

Report to the 2018 AGM on Csuite3 and Membership Categories

In the coming months and years, Chebucto Community Net faces ongoing challenges to provide a level of email, local information, internet access and communication education services to its members that is commensurate with its modest revenue and limited capacity of its volunteers. In addition to the need to repair or replace communication hardware as well as to monitor, upgrade and repair system software, there is a need to replace our membership/financial database - the original Csuite1 and revised Csuite2 - with a new CSuite3 database.

As reflected in our bylaws, Csuite databases are based on a concept to two categories of membership – individuals and information provider groups. Ironically while donations have always been an important part of Chebucto, there was (and is) no provision in the database to record the donation of non members. Csuite3 will provide a non member donation category to record, acknowledge and track this important source of income.

When Csuite was developed in 1994 by Math and Statistics professor David Trueman and others, there were no “wireless” members. When we started offering wireless service in 2015 at Joe Howe and McKeen Manors, wireless memberships were (and are) recorded as “Chebucto Plus” memberships. Today almost 100% of Chebucto’s new memberships are Manor wireless members. In the new Csuite3 database they will have their own category.

As our capacity to offer more email and file space at decreasing per unit cost, the difference between individual Basic and Chebucto Plus memberships will narrow and the Chebucto Plus membership will become a “sustaining” membership. This change needs to be reflected in the Csuite3 database as well.

Finally, there is a potential to attract new information provider groups by defining our service not by their ability to pay but on their demand for server resources. We thus envisage a lower cost static database subcategory and a higher cost interactive database one.

At this AGM, we ask the membership to **endorse and encourage** CSuite3 development volunteers Corrie Watt and others wrestling with these things to continue their work as they design, build and test a new database that will allow us to accurately record, track and produce statistics and financial reports for the Board to make timely and informed decisions and to meet the reporting requirements of the Registrar of Joint Stocks and the CRA.

Doug Rigby, Assistant Treasurer