



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

**Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
Nova Scotia Office**



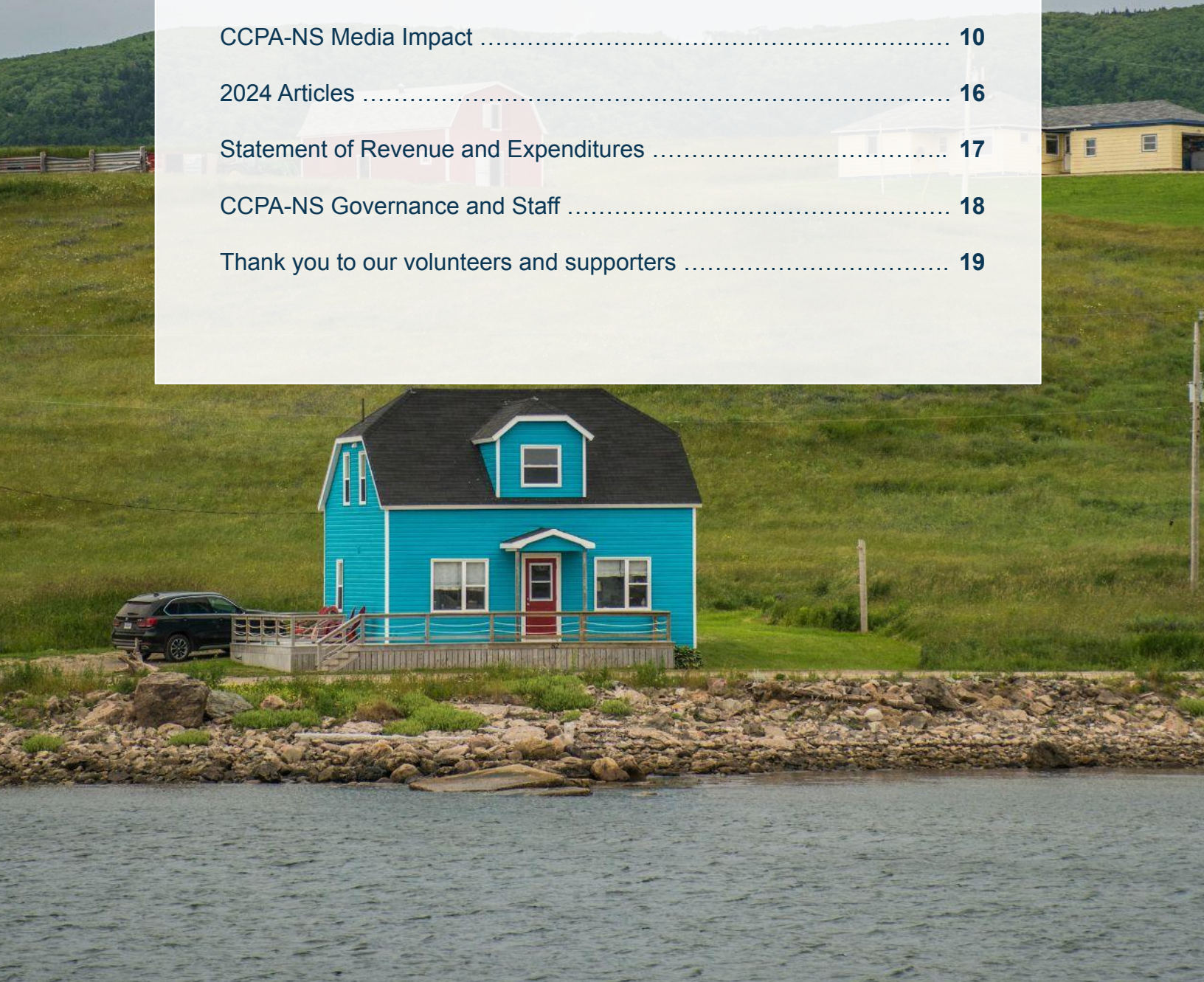
CCPA

CANADIAN CENTRE
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES
NOVA SCOTIA OFFICE

policyalternatives.ca/offices/nova-scotia/

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FORWARD

A note from Christine Saulnier, *Director of CCPA-NS*

This year marked CCPA Nova Scotia's 25th anniversary. We celebrated with our annual gala fundraiser, where we heard from founding NS office director John Jacobs and others who envisioned an office that would provide "an alternative source of policy ideas for the Nova Scotia media, general public, and government." Over these 25 years, we've made an incredible impact, becoming a trusted source and the go-to progressive research institute in Atlantic Canada.

In 2024, four reports published by the Nova Scotia office ranked among the top ten for media attention across the organization, with two additional reports in the top fifteen. Additionally, two of our reports featured in the top 10 most viewed on CCPA's website.

The research we publish annually continues to gain ground in critical discussions. The [annual living wage](#) is the most often cited benchmark when discussing affordability issues and minimum wages. Our annual [child and family poverty report card](#) is

referenced year-round to hold our government accountable for the state of child and family wellbeing in Nova Scotia.

