunter

Warehouse Associate

Bobbi Savoy Wright

Sales Associate

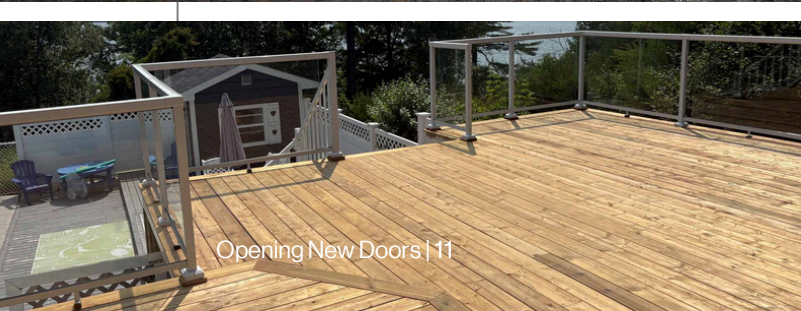
Home RePair & Critical RePair program launch

In 2025, Habitat Nova Scotia successfully launched the Home RePair and Critical RePair pilot programs, expanding our impact beyond new home construction to support homeowners in maintaining safe, accessible, and stable living conditions. Through the development of structured intake processes, scheduling systems, and project tracking tools, the programs moved from concept to active service delivery.

Over the first nine months of operation, just over 100 repair estimates were completed, demonstrating strong community demand and highlighting the need for accessible repair services across our region. During this period, 16 market repair projects and 1 critical repair were successfully completed, establishing a strong operational foundation for future program growth.

The Home RePair program operates as a social enterprise model, where homeowners receive professional repair and renovation services at market rates. Revenue generated through these market projects is reinvested directly into the Critical RePair program, allowing Habitat to provide subsidized repairs for homeowners facing financial barriers. This model supports long-term sustainability while ensuring that critical repairs remain accessible to those most in need. Every market repair project completed directly contributes to improving housing safety and accessibility for vulnerable homeowners in our community.

Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia is grateful to the many organizations who supported us in 2025 through grant funding. Notable grantors in 2025 were the **RONA Foundation** (Build From The Heart - \$50,000), the **Halifax Foundation** (\$20,000), the **Windsor Foundation** (\$10,000), and the **Halifax International Airport Authority** (HIAA Uplifted Fund - \$1,500) who supported our new Home RePair Program.



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Our first-ever Critical RePair

One of the most impactful projects completed in 2025 involved constructing a 55-foot accessibility ramp for a Halifax senior who had been confined to their home for approximately 1.5 years due to mobility challenges. This project restored safe access to their home and significantly improved their independence and quality of life.

This project was made possible through the generous partnership of **The Home Depot**. Through their support, we were able to access discounted building materials, helping to maximize the impact of program funds. In addition, the Team Depot volunteers generously contributed their time on-site, completing landscaping work around the property to create a safe and functional outdoor space. This included preparing an area where Joann's dog can now comfortably play — adding an important quality-of-life element to the project. This partnership exemplifies the power of community collaboration, demonstrating how corporate support and volunteerism can come together to deliver meaningful, lasting impact for homeowners.



Family Services impact

Family Services continued to play a vital role in supporting long-term housing stability for Habitat families. In 2025, 32 families were supported through Family Services, including mortgage reviews, financial guidance, and ongoing program support.

Through detailed financial review processes, mortgage balloon payment obligations were reduced by approximately **\$82,422.25**, easing long-term financial pressure and strengthening housing sustainability for participating families.

During the year, one family was welcomed into the homeownership program, beginning their journey toward stable and affordable housing. In addition, one family was welcomed back into their home after losing it in a devastating forest fire while uninsured. Through a strong partnership with the United Way, Habitat Nova Scotia was able to support this family's return home, restoring stability and hope during an incredibly difficult time.



Two milestones, one vision

Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia proudly celebrated the completion of both the Wildfire Rebuild and the New Glasgow build with key ceremonies held in January — marking two significant milestones in our work to expand access to safe, affordable housing. These events brought together partners, sponsors, volunteers, and community members to recognize the collective effort behind each home and to welcome the families embarking on their homeownership journey.

