

## Overview

**Date Established:** 1950

**Locations:** Halifax Regional Office 1-541 Sackville  
Dr, Lower Sackville, NS B4C 2S1  
Central Regional Office 1019 Prince St., Unit A,  
Truro, NS, B2N 1H7  
North Eastern Regional Office: 2042 Queen St.,  
Room 4, Westville, NS, B0K 2A0

The John Howard Society of Nova Scotia (JHSNS) is a non-profit organization that began in 1950. We support individuals who are/have been in conflict with the law (or are at risk) with their endeavors to make positive changes in their lives. Our mission is effective, just and humane responses to the causes and consequences of crime. In this way, we are working to build safer and stronger communities. JHSNS has three offices, each serving a different catchment area. Our Halifax Regional Office has contracts with the federal and provincial governments to deliver programs and services to specific groups. As funded by Employment Nova Scotia we offer the Employment Readiness Program to adult men with a criminal record, and in partnership with Dept. of Community Services we offer the Record Suspension Application Service. We also offer Employment Search Support, Page Turners Book Club and Freeing the Human Spirit (yoga program) for inmates of CNSCF, Anger Management and Emotional Intelligence, and community navigation. Much of our programming relies very heavily on volunteer support.

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- ⇒ [APPLICATION FORM](#)
- ⇒ Interview
- ⇒ Resume
- ⇒ References

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### SOCIAL MEDIA

[Website](#)  
 [Twitter](#)

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

- Community Workplace Program (ongoing)
- Anger Management and Emotional Intelligence Program (ongoing - one volunteer per cycle)
- Healthy Relations Program (to start in spring 2018)
- Aftercare Services Offering (ongoing)
- Record Suspension Application Service (only select volunteers)

More information provided below

**Community Workplace Program (CWP):** The Society supervises and oversees the Community Service Order and Fine Options Programs in the Halifax Region for adult offenders on behalf of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice - Corrections Division. Community Service Orders As a sentencing option available to the Courts, an offender, as a condition of a probation order may be required to provide a specified number of hours of unpaid community service work within a given time frame. Fine Options Program As an alternative means to pay a fine, the program allows an individual to satisfy a fine by performing volunteer work for non-profit community organizations.

**Anger Management and Emotional Intelligence Program:** This program addresses anger management, stress management, and enhancement of communication and emotional intelligence. Anger is positioned as a normal and natural emotion. Sessions focus on learning to understand ones emotions, particularly anger, while improving communication and stress management skills that will help participants recognize anger provoking triggers and express such emotions in a productive manner. This program is a 6 week program which consists of an intake meeting, four weekly sessions (each two hours in length), and a final one on one meeting. Currently the program is only offered for adults (18 years of age or older), however, exceptions may be considered on a case by case basis. Healthy Relations Program (pending new startup - changed the program)

**The Healthy Relations Program:** This program is for those who are interested in establishing and maintaining healthy relationships in their lives. This program looks at the people we have relationships with, such as friends, family, significant others and/or coworkers and bosses, what constitutes a healthy relationship, as well as some effective strategies for ensuring the relationships in your life are healthy ones. This program addresses issues of: What is a healthy relationship? Components of a healthy relationship How to establish and maintain healthy relationships. This program is offered as a half a day program for adults aged 18 years and up.

**Aftercare Services:** Offering information and referral support to individuals who have been in conflict with the law. The service provides offenders with information on community resources and assists them in connecting with these resources to assist in addressing their immediate needs. Employment Readiness Program (ERP) (Pending funding) The John Howard Society partners with Employment Nova Scotia (when funding is available), to offer an Employment Readiness Program (ERP). The program is designed for men (age 19 and over) with a criminal record in becoming 'employable'. By providing a combination of life/work skills training, job search techniques, networking strategies, workplace certifications and potential job experience placements, ERP will work with clients to move them towards employability, wherein the barriers that have prevented the participant from engaging with the work force will be identified and addressed, leading to a greater level of self-understanding and self-sufficiency. We encourage any community agency (Community Services, Corrections, housing support, etc.) working with unemployed/underemployed males 19+ with a criminal record to refer clients to the program. We also accept self-referrals from individuals who feel they themselves may benefit from the program. We hope to work closely with any referring organization to ensure that the clients' needs are met and that they are given the chance to maximize this opportunity. The program accepts up to 15 participants for each program

session and a waiting list is maintained for future sessions, as available.

**Record Suspension Application Service (long term volunteers only):** In collaboration with the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services (DCS), The John Howard Society offers a service to support DCS clients interested in applying for a record suspension (formerly known as a pardon). This confidential service includes: - Determining whether or not a client is eligible to apply for a record suspension according to current legislation - Assisting prospective record suspension applicants through the application process, including properly filling out the application form - Assisting applicants in obtaining the documentation required for their application submission (fingerprints, criminal records check and local police record check, court records, etc) - Sending the complete application package by registered mail to the Parole Board of Canada - Ensuring that any requested addendums are collected and sent to the Parole Board of Canada Please Note: For those who are not DCS clients: on a case by case basis we may be able to offer guidance through the record suspension application process. This support is separate from our collaboration with DCS. To assess your own eligibility for a record suspension, review this form: Employment Search Support (strictly volunteer/student placement run) Through JHS' ESS program we offer support to those who have difficulty finding and securing work with their criminal records. We offer supports such as resume and cover letter writing, interview skills, how to discuss a criminal record, help with online certifications, help with online job applications/email and so on. Restorative Justice Program (ONLY in the Central Regional Office and North Eastern Regional Office) This program is for young offenders aged 12-17 and for adults 18 and older. It is focused on holding the offender accountable in a more meaningful way, repairing the harm done by the offence, reintegrating the offender into the community, and achieving a sense of healing for both the victim and the community. In addition to the above things are always changing, we are often looking for new ideas for programming to meet client's needs. Grant/Proposal writing is also something that volunteers/student placements get involved in.