This year, we published three additional critical research reports on workers: one on [migrant agricultural labour](#), another on the [caring, clerical, and cooking work performed by immigrant/migrant women during the pandemic](#), and the third on [social workers in child protection](#). We also released a report envisioning an [alternative agenda for municipalities](#) ahead of the municipal elections in the Fall. Our short articles also make headlines, including our [analysis of the 2024-25 provincial budget](#), a breakdown of the [concerning number of workers earning \\$20 or less per hour](#), and our [critique of the province's climate plan](#).

Our 25th anniversary is a tremendous milestone. The growing mountain of evidence shows the benefits of building an inclusive, just, sustainable province where everyone can thrive.



2024 OVERVIEW

The NS Office released:

- 10 Reports
- 9 Articles
- 1 Government Submission

Annual Gala Fundraiser & 25th Anniversary Celebration

Hosted a cocktail reception celebrating the NS office's 25th anniversary. The event included three live performances and two panel discussions featuring prominent labour leaders and progressive thinkers. Stephen Kimber joined as MC for the evening. We raised just over \$30,000 thanks to sponsors and ticket purchasers!

7 research associates joined the NS Office

With backgrounds in Community Organizing, Migration and Citizenship, Management Science, Child Care, Child Welfare Systems and Education, Criminal Justice Systems, and Critical Race Theory.

Hosted, cohosted, or spoke at 21 events, including:

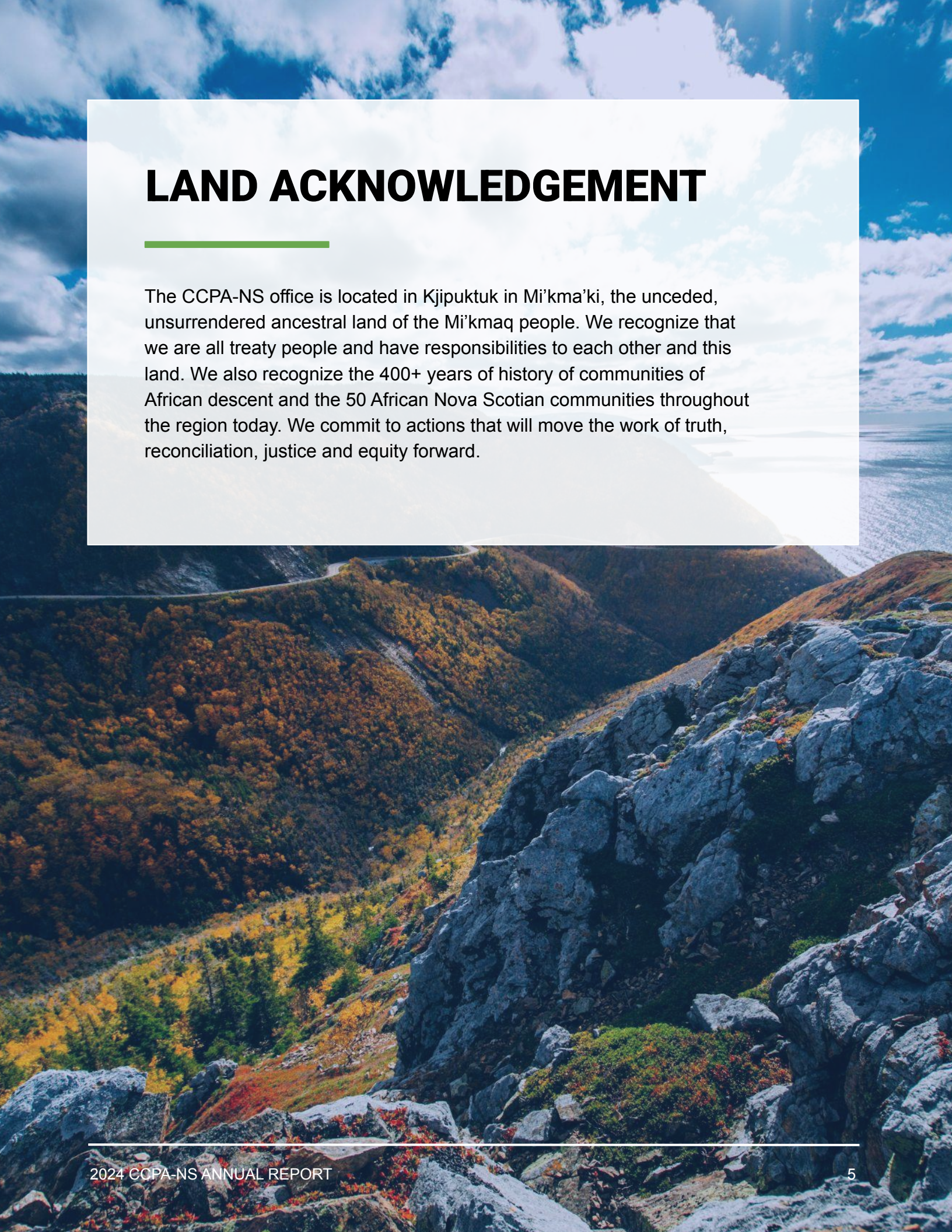
- 6 Panels
- 5 Community Events
- 4 Presentations



