



NOVA SCOTIA TALENT TRUST STRATEGIC PLAN 2007 – 2010

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OVERVIEW

In the summer of 2007, Nova Scotia Talent Trust Board Members discussed what would be the required strategy to guide the organization for the next three years. Although a governance document existed that described a mission, vision, goals and objectives of the organization, a formal strategic planning activity had never been undertaken.

On the 5th of September, 2007, a group of board members met to create a three year plan for the organization. This document identifies the NSTT's mission, vision, strategic priorities, key goals and indicators of progress.

In November 2008, the Governance Committee reviewed and refined the Strategic Plan, and this is reflected in the following document. It was approved at a board meeting on 19th December, 2008.

BRIEF HISTORY

The Nova Scotia Talent Trust is unique in Canada. It is the only funding organization dedicated to the support and recognition of emerging artists, at formative stages, who want to pursue a professional career in the arts. The NSTT invests today in the artists of the future.

Scholarships are awarded twice a year. In addition, a number of special awards recognize exceptional talent and achievements. Since 1944, the NSTT has awarded over \$1.3 million dollars in scholarships to gifted Nova Scotians.

The first recipient was the contralto Portia White. Between 1944 and 1947, Portia White received a generous annual scholarship of \$5,000 from the Halifax Ladies' Musical Club. This crucial support allowed her to develop into an internationally acclaimed concert singer. From this community initiative, the NSTT evolved.

Today's Talent Trust is a not-for-profit society with an independent Board of Directors. A selection committee of professional artists from many disciplines volunteer their time, review applications and select scholarship recipients. The rigorous professional assessment process is a significant endorsement of a recipient's potential and encourages emerging artists to develop lifelong careers in the arts.

Since the first scholarship to Portia White, more than fifty years ago, the financial support provided by the NSTT has not kept pace with inflation and increased tuition fees. Today the scholarships average between \$500 and \$1,500, yet access to professional training in the arts can cost as much as \$40,000 per year. In the spirit of the original supporters of Portia White, the NSTT is committed to increasing its scholarships to our communities' emerging artists.

MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure the future of Nova Scotia's vibrant cultural life by supporting tomorrow's artists today.

VISION STATEMENT

The Nova Scotia Talent Trust will enhance its activities to ensure that artistically gifted Nova Scotians will be recognized, nurtured, celebrated and supported in the development of their talents as they contribute to cultural life and achieve their potential locally, nationally and internationally.

GOALS

The Nova Scotia Talent Trust has identified five main Goals:

INTEGRITY OF SELECTION PROCESS

- 1) To maintain artistic integrity.

BUILDING RESOURCES

- 2) To increase funding so that we are in a secure financial position which will enable us to enhance scholarship amounts and special awards on an ongoing basis.

COMMUNICATIONS

- 3) To raise the profile of the NSTT by communicating, through various means, to the arts community, our stakeholders and the wider public who we are and what we do.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

- 4) To be accountable to our stakeholders.

OPERATIONAL INTEGRITY

- 5) To mature and to stabilize the Nova Scotia Talent Trust.