



# HALIFAX & REGION MILITARY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

## ABOUT

The H&R MFRC serves the families of over 10,000 Regular and Reserve Canadian Armed Forces Members in the Halifax Regional Municipality, Cape Breton, and Central and Northern Nova Scotia. The H&R MFRC serves as a central agency liaising with various community agencies.

The H&R MFRC is governed by a Board of Directors, made up of 51% military family members which sets and has oversight of the strategic direction of the MFRC. In addition, the Board has governance oversight of the Shearwater Children's Centre (SCC), a provincially licensed and funded child care centre.

We pride ourselves on being an organization that listens and acts on feedback, that is in the best interest of our military and veteran family community - while operating within the mandate of the Military Family Services Program, our primary funder.

We heard from the community that they would like more direct communication about board activity, and this report is a new initiative in response to this feedback.

## OUR WORK

The primary work of the Board is to exercise fiduciary responsibility, to ensure effective governance and organizational stability, which means adherence to the H&R MFRC Bylaws, Board Policies, and Board Charter. They are the custodians of the organization's mission.

Following the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June 2023, the Board appointed a slate of officers to meet the Society's Act requirement, to ensure continuity in providing governance and oversight for the Halifax & Region Military Family Resource Centre.

51% of an MFRC Board must be military family members, as per the Memorandum of Understanding with Military Family Services. To ensure a functional Board, one new member was co-opted in June. This board member also has a seat on the SCC Family Engagement Committee to demonstrate a commitment to fostering communication and collaboration between the Board and this Committee. These decisions were necessary to mitigate risks to the long-term viability of the MFRC as a non-profit charity organization.



## ENGAGEMENT

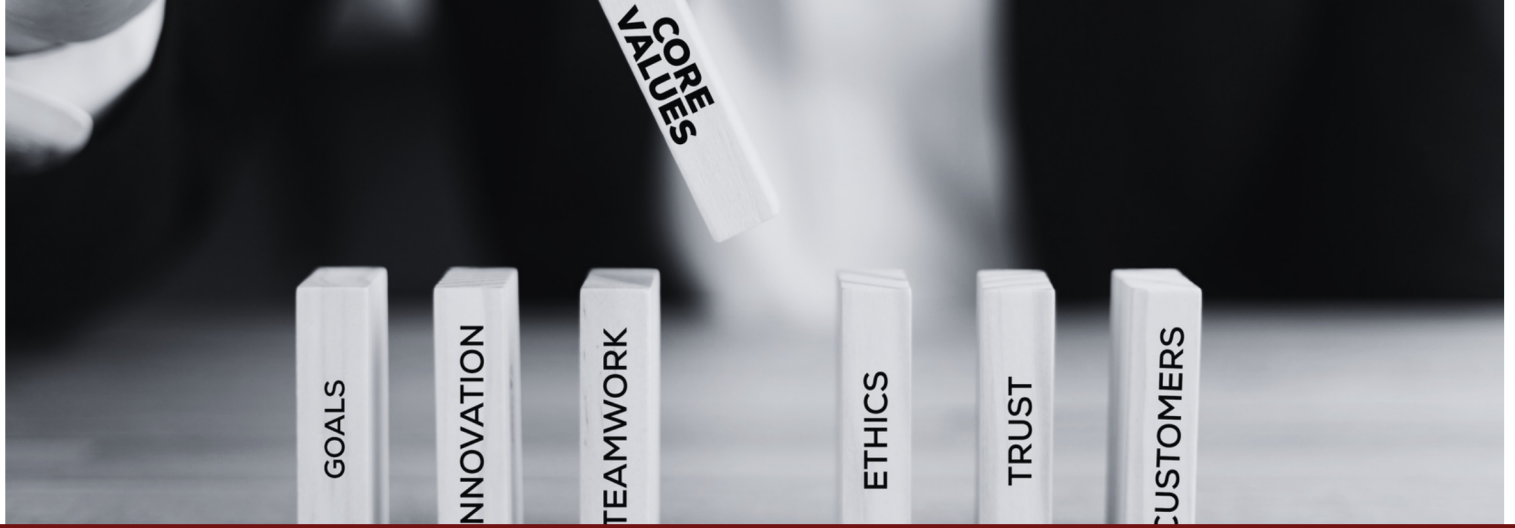
- **June** - Hosted the Annual General Meeting for the community, prepared and posted draft minutes, and continued to engage with the community.
- **September** - Resumed meeting after summer break, reviewed our yearly macro agenda and board member documents, set priorities for committees, and approved the new values of the organization.
- **October** - Received a presentation on the operations of SCC and the changes made with the new Nova Scotia Early Learning and Child Care Transformation plan and collected feedback on board evaluation.
- **November** - Received a presentation of the annual funding application submitted to MFS, received a mid-year financial presentation from the accounting firm, and hosted the Atlantic MFRC Board Conference.
- **December** - Received annual risk mitigation presentation and an update from the Executive Director on the Strategic Goals progress.

## Strategic Goals

Educate  
and Advocate

Cultivate and  
Enhance Relationships

Strengthening  
Our Team



## APPROVED MFRC VALUES

The values statement was revised in collaboration with the MFRC team. This was the final piece of work as part of the new Strategic Goals.

### VALUES

We foster relationships and connections.

**Innovative** - We reflect, and respond with creative, collaborative, progressive and sustainable approaches, and solutions. We are committed to ongoing learning and growth, by investing and participating in relevant research opportunities and using evidence informed practices.

**Compassionate** - We offer a caring, understanding, and welcoming environment, by listening and engaging with professionalism.

**Inclusive** - We honor the diversity, abilities and uniqueness of individuals and families, by creating safe spaces.

# ATLANTIC MFRC BOARD CONFERENCE

Board training topics included: Leadership, Financial Oversight, Foundations of Board Governance and Organizational Risk.

There was opportunity for networking and best practice sharing among all seven Atlantic MFRCs. Positive feedback from participants included the conference strengthened knowledge and relationships among board members.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Board members were engaged in the community, increasing the visibility of the MFRC:

- Fleet Week Reception event.
- Executive Director met with Government Representatives including Minister of Veteran's Affairs, Veteran's Ombudsman & MLA Barbara Adams to discuss challenges and opportunities.
- CANEX Gives Back: PSP & MFRC Volunteer Appreciation event.



## BOARD GOVERNANCE

- Bylaw review for changes based on community feedback and opportunity for clarification.
- Consultation with a parliamentarian; feedback on AGM processes, and bylaws.
- Consultation with legal on bylaws.
- IAW Board policy, bylaws are reviewed.
- Standing agenda item - impacts of Provincial Early Learning and Child Care Transformation Plan on SCC.
- In accordance with Board policy Terms of Reference are reviewed to ensure relevance and effectiveness.
- Governance Committee identified policies for revision:
  - Policy gaps are identified.
  - Policies that need updating or creation are prioritized.



The Board would like to wish a Happy & Healthy New Year to our military and veteran family community.

We look forward to serving you in 2024 and beyond!