ABOUT CCPA-NS

The CCPA-Nova Scotia opened its doors in 1999, committing to:

- Propose policy alternatives to achieve an environmentally sustainable, economically and socially just province.
- Publish progressive economic and social policy research of specific interest to Nova Scotians;
- Act as an alternative source of policy positions for media, the general public, and governments;
- Offer public commentary and opinion on alternative policy positions;
- Serve as an educational resource for our supporters and supporting partners, and encourage debate, education, and communication among our supporters and supporting partners.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The CCPA-NS office is located in Kijipuktuk in Mi'kma'ki, the unceded, unsundered ancestral land of the Mi'kmaq people. We recognize that we are all treaty people and have responsibilities to each other and this land. We also recognize the 400+ years of history of communities of African descent and the 50 African Nova Scotian communities throughout the region today. We commit to actions that will move the work of truth, reconciliation, justice and equity forward.



2024 REPORTS

JANUARY 30

2023 Report card on child and family poverty in Nova Scotia: Families deserve action, not excuses

Authors: Lesley Frank, Christine Saulnier, and Ruby Harrington

VIEW REPORT ONLINE ➡

The 2023 report card provides child and family poverty rates for Nova Scotia using 2021 data. The 2023 child poverty report card records a rate increase in Nova Scotia in 2021 from 18.4% to 20.5%. A poverty rate of 20.5% represents 35,330 children. This report card also analyses how the rates differ by geography, social group, family type, and age and lays out a roadmap for ending child and family poverty.

Note the 2023 report card was delayed into 2024.

MARCH 6

Cooking, cleaning, and caring: COVID-19, essential labour and the experiences of immigrant and migrant women in Nova Scotia

Authors: Catherine Bryan, María José Yax Fraser, Zainab Almukhtar, Mitherayee Augustine, and Jodi VangerHeide

VIEW REPORT ONLINE ➡

This report provides a detailed look at the experiences of migrant and immigrant women's working conditions in low-wage essential sectors in Nova Scotia before, during, and following the most acute periods of the COVID-19 pandemic. The chronic undervaluing of these vital sectors reflects a labour market that sees women, particularly racialized women, limited to low-wage jobs despite impressive credentials from their home country.

MARCH 27

Falling short: Troubles with the seasonal agricultural worker program in Nova Scotia

Authors: Raluca Bejan, Kristi Allain, Tracy Glynn, and Paola Soto Flores

VIEW REPORT ONLINE ➡

This report details the working and living conditions of temporary foreign workers in the Seasonal Agricultural Worker program in Nova Scotia and provides federal and provincial policy recommendations for improvement. The data shows that temporary foreign workers live in overcrowded, substandard housing and perform piecework at rates lower than minimum wage.

While there are federal regulations that should deter this exploitation, their lack of enforcement means employers are not held accountable. The provincial government needs to implement strict penalties to ensure compliance with federal regulations to provide temporary foreign workers with adequate housing and pay no less than the minimum wage.

JULY 24

Atlantic Canadians need a raise: One-third of workers earn less than \$20 an hour

Authors: Christine Saulnier and Kenya Thompson

VIEW REPORT ONLINE ➡

Data obtained from Statistics Canada show that one-third of workers in Atlantic Canada earn less than \$20 an hour, which is significantly lower than the living wage necessary to afford basic expenses. There is a misconception that minimum wage workers are predominantly teenagers or students. In reality, data from Statistics Canada shows that the vast majority of these workers are not students, are over twenty, and are employed in permanent, full-time jobs.



AUGUST 22

Building inclusive communities: A policy agenda for Nova Scotia municipalities that leaves no one behind

Authors: Kyle Buott, Christine Saulnier, and Kenya Thompson

VIEW REPORT ONLINE ➡

Released ahead of Nova Scotia municipal elections, this report lays out ways to turn the values of social and economic justice into concrete policy realities to improve people's lives in communities across the province. Issues outlined in this report include publicly-managed services, transit, housing, climate change, taxation, wages, and more. *Building Inclusive Communities* includes sets of questions that residents can ask candidates running in municipal elections about their values and priorities, and how they would shape the future of their communities should they be elected to office.

