

Celebrate the incredible community spirit driving positive change across our region! Meet the winners of the AECU Community Grant Program for 2024 and 2025 – local organizations bringing people together, sparking new ideas, and building a stronger, more connected community. Their creative and impactful projects offer inspiration for future applicants and provide a look at how we're investing in our communities together.

#### AECU Community Grant Program Winners – 2025

##### **Rec House Community Youth Network – Grandfriends (Port aux Basques)**

This intergenerational program connects youth and seniors through shared activities, mentorship, and cultural exchange. 'Grandfriends' aims to reduce social isolation and build empathy, leadership, and communication skills among youth, with strong support from local partners.

##### **Mary's Harbour Recreation Committee – Community Hub Sustainability Project (Mary's Harbour)**

By hosting major annual events, this project sustains the only dedicated gathering space in Mary's Harbour, strengthening social bonds, fostering intergenerational engagement, and ensuring the Recreation Center's ongoing operation through community-driven fundraising.

##### **Expertise Hub Cooperative – The Co-operative Inclusion Lab (Mount Pearl)**

This initiative supports immigrants and underrepresented groups in forming co-operatives by providing culturally appropriate incubation, mentorship, and training. The project empowers newcomers to create viable, values-driven co-operatives and fosters inclusive economic growth.

##### **Killick Ecovillage Co-op – Regenerative Agriculture Community Farming (Portugal Cove – St. Philip's)**

Killick Ecovillage is a 51-unit, mixed-income, intergenerational co-operative housing community. Residents will self-manage the community and permaculture farm, prioritizing climate resilience, affordability, and accessibility through an innovative co-operative model.

##### **Dorset Collegiate – Next Chapter: Community Skill Share (Pilley's Island)**

This weekly skill-sharing program connects students, teachers, and residents of all ages through workshops in technology and the arts. The initiative bridges generations, supports lifelong learning, and strengthens community resilience in rural Green Bay South.



AECU Community Grant Program Winners – 2024

**SucSeed Social Enterprises Inc – Increasing Agriculture Education in the Classroom (St. John's)**

This project provides hands-on, curriculum-aligned lessons in 30 classrooms, reaching about 1,000 students. Activities included coding plant sensors and classroom gardening, inspiring youth to embrace sustainability and healthy living.

**Badger Brook First Nation Inc. – Kesalulut: The Ripple of Wisdom and Love (Badger)**

Kesalulut united youth, elders, and community members for cultural revitalization and cross-generational learning. The project featured life skills workshops, financial literacy sessions, and on-the-land experiences to strengthen community bonds.

**Mi'kmaw Cultural Foundation – Four Seasons Four Gatherings (Corner Brook)**

Four Seasons Four Gathering engaged forty Indigenous youth in a year-long journey of cultural learning with Elders and Mentors. Participants deepened their understanding of traditions and committed to sharing knowledge within their communities.

**Southern Labrador Development Association – Regional Community Support Services Network (L'Anse au Loup)**

The SLDA established a network to support seniors, volunteer groups, and municipalities. The initiative focused on collaboration, resource sharing, and building resilience for enhanced community well-being.

**St. John's Farmers' Market Cooperative – Refresh to Grow (St. John's)**

This project refreshed the market's physical space with new paint, a vibrant mural, and updated furniture. The improvements ensure the market remains a welcoming hub for entrepreneurs and a diverse range of community events.