

# Annual Report 2019

Presented at the Annual Gathering of Members, June 20, 2020



Attending to Spirit, Embracing Social Justice, Building Inclusion, Encouraging Transformation, Honouring Interdependence, Fostering Sustainability

 **Tatamagouche Centre**  
Building peace. Growing justice. Living welcome.

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# Board of Directors' Report

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. All in all, the Centre has an important heritage to both preserve and to support in its future work.

2019 was a good year for the Centre in which much of the work of the previous two or three years achieved full bloom. There were well over twenty in house programs as well many hosted events. The 5-year business plan that was set out in 2016 has now reached virtually all its goals and it will soon be time to reengage with all our stakeholders to develop the next strategic plan for guiding the Centre. The Centre's strong partnerships with Breaking the Silence, the Peace and Friendship Committee and Contemplative Pathways continued. In addition to this primary work to fulfill the Centre's mission strong financial results were also achieved. These results were generated by strong operations, a great fundraising team, and the ongoing support of the Regions of the United Church. The Centre at the end of 2019 had almost \$125,000 in unrestricted reserves which together with its endowed funds puts it in its strongest financial position in many years. This has put the Centre in the position to consider some substantial "greening" of Stewart Hall to bring it up to current building standards.

In the fall of 2019, although not made immediately made public, Josie Baker the Centre's Executive Director let us know that for personal reasons she would be returning to PEI in the spring of 2020. We were of course very sad to hear of Josie's decision to resign but fully understood why she was needed to return to PEI. This of course meant that by late fall we were preparing to search of the new Executive Director. It was exciting to be in the position to offer a new Executive Director a strong organization and a great staff team.

As we all know things have changed dramatically in the spring of 2020 with the arrival of the COVID 19 pandemic. At virtually the same time we were finalizing arrangements with Nanci Lee, the Centre's new Executive Director, to start work, the arrival of the pandemic forced the Centre to cancel or postpone all its spring and summer programs due to restrictions on travel and the social distancing requirements. The situation has required a great deal of flexibility, analysis and planning to look at the options for the Centre's operations for all of 2020. Fortunately, with the Centre's strong financial position ending 2019 and with various government wages supports the Centre can see a way through this crisis. It is still examining the options for the "greening" of Stewart Hall and will be soon launching its strategic planning process.

The Board of Directors this year has included: Amy Brierley, Robyn Brown-Hewitt, Laura Hunter, Mike Henderson, Peter Hough, Lauren King, Karen MacNeill, and Jim Wicks. Three of these board members have completed their two terms as board members, Peter Hough, Karen MacNeill and Jim Wicks. These three members have been on the board since on or before October 2015 and have been important contributors the Centre's reinvigoration.

Lastly, a special thanks goes to all the staff who work to ensure the Tatamagouche Centre is a welcoming space where all are embraced and invited to "dance" together.

Respectfully Submitted,  
On Behalf of the Board of Directors,  
Peter Hough, Chair  
Tatamagouche Centre Board

# Executive Director Report

Following the hard work of financial and mission renewal, The Centre came into its own with a renewed sense of purpose in 2019: we felt we were in the right place, at the right time, with tools to do the job.

Lee Fleming became full time staff in April 2019, taking on the dual roles of bookkeeper and program and marketing coordinator. Our work of radical imagination took root with our first peer-led Winter Gaming Retreat in recent years which has become an annual event, grounded in radical hospitality for neurodiverse and 2SLGBTQ+ people. This experience informed the Centre's ongoing approach to what it means to be a welcoming and supportive space for all people, how to hold trauma-informed space for all people who participate in our programs.

The Tatamagouche Centre has become involved in a collaboration of retreat centres supported by the Fetzer Institute. This included two gatherings which brought together retreat centre leadership from across Turtle Island who share the work of personal and social transformation in these challenging times.

In the summer we were thrilled to host a summer artist in residence: Tanya Davis! Tanya participated in an ecological faith-formation program, performed at our Farm-to-Table Meal, and facilitated a discussion with congregants at Sackville United Church. Tanya's reflection on her time at the Centre can be found on our website.