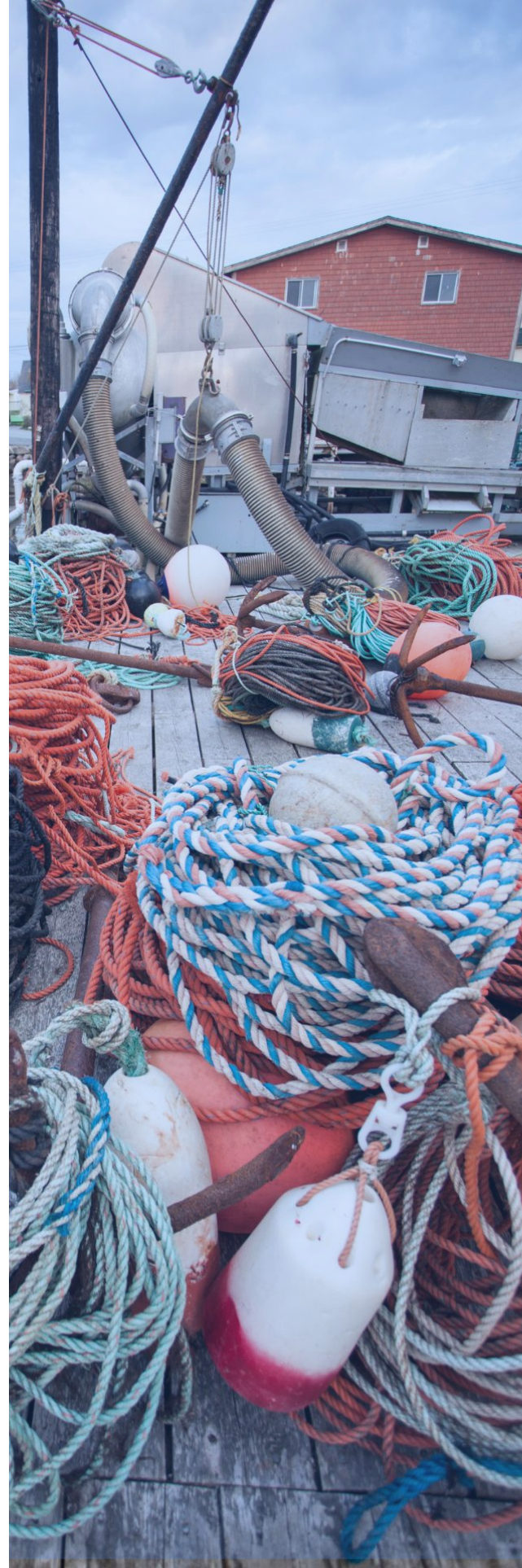
AUGUST 28

2024 Living wages for Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island: Closing the gap between the cost of living and low-waged employment

Authors: Christine Saulnier and Russell Williams

VIEW REPORT ONLINE ➡

The 2024 Living Wages Report provides a broad regional assessment that includes living wages for Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island. Highlighting the rising cost of living, this report publishes the 2024 living wage rates and offers a suite of suggestions about what employers and governments should be doing differently.



SEPTEMBER 23

Challenging Nova Scotia's climate change plan to do better

Authors: Jara de Hoog, Alice Cohen, and Andrew Biro

VIEW REPORT ONLINE ➡

This analysis of Nova Scotia's approach to climate action provides recommendations for how the province can improve its approach to better address the climate crisis.

Nova Scotia's 2022 Climate Change Plan is at odds with its stated principles. This report demonstrates how the Plan prioritizes economic growth through technology rather than addressing the root issues of economic growth and profit-based production. While some elements show promise, the Plan falls short of the transformative action necessary to combat climate change.

DECEMBER 10

Contradictions in care: Labour conditions, conflicting values, and crisis in child protection social work in Nova Scotia

Authors: Catherine Bryan, Brooke Richardson, Nancy Ross, and Rajeane Willis

VIEW REPORT ONLINE ➡

Contradictions in care outlines the challenges faced by child protection social workers within the Department of Community Services and provides short-term and long-term recommendations to address those challenges, from improving training, mentoring, and professional recognition, to reducing poverty.

DECEMBER 17

2024 Report card on child and family poverty in Nova Scotia: Swift action is needed for child and family wellbeing

Authors: Lesley Frank, Christine Saulnier, and Ruby Harrington

VIEW REPORT ONLINE ➡

Child poverty is on the rise, with more than one in five Nova Scotian children living in low-income families. The 2024 Report Card records the highest single-year increase in child poverty in the 35 years since the federal promise to eradicate child poverty, explores the intersectional factors correlated with child poverty rates, and provides policy recommendations to address this troubling trend.

