

Tatamagouche Centre

For over 60 years, Tatamagouche Centre has been an important place for spiritual growth and renewal. People from all walks of life have been able to join together to deepen their faith and seek guidance and clarity on how to live out the call to love in justice and peace within God's creation. The Centre through its programs and outreach has developed people's knowledge, skills, and leadership capacities both within the Church and within the broader community of like-minded people. The Centre has been important for people in the Maritimes particularly as it has sought to build bridges with the First Nations and with those often excluded at the margins of our communities. The Centre has an important heritage to both preserve and to build upon in its future work.

2018 was the year that Tatamagouche Centre was able to bring back the programming that has set it apart over the years, including the Social Justice Youth Camp and the ASPIRE Education Design program. The Centre also started some new programs that have welcomed many new and returning faces. No programs were cancelled. A candle-lit Courage to Lead retreat made history as the first full program to run in the midst of a 24 hour blackout.

With the support from our volunteer fundraising committee the Centre was able to exceed our fundraising goal of \$100,000 in 2018. It means a great deal to us to feel supported by those who believe in our work of Building Peace, Growing Justice, and Living Welcome. These donations have meant that we can make our programs accessible to new participants, regardless of economic circumstances, while remaining responsible stewards of the land and buildings. Thanks to the UCWs around the Maritimes, we have also been able to replace our bedspreads for a more comfortable and modern look.

The Centre was also able to add a part-time position to our staff team, significantly increasing its ability to fulfill its mission in the world. In 2019 this position became full time, greatly increasing our capacity in program coordination, promotion, fundraising, and network building. Under the leadership of Josie Baker the Centre has a wonderful staff team that make the Centre a truly inviting and welcoming place.

The Centre has also continued to achieve its crucial financial objectives, generating a modest surplus for the fourth year in a row. This ongoing success in meeting our financial goals gives the Board and staff confidence as we move forward with more ambitious programming goals. Looking forward to 2019 the Board is excited to see that the Centre's focus has moved from financial survival to these programming objectives.

The Centre has long made a contribution to the life of the Church and the broader community and looks forward to continuing to do so. At this time when the Church is in transition the Centre looks forward to making an important contribution through our programs. They can play a key role in providing skills, knowledge, and tools to successfully navigate the challenges ahead. Please keep the Centre in your prayers, but also, consider taking the opportunity to participate in the Centre's programs or to use the Centre's hosting services for your group's retreat or event. We would also like to invite you to participation in the Centre's Annual General Meeting on June 15.

Respectfully submitted
Peter Hough, Chair
Tatamagouche Centre Board