



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 2022 James McGregor Stewart Award

**HALIFAX, N.S.** The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia (CFNS), and the James McGregor Stewart Society are pleased to announce the winner of the 2022 Award of \$1000: Vicky Levack, an outspoken advocate for people with disabilities. The eighth recipient, Ms. Levack has an enviable record of leadership.

Institutionalized by the province for a decade, Levack won her bid to live in the community. "I'm going to get my freedom back, my independence, my autonomy and personhood back."

Levack remains concerned about the fate of hundreds of disabled Nova Scotians living in dozens of institutions that successive governments pledged to close.

"I'm getting out of this horrible nightmare but there are so many others living their own nightmare with no help in sight," said Levack.

Levack believes that because she didn't stop bringing attention to her situation and continuously fought for her freedom that she has the opportunity to move into the community now. She says that many of her friends living with disabilities are afraid to speak up.

"I deserve better. Not just me. We all deserve better. Many people I live with do not like it here, but they feel that if they say anything that they will get less care," she said.

We applaud Levack's success and true Nova Scotian fortitude and lament that 10 months after her victory she is still awaiting fulfillment of the Province's promise.

Her award honors James McGregor Stewart 1889-1955, who had polio as a youth. Son of a Pictou lawyer, grandson of a Cape Breton minister, and a principal of Stewart, McKelvey, the downtown Halifax law firm. In his time, he was Nova Scotia's premier corporate lawyer, and he wrote the rules for many of our most successful and long-lived companies. He was president of the Canadian Bar between the wars. He is one of fewer than 500 Canadians to be awarded the Commander of the British Empire for services to the Empire in WW II.

Levack's award will be presented on June 30, Stewart's birthday. The Award was established by friends of the Society through the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia, an organization that supports philanthropy across the province.

## **About Community Foundation of Nova Scotia**

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is a charitable giving facilitator. We help donors make sustainable philanthropic impact on causes they care about at the grassroots level in our communities. We endow funds for donors; manage donation programs; and convene conversations that make a positive difference in our communities. We have three primary philanthropy streams: donor-advised funds, impact funds that target specific needs in Nova Scotia, and community funds that are created and managed by communities. Our ultimate vision is to build vibrant communities of respect, belonging and possibility across Nova Scotia that have the resources to care for their own needs.

We're part of the Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) movement - the national network for Canada's 191 community foundations. CFC's purpose is to relentlessly pursue a future where everyone belongs. Combined, the network holds \$5.8 billion in assets and reaches 90 per cent of Canadian communities. The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia was established in 2008 and currently has more than \$16 million in philanthropic investment under management, disbursed and committed grants of more than \$6 million and manages and supports more than 100 funds across the province, including 23 scholarship and award funds.

## **Contact for More Information**

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