DECEMBER 17

2024 Child and family poverty report card on Prince Edward Island

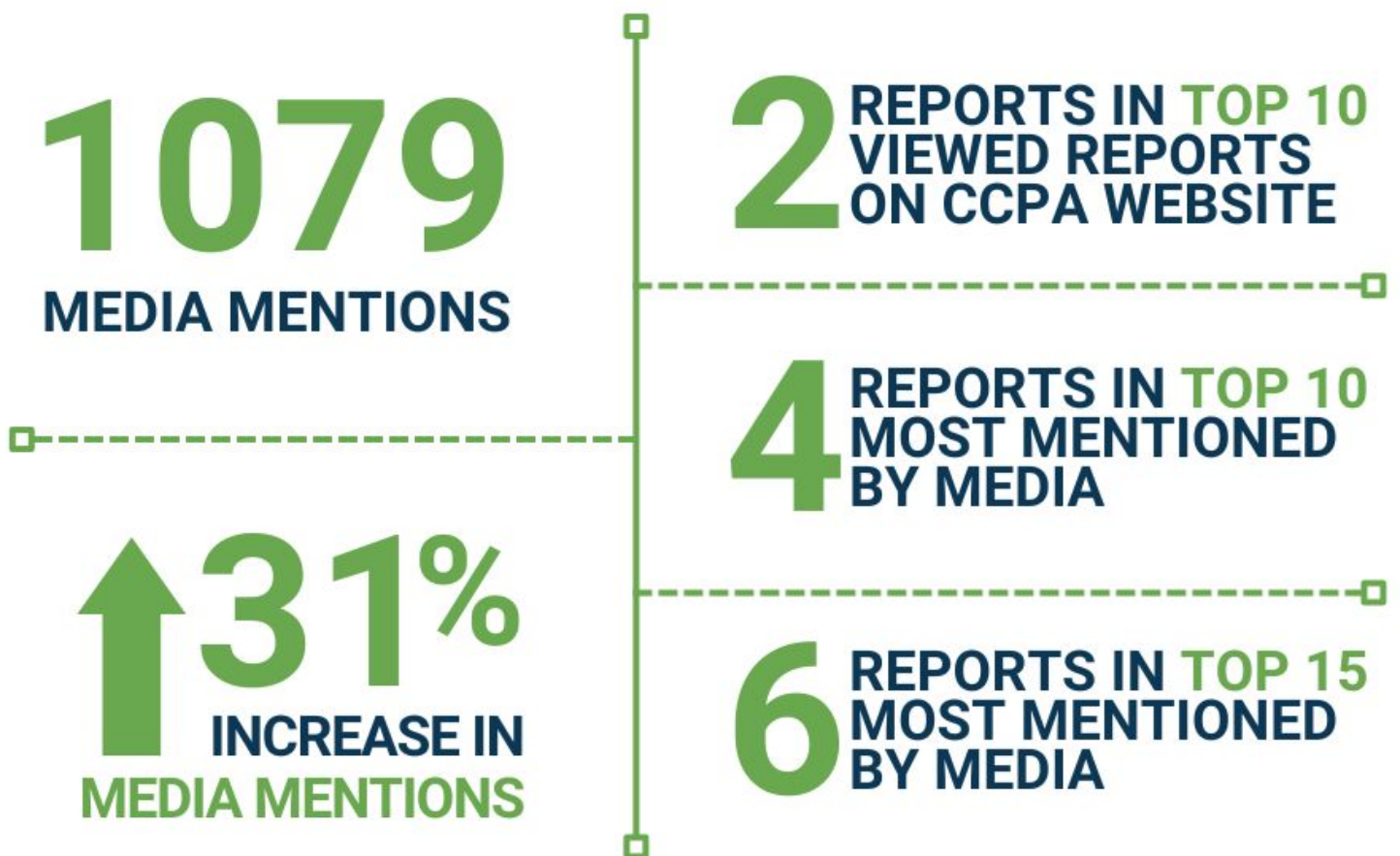
Authors: Mary Boyd, Christine Saulnier, and Ruby Harrington

VIEW REPORT ONLINE ➡

Child and family poverty in PEI is rising despite federal promises to eradicate child poverty by the year 2000. This report documents the increasing child and family poverty rates on PEI and how they are correlated with intersectional factors.



CCPA-NS MEDIA



REPORT MEDIA PERFORMANCE

REPORT	MEDIA MENTIONS	READERSHIP
2023 Report card on child and family poverty in Nova Scotia: Families deserve action, not excuses	195	165 million
Cooking, cleaning, and caring: COVID-19, essential labour and the experiences of immigrant and migrant women in Nova Scotia	135	unknown
Falling short: Troubles with the seasonal agricultural worker program in Nova Scotia	1	unknown
Atlantic Canadians need a raise: One-third of workers earn less than \$20 an hour	162	92 million
Building inclusive communities: A policy agenda for Nova Scotia municipalities that leaves no one behind	223	567 million
2024 Living wages for Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island: Closing the gap between the cost of living and low-waged employment	212	496 million
Challenging Nova Scotia's climate change plan to do better	15	2.6 million
Contradictions in care: Labour conditions, conflicting values, and crisis in child protection social work in Nova Scotia	81	300 million
2024 Report card on child and family poverty in Nova Scotia: Swift action is needed for child and family wellbeing	55	2 million
2024 Child and family poverty report card on Prince Edward Island	unknown	unknown



MEDIA MENTIONS

JANUARY 5

CBC Nova Scotia | Cost of Living

“What does this mean when I see formula behind a locked box behind glass? Well, that's what the understory is, right? You know, how did we get there? How did we get to being a society where people can't afford the one item that they need to feed their baby? We should be ashamed of that in Canada, a high-income country. There's no good reason for it.”

— Lesley Frank

FEBRUARY 27

CBC Nova Scotia | Housing

“The municipality will use it in part to focus on building more affordable units, but it doesn't say what they mean by affordable...So for me it does raise this question about what kind of affordable housing development are we talking about supporting through this accelerator fund and will that be for households who are most in need in our municipality?”

