



Community Links is a provincial association of approximately 180 senior and senior serving member organizations serving rural seniors and volunteers throughout Nova Scotia. We work to build healthy communities and to enhance the quality of life for seniors through community development and volunteer action.

**Our Goals:**

- To encourage rural organizations to share experiences and resources
- To recognize seniors' talents, skills and experiences as volunteers and organizers
- To support rural volunteers and organisations, using community development and volunteers action to build healthy communities
- To support representation of rural seniors and volunteers in decision making processes

Community Links is currently engaged in a number of projects and initiatives which support its mission and goals. These are:



**Preventing Falls Together**

This project actively works to increase the capacity of organizations, governments and businesses to integrate falls prevention directed at seniors into their work policies. There are currently 14 active and developing community based Preventing Falls Together Coalitions in regions across Nova Scotia. For more information go to: <http://www.preventingfallstogether.ca> Funded by NSHPP.

## Canada Volunteerism Initiative - NS Network



Community Links is the co-host with Recreation Nova Scotia for this initiative with a vision of stronger volunteer communities; improving the quality of life and contributing to a healthy, sustainable Nova Scotia.

The strategic directions for the NS Network are:

- To develop support mechanisms which enhance the capacity of grass-roots volunteers and their organizations
- To enable continued advocacy for volunteerism in Nova Scotia
- To effectively communicate CVI activities and strategies, the benefits of becoming involved in the NS CVI Network and information on volunteerism
- To enrich our community through encouraging and supporting youth engagement.

For more information visit [www.novascotianetwork.org](http://www.novascotianetwork.org) Funded by Heritage Canada.

## Enabling Seniors to Influence Healthy Public Policy in Nova Scotia

Community Links is currently engaged with its members and other seniors across Nova Scotia in developing an action plan for the engagement of seniors in public policy, especially as it relates to the implementation and monitoring of the new provincial *Strategy for Positive Aging*. It is hoped that the action plan will be finalized by the end of June 2006. Watch the Community Links web site for the action plan and for future developments - [www.nscommunitylinks.ca](http://www.nscommunitylinks.ca) Funded by PHAC.

## Seniors Growing Seniors' Skills

Senior volunteers will have the opportunity to become volunteer trainers. They will learn how to train other seniors and their organizations in "Volunteer and Members Recruitment" and "Getting the Work Done in Organizations". The training will be delivered in Cape Breton and in the Annapolis Valley in the autumn of 2006. Seniors' groups interested in the training can contact Susan King in Cape Breton at [sking@communitylinks.ca](mailto:sking@communitylinks.ca)

Tel: 902-539-6098 and Carol Ward in the Annapolis Valley at: [carol.ward@von.ca](mailto:carol.ward@von.ca)

Tel: 902-665-4161 Funded by New Horizons.

## Developing Rural Seniors' Skills for Influencing Policy on Transportation

A new resource is available on *Influencing Public Policy and Community Based Transportation* in Nova Scotia. This resource is available on the Community Links web site. Funded by PHAC.