The Wildfire Rebuild stands as a powerful example of resilience and community response, supporting a family impacted by the devastating 2022 wildfires. Similarly, the completion of the New Glasgow build reflects our continued commitment to expanding our reach and delivering impact in communities across Nova Scotia. The New Glasgow home was designated for a Black family and supported through Black Family Funding, reflecting our commitment to advancing equity, representation, and inclusive access to affordable homeownership.

These projects were made possible through the generous support of our dedicated sponsors and partners, whose contributions — both financial and in-kind — were instrumental in bringing these homes to life. The key ceremonies provided an opportunity to celebrate not only the physical completion of the homes, but also the collaboration, compassion, and shared commitment that define Habitat's work. Together, these builds represent more than construction milestones — they are foundations for stability, dignity, and a stronger future for the families who now call these houses home.



Welcome Home, Jennifer and Doug!

Throughout 2025, Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia worked to transform a house in Kentville into a safe, affordable, and welcoming home for Jennifer and Doug. The project represented more than a renovation - it was the creation of a foundation for long-term stability, security, and opportunity. Over the course of the year, the home underwent significant improvements to prepare it for its next chapter. Thanks to the dedication of staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners, the work was completed in 2025, bringing Jennifer and Doug one step closer to achieving their dream of homeownership.

For Habitat partner families, homeownership is built on partnership and commitment. Jennifer and Doug contributed volunteer hours and worked alongside Habitat throughout the process, investing in a future that will provide them with greater housing stability and financial security.

While the formal key ceremony took place in early 2026, the completion of the renovation in 2025 marked an important milestone. It reflected the collective effort of a community coming together to help create an affordable home and a brighter future for a local family.

Jennifer and Doug's journey demonstrates the lasting impact of Habitat's work. Every completed home represents more than bricks and mortar — it creates opportunities for families to build equity, establish roots, and thrive within their communities for years to come.



Project Partners



A year in review - ReStores

Every donation and purchase at the ReStore fuels Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia's work to help more Nova Scotians access safe, affordable housing. In 2025, the ReStore continued to grow as a vital community hub, with increased engagement from donors, customers, and volunteers across our locations.

In 2025, the ReStore Dartmouth achieved over **\$1.55 million in sales**, with more than **31k transactions** and **2775 donations** received. This growth reflects the continued support of our community and the increasing demand for affordable, sustainable shopping options.

With continued support from both individual and corporate donors, the ReStore received a diverse mix of quality donations, ranging from furniture and appliances to building materials and home décor. These contributions helped **divert an estimated 2 million lbs** of reusable goods from landfills, while providing affordable options to our customers and directly supporting Habitat's homebuilding initiatives.

The ReStore team had an exceptional year, highlighted by the successful grand opening of our New Glasgow location. This milestone marked an important step in expanding Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia's impact, increasing both our ability to generate sustainable revenue and to divert quality materials from landfills, while providing circular economy benefits, good jobs and volunteer opportunities to people in Pictou County. The grand opening event was met with strong community support, drawing new customers, donors, and partners while generating significant awareness across the region. The **New Glasgow ReStore** has generated over **\$177k in revenue** since opening its doors and diverted **230k lbs** from the landfill. We are especially grateful for the generous support of the Nick Williams Family Foundation, whose contribution played a key role in bringing this project to life. In recognition of this support, the ReStore workshop was dedicated to Nick Williams, with a plaque now proudly displayed in the space - serving as a lasting tribute to the Foundation's leadership and commitment to our work. This moment not only reinforced the strength of the ReStore model as a social enterprise, but also demonstrated the community's enthusiasm for supporting affordable housing through local action. This momentum has laid a strong foundation for continued growth and deeper engagement in the New Glasgow community.

Our success would not be possible without the dedication of our staff and volunteers. In 2025, **volunteers** contributed more than **5250 hours**, supporting key operational areas and helping enhance both efficiency and customer experience.

Whether donating goods, shopping sustainably, or volunteering time, every contribution to the ReStore creates lasting impact. Thank you to our community for continuing to support the ReStore and helping us build strength, stability, and independence through affordable housing.