— Catherine Leviten-Reid

MARCH 6

Halifax Examiner | Migrant Labour

“[Survival jobs are] fundamental to the operations of society and economy and all of those things. Yet the people who occupy them have a very difficult time meeting their own needs or surviving on those wages and in those positions.”

— Catherine Bryan



JUNE 23

CBC News | Migrant Labour

“Immigrant and migrant women... can be pushed into more precarious jobs because their work experience or credentials from abroad can be seen as less valuable than Canadian experience.”

— María José Yax-Fraser

JULY 3

The Canadian Press | Nova Scotia Municipal Elections

“I think it’s really critical that we look at issues such as how do we ensure people are more engaged and have significant input into the design of policies.”

— Christine Saulnier

AUGUST 28

CBC News | Cost of Living

“We’re now in a situation where we have a gap, right? The gap, when we express it as an hourly wage, is almost \$10 an hour between what some people earn and what they would need to earn to cover those basic expenses... This is a serious social and economic problem.”

— Russell Williams

AUGUST 28

The Canadian Press | Living Wage

“The reason we're seeing such significant increases is because those cost of living pressures are not being offset by increases in government transfers [tax credits] or changes on the cost side that would see some kind of decrease.”

— Christine Saulnier

SEPTEMBER 23

CBC Nova Scotia | Climate Action Report

“Our analysis shows that the changes envisioned by the plan are too shallow to achieve these goals and are at odds with the principles that are claimed to be its foundation.”

— Jara de Hoog, Alice Cohen, and Andrew Biro

DECEMBER 11

The Canadian Press | Child Protection Social Workers

“These are not the failings of individual practitioners but deep systemic flaws that fundamentally undervalue the provision of professional care, ultimately compromising the quality of support that families and children so desperately need.”

