

## Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

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**From:** Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia <info@rcfofns.com>  
**Sent:** November 28, 2024 6:00 PM  
**To:** Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan  
**Subject:** 34 Grants Awarded!

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 28, 2024

### **Over 80 Schools Apply for the Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund as Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia Announces First-Year Recipients**

**The Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia** (RCFNS) is proud to announce the recipients of the first year of the Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund. This fund, established to combat food insecurity in rural Nova Scotia schools, received an overwhelming response in its inaugural year, with over 80 applications submitted.

In light of this extraordinary demand, RCFNS adjusted its funding strategy to provide awards ranging between \$1,000 and \$3,500, enabling the Foundation to extend support to 34 schools across rural Nova Scotia. The remaining schools will automatically remain in the applicant pool for the 2025 funding cycle and will not need to reapply.

RCFNS has committed to four years of funding for the Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund, reinforcing its dedication to tackling food insecurity in rural Nova Scotia. This first year marks the beginning of a long-term effort to ensure no student in the province has to face hunger at school.

**“Food insecurity is one of the most pressing issues in our rural communities,”** said Penny Day, Executive Director of RCFNS. **“The overwhelming response we received is a testament to the critical need for programs like this. While we’re thrilled to fund 34 schools this year, we remain committed to working toward a future where every school in need can access support. Together, we can create lasting change for students and communities across Nova Scotia.”**

Dave Gunning, the acclaimed singer-songwriter and namesake of the fund, added: **“There is so much need for help right now and it’s sad knowing that many children and their families are going hungry. Although we surpassed the original \$100,000 goal the demand is greater than what the fund is currently able to offer. There is still time to make a donation before Christmas so please help if you can. Thank you to all who’ve supported the Zero Hunger Fund so far.”**

The 2024 Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund recipients are as follows:

1. Middleton Regional High School
2. Glooscap Elementary School
3. West Hants Education Centre
4. Saint Mary's Elementary School
5. Glace Bay Elementary School
6. Baddeck Academy
7. Cape Smokey Elementary
8. Hilden Elementary School
9. Parrsboro Regional High School
10. Hants North Rural High & Kennetcook District School
11. North Nova Education Centre
12. Alternate Education Program (Alt. High)

13. Pugwash District High School
14. École acadienne de Pomquet
15. École BeauPort
16. École Joseph-Dugas, École Stella-Maris et École Belleville
17. Musquodoboit Rural High School
18. Allison Bernard Memorial High School
19. Bridgewater Junior High School
20. New Germany Rural High School
21. Hebbville Academy P-9
22. Park View Education Centre
23. Bluenose Academy
24. Bayview Community School
25. Newcombville Elementary School
26. New Ross Consolidated School
27. North Queens Community School
28. Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School
29. Chedabucto Education Centre/Guysborough Academy
30. Weymouth Consolidated School
31. Lockeport Regional High School
32. Yarmouth Alternative High School
33. Islands Consolidated School
34. Drumlin Heights Consolidated School

### **About the Fund**

The Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund was created to provide schools with grants to establish or replenish free stores, ensuring that students have access to food and other essential items. The fund reflects RCFNS's mission to build strong and equitable rural communities by addressing one of the most urgent needs facing students and families.

### **Support for Schools That Were Not Funded**

Schools that were not funded this year will remain in the applicant pool for the 2025

cycle, ensuring their needs are not overlooked. RCFNS will continue to advocate for additional resources to support as many schools as possible in future years.

For more information about the Dave Gunning Zero Hunger Fund or to support this initiative, please visit [www.rcfofns.com](http://www.rcfofns.com) or contact Penny Day, Executive Director.

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**About the Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia:**

The [Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia](http://www.rcfofns.com) is dedicated to supporting the vitality and resilience of rural communities across the province. Through grants, programs, and partnerships, [RCFNS](http://www.rcfofns.com) empowers communities to address challenges and seize opportunities for sustainable development.



Far left Dave Gunning, front Jessica Fancy-Landry RCFNS Board Chair. Above Elphas Gweru RCFNS Director, Karen Spaulding and Lisa Murphy with J&W Murphy Foundation, and Penny Day Executive Director RCFNS



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