With the Indigenous Peace and Friendship Committee we held two programs: Healing our Collective Trauma and Restoring our Souls was a powerful weekend with the profound Sherri Mitchell from the Penobscot nation that explored legacies of colonialism and trauma. In August the Peace and Friendship Youth Alliance Gathering took place, bringing together youth and elders from around Wabanaki territory for teachings on treaties, rights, traditional skills, and ceremony. The Centre was excited to have the chance to hire Hannah Martin for the summer, a gifted young Indigenous activist from Tatamagouche to coordinate and co-facilitate the gathering.

In the fall the Centre was honoured to host the annual gathering of the UCC Youth and Young Adult Ministry Personnel from across Canada, including an interfaith program on supporting youth mental health led by some of the brightest lights in UCC youth ministry from coast to coast, including our own Lauren King. Concurrent with the gathering of youth ministry folks was a powerful gathering of directors and staff from the three UCC Educations Centres (Five Oaks, Naramata Centre, and Tatamagouche Centre)! Our discussions focused on the importance of decolonizing our work and of our diverse practices of being "home" for diverse communities.

Our budget year ended on a high note, with a positive budget line and a fine line-up of 2020 programs! However, the board was sad to announce the departure of the Executive Director, Josie Baker.

Since the end of 2019 the world has shifted significantly, and Nanci Lee has come on board! The Board and Staff are cautiously optimistic that the Centre's recent stability will allow it to chart a course through the storm of the global pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

Josie Baker

Outgoing Executive Director

# Programs in 2019

- Annual Gathering of Members (AGM) 2019
- ASPIRE Foundation Program: Facilitation, Design and Leadership 2019
- Breaking the Silence Guatemala Delegation 2019
- Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers; Embodying Diversity & Inclusion Practices 2019
- Climate Crisis: What's Faith Got To Do With It? 2019
- Common Life Annual Gathering 2019
- Community Care: Youth Mental Health
- Courage to Lead Seasonal Retreat Series 2019
- Designing Games That Matter 2019
- Dialogue for Peaceful Change (DPC) - Community Conflict Mediation Training 2019
- Feminism 20/20: A Feminist Theology Retreat 2019
- Healing our Collective Trauma & Restoring our Souls - with Sherri Mitchell 2019
- Home Death Care and Ceremonies 2019
- Leading Innovative & Engaging Youth Programs (LIEYP) 2019
- Licensed Lay Worship Leader Program:
  - Advent 2019
  - Orientation 2019
  - Pentecost - Preach it 2019
  - Wilderness & Wonder 2019
  - Creation - Let All Creation Sing! 2019
- Men Engaging the Third Age 2019 – *cancelled due to illness*
- Peace and Friendship Youth Alliance Gathering 2019
- Personal Creativity Retreat - May long weekend
- Restoring the Great Peace Treaty: Living in Respect with the Animally Watery Earth
- Social Justice Youth Camp 2019
- Spirits Talking: Indigenous Talking Sticks & Talking Circles 2019
- Tending your Contemplative Heart 2019 – *a Contemplative Pathways initiative*
- The Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network (BTS) Annual Gathering 2019
- The Spirituality of Movement 2019
- Training for Social Action Trainers (TSAT) for People of Colour 2019
- Winter Gaming Retreat 2019

# Program Highlights

In 2019 Tatamagouche Centre was able to offer a full slate of programs, including bringing back *Dialogue for Peaceful Change* and *Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers*; the Tatamagouche Centre racial justice training. A strong practice of ensuring each program was grounded in ASPIRE model and (co)led by a representative of the re-emerging “Program Leadership Group” (PRG) was in place, with some new leaders emerging following the 2018 ASPIRE training. Avery Alder returned for a 4-day “Designing Games that Matter” program which drew participants from far and wide and lived into the Centre’s values of embodying social transformation and personal healing.