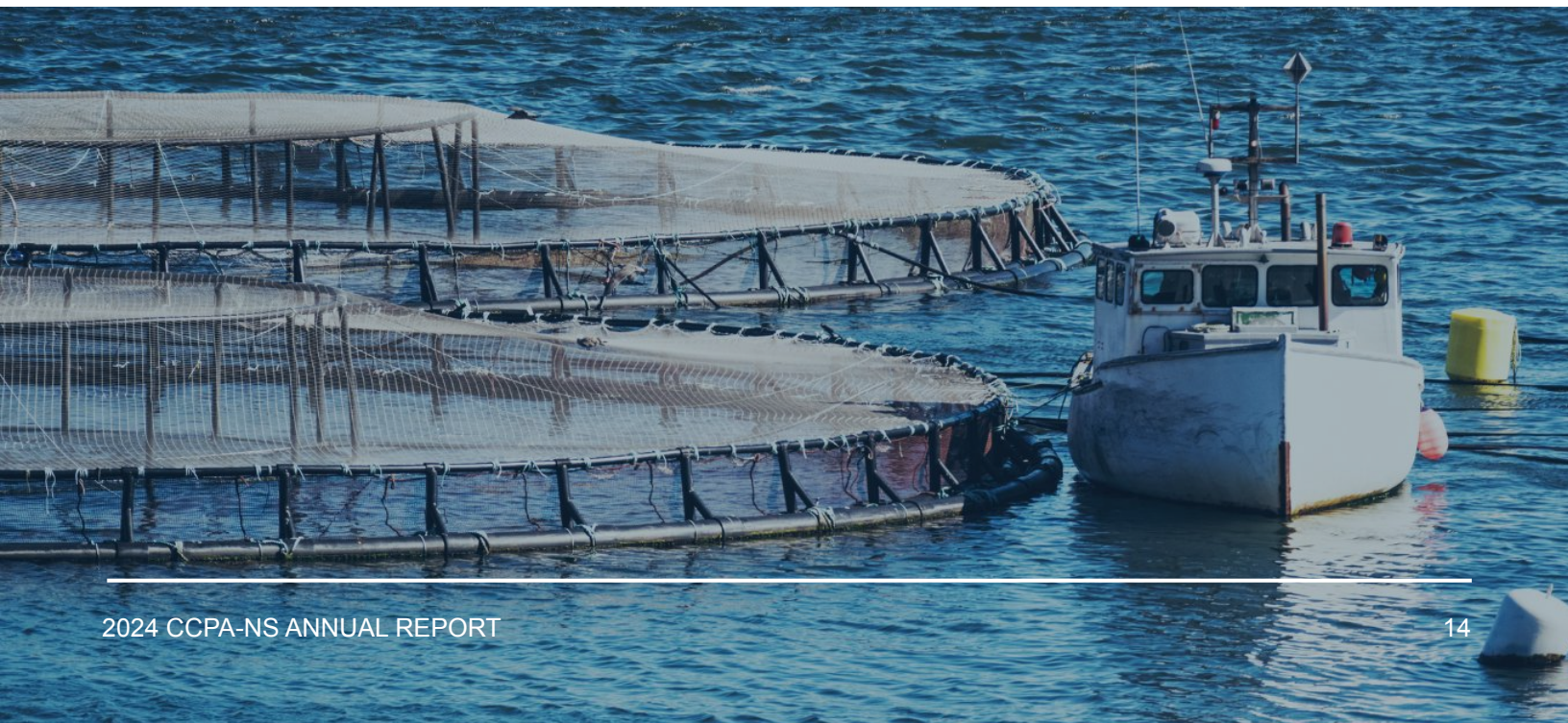
— Alec Stratford

DECEMBER 17

Halifax Examiner | Child and Family Poverty

“There's been no real policy interventions that would have enough of an effect to make a difference. Not in those things (income, child poverty and food insecurity) because they measure household income and this concept of financial constraint.”

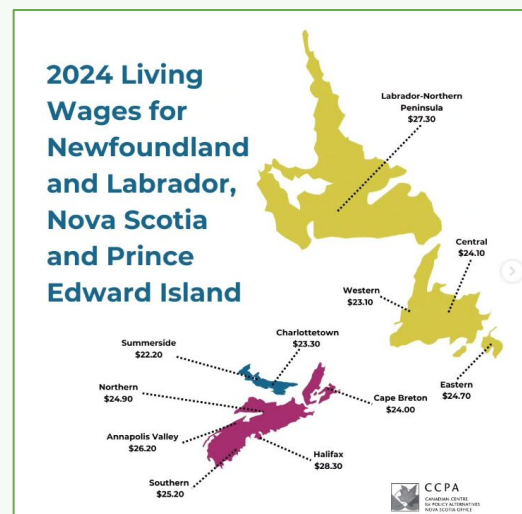
— Lesley Frank



TOP SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

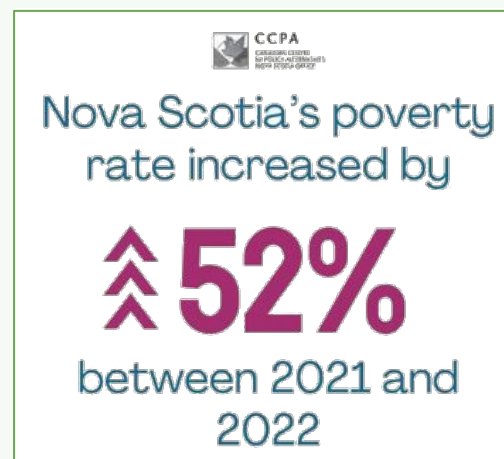
1 Living Wage Report

FACEBOOK	INSTAGRAM
Reached 6.4K people	Reached 19.4K people
7.1k views	31K views
78 interactions	375 interactions



2 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in NS

FACEBOOK	INSTAGRAM
Reached 8.1K people	Reached 1.1K people
9K views	1.4K views
118 interactions	696 interactions



3 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in NS

FACEBOOK	INSTAGRAM
Reached 8.1K people	Reached 1.1K people
9K views	1.4K views
118 interactions	696 interactions



2024 ARTICLES

FEBRUARY

Nova Scotia Budget: Building faster to what?

[VIEW ARTICLE ONLINE ➡](#)

MARCH

Cooking, cleaning, and caring: COVID-19, essential labour, and the experiences of immigrant and migrant women in Nova Scotia

[VIEW ARTICLE ONLINE ➡](#)

APRIL

Halifax needs a living wage

[VIEW ARTICLE ONLINE ➡](#)

OCTOBER

Atlantic Canadians need a

[VIEW ARTICLE ONLINE ➡](#)

SEPTEMBER

Building inclusive communities— Nova Scotia municipal elections series:

- Building a fairer city means addressing inequality

[VIEW ARTICLE ONLINE ➡](#)

- An ambitious platform for the future of the region

[VIEW ARTICLE ONLINE ➡](#)

- A chance to advance climate justice

[VIEW ARTICLE ONLINE ➡](#)

- Local democracy can be a counter to authoritarianism

[VIEW ARTICLE ONLINE ➡](#)

- Fully public services improve quality—time to deprivatize

[VIEW ARTICLE ONLINE ➡](#)



STATEMENT OF REVENUE

REVENUE

ORGANIZATIONAL DONATIONS	\$59,070.00
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	\$31,902.50
FUNDRAISER EVENTS	\$30,640.00
OTHER INCOME	\$25,000.00
PROJECT INCOME	\$148,000.00
TOTAL	\$294,612.50

EXPENDITURES

OFFICE ADMIN.	\$3,888.14
OUTREACH	\$909.84
PUBLICATIONS	\$8,407.25
FUNDRAISING	\$9498.83
PERSONNEL	\$214,673.37
TOTAL	\$235,252.72
BUDGET BALANCE	\$58,675.38

CCPA-NS GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

NS STEERING COMMITTEE

- Sarah MacDonald (Chair)
- Alec Stratford
- Jim Houston
- Catherine Bryan
- Eric Leviten-Reid
- Sarah Sanford
- Jason Edwards
- Molly Hurd
- Tammy Findlay
- Ajay Parasram
- Grant MacNeil