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ReStore New Glasgow - Grand Opening partners

hammer + heart sponsor



foundation sponsors



blueprint sponsors



friends of Habitat

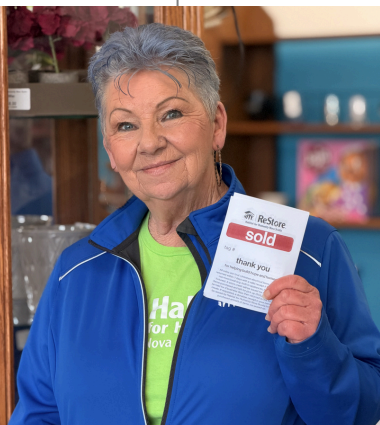
Pictou County Shared Services Authority | Twin Rivers Home Builders | Savoies Construction

A Buyer's Choice Home Inspections – Pictou County | Viewpoint Realty Services Inc. | Michelin

Crombie REIT | Slaunwhite & Associates | IG Private Wealth Management | CF Construction

Turning Point Realty | Bob Allen's Auto Sales | Sunrise Brokerage | North Shore Ballast

MacGibbon's Contracting Ltd.



**Thank you to our
ReStore volunteers!**

Our ReStore volunteers
collectively volunteered
over **5251 hours in 2025.**



Volunteer spotlight

Giving skills a second life: Roger Harlow's volunteer journey

For Roger Harlow, volunteering at Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia is about more than staying active in retirement - it is about contributing to something larger than himself.

Since joining the Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia volunteer team in 2019, Roger has become a familiar and valued presence at ReStore Dartmouth. A former aerospace engineer who spent years working in the aerospace tooling department, Roger brings a wealth of technical expertise to his volunteer role. He takes particular pride in repairing donated appliances, using his skills to give them a second life and helping ensure they can continue serving families in the community.

But Roger's contributions extend far beyond the workshop. Whether unloading trucks, organizing inventory, assisting customers, or supporting staff wherever needed, he is always ready to lend a hand. His versatility and dedication have made him an integral part of the ReStore team.

During National Volunteer Week, Roger's commitment was recognized by Habitat for Humanity Canada, which honoured him for contributing an impressive 576.5 volunteer hours in 2025 to Habitat Nova Scotia. While the recognition was well deserved, Roger remains focused on the purpose behind the work.

He believes strongly in Habitat's purpose and the broader impact it has on families and communities. For Roger, volunteering provides an opportunity to support the "big picture" while giving back in a meaningful way. It also offers something personally rewarding: the chance to stay engaged, continue learning, and work alongside people from all walks of life.

Roger's story is a powerful reminder that volunteers bring more than their time - they bring their experience, passion, and commitment to strengthening communities. Through his dedication and generosity, Roger helps Habitat Nova Scotia advance its work while inspiring others to find their own ways to make a difference.



2

deserving
families
housed

1

Critical
RePair
completed

Over **2.2M lbs**
of items diverted
from landfills

37 volunteers
engaged,
5,276 hours
donated

1,059
residential
pickups
completed

\$43,517
in online
donations

16
Home
RePairs
completed

30
kitchens
uninstalled



Habitat for Humanity Canada National Conference

Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia was proud to host the Habitat for Humanity Canada National Conference, welcoming colleagues from across the country for a dynamic and impactful gathering. This national event brought together over 200 leaders, staff, and volunteers from Habitat affiliates coast to coast, creating a valuable platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and sector-wide alignment.

We were honoured to have the support of our presenting dinner sponsor, **The Home Depot**, whose leadership and ongoing commitment to Habitat's work helped make this event possible. We also extend our sincere thanks to **Postech Screw Piles** and **Avondale Sky Winery**, our additional sponsors for their valued contributions and partnership in delivering a successful conference experience.

Hosting the conference elevated Habitat Nova Scotia's profile on a national stage, showcasing our programs, partnerships, and innovative approaches to advancing affordable housing. A particularly meaningful highlight of the event was Habitat Nova Scotia being recognized with the Community Outreach Award for our Wildfire Rebuild efforts—an acknowledgement of the organization's leadership, compassion, ability to create partnerships and commitment to supporting families and communities in times of crisis.