Our vital programming was made possible by support for programs bursaries offered by a number of generous donations from individuals, as well as significant funding from various organizations and foundations! In 2019 we have received some funding for program bursaries from the United Church Foundation:

The James Robertson Memorial Trust Fund, the Wesley C. Smith Fund, the Davey Family Endowment Fund, the Living Spirit Fund, the Brian and Belva Piercy Fund, the Jean Moore Endowment Fund, the Watkins Fund for Innovative Ministries, EDGE, and the United Church of Canada Foundation’s General Fund at The United Church Foundation.

Other program funders include: The Edwards Family Foundation, The Province of Nova Scotia through the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, The Government of Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage, The Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia, Halifax Youth Foundation, Congregation of Notre Dame, Sisters of Saint Martha, and many more. None of our activities would have been possible without the ongoing support of the Maritime Regions of the United Church of Canada: Region 15 and Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Region.

# Comfort and Care Project

The Tatamagouche Centre would like to express our deep gratitude for the support of the United Church Women for our "Comfort and Care" fundraising campaign! In 2018 the United Church Women helped us to renew our bed covers giving quite a "face lift" to our accommodations. In 2019 they truly went above and beyond, by donating almost \$3,500! This has allowed us to buy 53 new pillows and 9 new mattresses to replace our aging bedding, ensuring a better, more comfortable rest for everyone on retreat. Their generosity has also benefited local, low-income people, as we were easily able to find enthusiastic new homes for the retired mattresses in the local area. Truly, they have already helped hundreds of people feel "at home" at Tatamagouche Centre.

These donations made it possible for us to "live our welcome" in a more wholehearted way this year. Not only does this make each individual's stay more comfortable, but it shows a level of care and renewal in the legacy of this place. We appreciate the generosity and support of the United Church Women in the Maritimes who have enriched and transformed the experiences of those who come here.

## DONATIONS

In 2019 we have received over \$70,000 in monetary and in-kind donations. This includes one-time donations and monthly givers. This was due to the hard work of our fabulous Fundraising committee: Lori Crocker, Wilf Bean, Peter Hough, Lee Fleming, Laura Hunter, Karen MacNeill, Kenley MacNeill, Margie McIntyre, Allan McIntosh, and Linda Scherzinger – as well as the United Church Women, Congregation of Notre Dame, United Church congregations, and the fabulous people who facilitate gifts from their organizations.

**Thank you to all our donors for their continued support!**

# Nominating Committee Report

Nominations Report for June 2020

The Nominations Committee was appointed by the Board and consists of three Board Members, Laura Hunter, Jim Wicks, and Karen MacNeill.

There are ten (10) positions on the Tatamagouche Centre Board. Continuing with their terms are Lauren King, Michael Henderson, Amy Brierley, Robyn Brown Hewitt, and Laura Hunter. We are grateful for their continued dedication and service! Retiring from the Board (but not the Centre!) are Peter Hough, Jim Wicks, and Karen MacNeill. We thank them all for their leadership and dedication on the Board through challenging times and look forward to their continued participation in the work of the Centre.

This leaves five (5) spaces open for nomination.

The Nominations Committee is pleased to nominate to the Board the following people to be elected by the Society at the Annual Meeting on June 20, 2020.

Angela Simmonds, Halifax, NS  
Marney Simmons, Linden, NS  
Kendi Tarichia, Charlottetown, PEI  
Margie McIntyre, Kingsville, NS  
Samantha Sternberg, Halifax, NS  
Charlie Sark Jr., Lennox Island, PEI

It has been exciting to chat with each of these individuals and we are deeply grateful for their willingness to serve on the Board. As a Nominating Committee, we are confident that the addition of these fine people to those already serving will create a dynamic Board with both a depth of experience and a breadth of perspective.