NS RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Catherine Bryan (Chair)
- Alexandra Dobrowolsky
- Catherine Leviten-Reid
- Rachel Brickner
- Andrew Biro
- Rebecca Casey

NEW NS RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

- Mary Sweatman
- Raluca Bejan
- Zainab Almukhtar
- Elisabeth Rondinelli
- Kenya Thompson
- Brooke Richardson
- Nancy Ross

NS STAFF 2024

- **Christine Saulnier** | NS Office Director | Nov. 2017 - present
- **Cherise Carlaw** | Fund Development & Communications Officer | Aug. 2024 - present
- **Kenya Thompson** | Researcher | Apr. - Nov. 2024
- **Lauren Matheson** | Community Development & Outreach Jan. 2021 - Mar. 2024

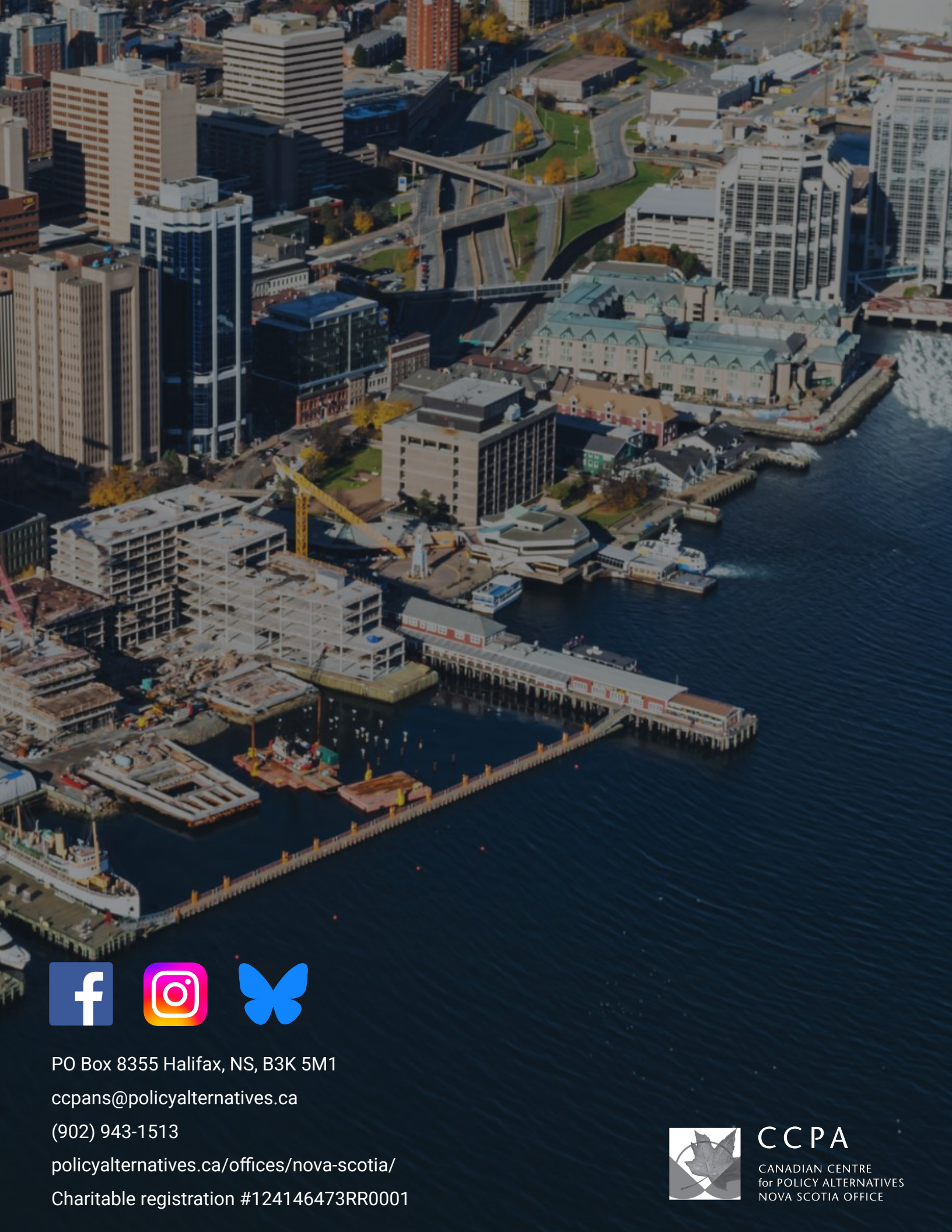
A scenic view of a harbor at sunset. Several boats are docked along a wooden pier. In the background, there are houses and buildings. The sky is filled with colorful clouds, and the water reflects the sunset. The foreground shows large rocks and some greenery.

**Thank you to all of the volunteers
who support the realization of
our strategic goals.**

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



**Thank you to all Nova Scotians
who support our work by donating.**



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