
Nova Scotia Junior Wind Ensemble

Financial Executive Report & Summary

2024-2025 Season

NSJWE Annual Report March 2025

The 2024-2025 NSJWE Season has been another successful music making experience for all involved. Our Fall session was hosted in Truro by Nick Fisher and the Truro Middle School Concert Band. Our Spring session was hosted in HRM by Luke Henderson and the Bayview High Concert Band. Both ensembles performed with NSJWE and left us knowing that although the struggle for music education in Nova Scotia remains real and constant, these two schools are doing us all proud.

We have been extremely fortunate to have the incomparable Dr. Denise Grant on the podium, bringing exciting, challenging works to life and stretching the musical exploration and understanding of our musicians. Dr Grant chose exceptional repertoire and pushed the ensemble to its limits while endearing herself to its members. Both concerts were excellent and audience members were extremely enthusiastic in their responses.

We had 75 musicians registered this year, with a nicely balanced group. A lack of tenor saxes was made palatable with a horn section of 5 excellent players and the addition of board member Danielle Chute graciously filling in on Tenor Sax.

We had a small number of musicians with challenging schedules which were not indicated in advance. Our letter to incoming musicians and parents for the next season will more clearly articulate commitment expectations for the ensemble.

We are beyond thrilled to announce that Ardith Haley will be joining us as conductor for the 2025-2026 season. Those of us who have been lucky enough to work with and learn from Ardith know we can prepare for a truly exciting, creative, student centered experience.

The executive for 2024-2025 is expected to continue into 2025- 2026, barring any unforeseen events.

Executive Director- Holly Hartlen
Treasurer- Colin Langille
Librarian- Paul Hutten
Media- Danielle Chute
Personnel Coordinator- Amy Cameron
Equipment Coordinator- Noah Shankel
Student Liaison- Maddie Langille

I would like to extend an official thank you to all of the NSJWE board members for their dedication to our young musicians and this organisation. Their various official titles are not at all reflective of the volume or breadth of work that they do. These weekends would not run nearly as smoothly (They would be impossible, frankly) or be as enjoyable without the company and collaboration of these wonderful volunteers.

Holly Hartlen
Executive Director, NSJWE

Financial Summary

Revenue:

The majority of the Nova Scotia Junior Wind Ensemble's income and contribution to the current bank balance is from ensemble registration fees. This includes ensemble and uniform fees. Typically, other contributions to our revenue include donations at concerts and donations from the previous year. For the 2024-2025 season, our ensemble fees were **\$175** (\$87.50 per weekend) plus an extra **\$20** for uniform shirts. Our registration fee deposit for the total 2023-2024 season was 11700.00 for 76 registered members (see below). NSJWE also received a one-time grant of \$500 from the Dartmouth Community Band Memorial Fund for bursaries, increasing our total number of available bursaries to 10, all of which were given out. We also claim 50% of the at-door donations for both concerts, giving the remaining 50% to our host schools. This season, we took in \$450 in the fall at Truro, and 375 in the spring in Tantallon.

Expenses:

The majority of the Nova Scotia Junior Wind Ensembles expenses are incurred during rehearsal weekends. This is in payment of conductor fees (\$1600 per year + other expenses & mileage), specialized clinicians, hosts' facilities, meals, activities, hotel rooms, and miscellaneous fees for supplies. The remainder of the expenses come from our potential costs for board members, bank service charges, website costs and the purchase of branded merchandise for band members.

Our hotel expenses were significantly reduced this year. Our guest conductor, Dr. Denise Grant, being a close personal friend of Holly, stayed with Holly at her home for the fall weekend in Truro, and our spring expenditures were lower on account of the HRM board members not needing a room and our valley board members electing not to take rooms in the city for the full weekend.

This season, we made several equipment purchases, including a mallet/stick bag with a variety of sticks and mallets, and a toolbox with tools appropriate for instrument repair. These assets are for NSJWE dedicated use and are expected to last for many years to come.

Summary:

Account balance at end of previous season: \$846.91 Total income from all sources: \$13,025.00
Total expenditures from all sources: \$12,103.13 Account balance at end of 2024-2025 season:
\$1,768.78

Issues of Note:

Our change from a band polo (which can be reused every year for as long as it fits or shared with younger siblings) to a T-shirt (a new one issued each year) created some confusion among the returning parents, despite repeated clear advertisements of the new policy. The old polos were quite expensive to buy and despite charging parents \$30 for them, we were taking a loss on each one. The T-shirts, on the other hand, are a great deal for us. We sourced them from the print shop at Central Kings Rural High School and were able to buy them for less than the \$20 we charged parents. In keeping with our fee structure of the past, we advertised fees of \$175 plus \$20 for the shirts, which all students had to get, but many returning students attempted to opt out of the shirts. While we eventually claimed the missing funds from the majority of parents, not all the shirts got paid for. To avoid this issue in the future, we have changed our fee structure to a flat \$200, which includes the shirt fee. This sets our fee at a sensible round number and the extra \$5 per student will allow us to offer our conductors an increase to their weekend rate (from \$800 to \$850 per). For simplicity's sake, we are now also including the shirt fee in the bursaries we give out. In addition to the shirts, which double as our concert uniform, we will also be offering an NSJWE hoodie which parents can optionally choose to purchase. We feel that many students will enjoy these keepsake items, and their sale will serve as a small secondary income source to help combat the rising costs in accommodations and venue fees without again raising the costs for all members.

Colin Langille
Treasurer, Nova Scotia Junior Wind Ensemble