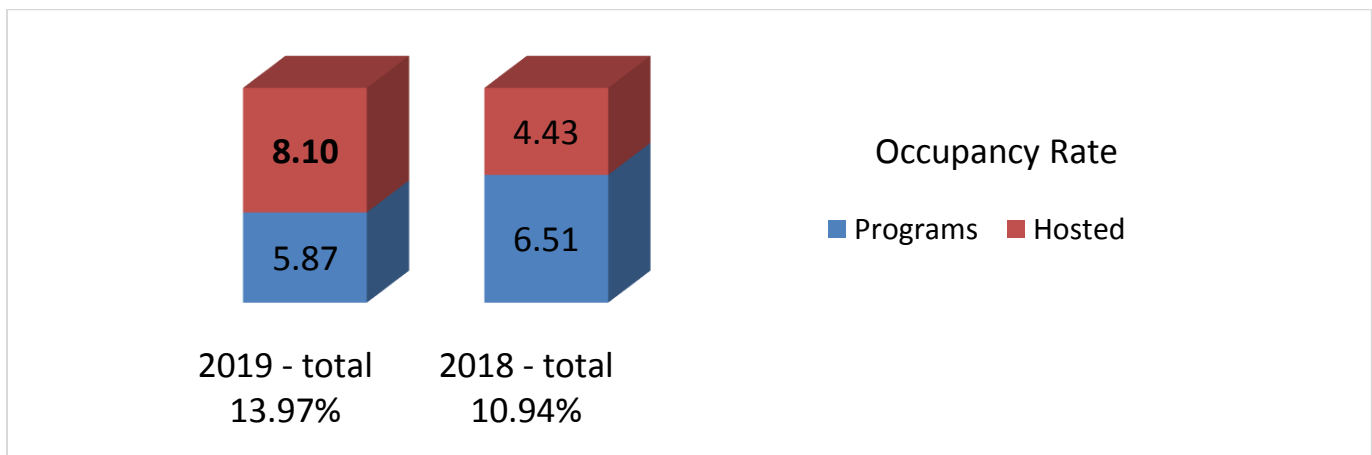
Respectfully submitted  
Nominations Committee

# Occupancy Rate

In 2019, the Centre had 60 beds to offer for overnight lodging. The lodging was used at rate of 13.97%; 5.87% program use and 8.10% hosted events. The occupancy rate increased by 3.03% compared to the year before. The overnights increased significantly for our hosted events and slightly declined for hosted events.

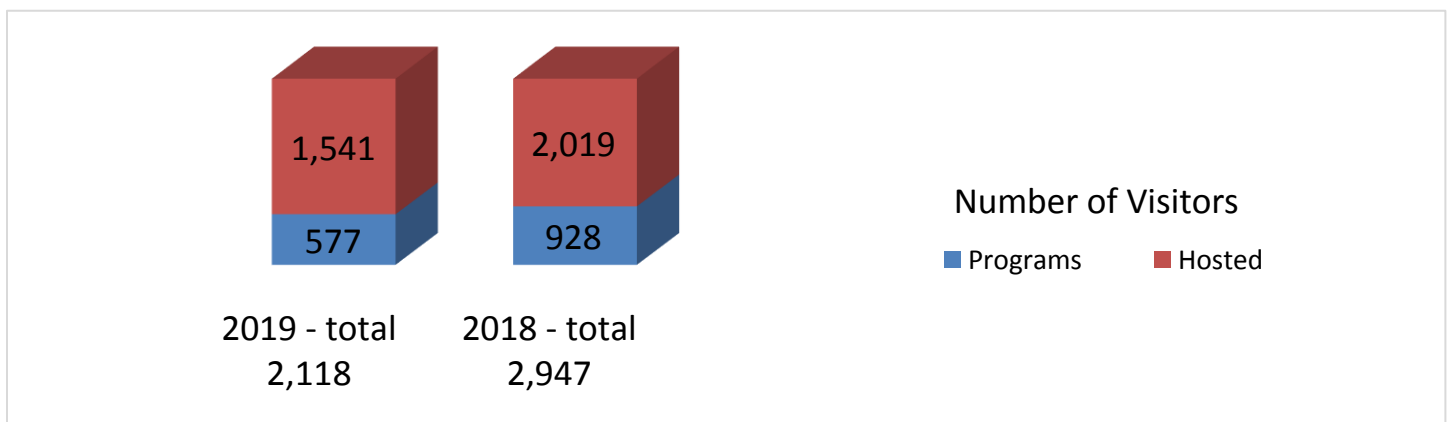
There were about 2118 guests that came to the Centre in 2019. Out of those 577 guests attended programs and 1541 guests attended hosted events.