The conference was met with strong engagement and positive feedback, reinforcing the importance of coming together to exchange ideas, strengthen relationships, and build collective momentum. Habitat Nova Scotia's role as host not only demonstrated our leadership within the national network, but also strengthened our connections across the country—positioning us to continue learning, growing, and contributing to Habitat's work at both a local and national level.



National Housing Day

The inaugural National Housing Day Summit, From Barriers to Blueprints, marked a significant milestone for Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia, bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, and community partners to advance meaningful dialogue on housing solutions. Delivered in partnership with **Canadian Home Builders' Association Nova Scotia** and **Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS**, and proudly supported by our presenting sponsor, East Coast Credit Union, the event demonstrated the power of cross-sector collaboration in addressing one of the most pressing challenges facing our province.

The Summit was highly successful in both attendance and impact, attracting a diverse audience of stakeholders and generating strong engagement throughout the day. Through thoughtful keynote presentations and panel discussions, the event elevated critical conversations around housing affordability, policy, and innovation. Just as importantly, it positioned Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia as a convener and thought leader within the housing space.

Beyond the day itself, the Summit delivered meaningful exposure for the organization, strengthening our brand, expanding our network of partners, and reinforcing our role in driving solutions that move Nova Scotians from surviving to thriving. The success of this inaugural event has laid a strong foundation for future National Housing Day initiatives and ongoing sector collaboration.



National Housing Day partners

visionary presenting sponsor



East Coast
CREDIT UNION

foundation sponsor



Political
Intelligence

cornerstone sponsors



framing sponsors



building blocks sponsors



barrier breaker sponsors



Habitat's HUGE House Party

The 2025 House Party delivered exceptional results, generating over \$159,000 in total revenue—an increase of more than \$35,000 from the previous year—and achieving a net return that increased by over 110% compared to 2024. Attendance saw significant growth, increasing from approximately 300 guests to over 500 attendees—an increase of more than 65%—reflecting both heightened demand and the continued evolution of the event. Sponsorship revenue grew to \$92,500, marking an increase of approximately 19% year-over-year, while ticket sales increased by more than 64%, demonstrating strong engagement and expanded reach.

A standout highlight was the success of the raffle, which generated over \$15,000—an increase of nearly \$10,000 from the previous year—showcasing the effectiveness of enhanced fundraising strategies and prize offerings. The event also experienced continued momentum in sponsorship, with a strong base of returning partners alongside new sponsors coming on board, reinforcing confidence in the event and alignment with Habitat's work.

With standout performances from Joel Plaskett, JP Cormier & Dave Gunning, Kevin Kane and Bryan Potvin, and Esdaile, the evening delivered exceptional entertainment that elevated the overall guest experience and strengthened Habitat's reputation for hosting innovative, high-impact events.

Habitat's HUGE House Party not only generated critical funds to support our organization, but also strengthened relationships, expanded our network, and reinforced our position as a leader in creative and results-driven fundraising.



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Habitat's **HUGE** House Party partners

presented by



gold sponsors



silver sponsor



bronze sponsors



raffle sponsors



friends of Habitat

beverage sponsor



Meaning of Home

The Meaning of Home Contest continued to be a powerful and inspiring initiative for Habitat for Humanity Nova Scotia, engaging youth across the province while generating meaningful support for our work. In 2025, we saw a significant increase in participation, with 1,966 student entries submitted —up from 1,651 the previous year— demonstrating growing awareness and enthusiasm for the program.

This strong level of engagement translated into impactful results, with three runner-up winners from Nova Scotia securing a combined \$30,000 in grant funding to support local Habitat builds. In addition, the program contributed a further \$10 for every contest entry, resulting in an additional \$19,660 in funding. Together, this represents a total of \$49,660 in support generated through the contest— marking a significant increase from the previous year. Beyond the financial impact, the contest continues to play an important role in fostering early awareness of housing issues, encouraging young people to reflect on the meaning of home, and connecting new audiences to Habitat's work.

The continued growth and success of the Meaning of Home Contest reinforces its value as both an educational tool and a meaningful contributor to our fundraising efforts, helping to build not only homes, but future advocates for affordable housing.





81 Wright Avenue

Dartmouth

NS B3B 1H4

www.habitatns.ca