The occupancy rate is calculated by the number of beds in use over total capacity.



# Number of Visitors

In 2019, Tatamagouche Centre welcomed 2,118 people through its doors. About 800 people less than in 2018! We hosted visitors from all over the Maritimes, across Canada and even international guests. Regular hosting groups include Maritime Conference Justice, Mission & Outreach Committee, L'Arche Canada, Atlantic Dowsers, Atlantic Yoga Teacher Training, Bedford UCW and pupils from École des Beaux-Marais. ACIC held their ACT 4Global Change Youth Conference at Tatamagouche Centre in November 2019. For this event we welcomed 63 guests for 4 days. In 2019 we also continued to host supervised baby visits from Community Services at the Centre 3 times a week.





**ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN TRAINING CENTRE**  
**(Operating as The Tatamagouche Centre)**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2019**

	2019	2018
<b>REVENUE</b>		
General donations & grants	\$ 233,796	\$ 212,304
Operating revenue	471,928	370,651
Partnership revenue (BTS & P&F) (Note 6)	180,708	127,472
	<u>886,432</u>	<u>710,427</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
General administrative expenses	219,125	207,415
Housekeeping & kitchen expenses	128,428	91,237
Plant expenses	134,840	108,868
Tatamagouche Centre program expenses	171,237	135,356
Partnership expenses (BTS & P&F)	180,708	127,472
	<u>834,338</u>	<u>670,348</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<u>52,094</u>	<u>40,079</u>
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)</b>		
Investment income	6,395	2,629
Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	7,136	(8,561)
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	9,406	9,822
Amortization of tangible assets	(16,741)	(17,578)
Loss on disposal of assets	(254)	(572)
Foreign exchange loss	(33)	(6,566)
	<u>5,909</u>	<u>(20,826)</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ 58,003</u>	<u>\$ 19,253</u>

**ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN TRAINING CENTRE**  
**(Operating as The Tatamagouche Centre)**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2019**

	Unrestricted surplus	Internally Restricted and Endowment (Note 9)	Invested in Capital Assets	2019	2018
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 61,584	\$ 97,867	\$ 256,308	\$ 415,759	\$ 396,506
Excess of revenue over expenses	58,003	-	-	58,003	19,253
Investment in capital assets	4,772	-	(4,772)	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 124,359</b>	<b>\$ 97,867</b>	<b>\$ 251,536</b>	<b>\$ 473,762</b>	<b>\$ 415,759</b>

**ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN TRAINING CENTRE**  
**(Operating as The Tatamagouche Centre)**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**December 31, 2019**

	2019	2018
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 124,832	\$ 187,122
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	15,120	4,686
HST recoverable	2,225	9,223
Loan receivable	-	3,428
	<b>142,177</b>	204,459
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS (Note 4)	<b>340,538</b>	120,799
LAND, BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT (Note 5)	<b>539,484</b>	553,662
	<b>\$ 1,022,199</b>	\$ 878,920
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 14,955	\$ 19,360
Government remittances payable	1,548	7,006
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	243,986	139,441
	<b>260,489</b>	165,807
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Note 7)	<b>287,948</b>	297,354
	<b>548,437</b>	463,161
<b>NET ASSETS (Note 8)</b>		
Unrestricted surplus	124,359	61,584
Internally restricted and endowment (Note 9)	97,867	97,867
Invested in capital assets	251,536	256,308
	<b>473,762</b>	415,759
	<b>\$ 1,022,199</b>	\$ 878,920