



## SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION OF THE COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM MARCH 2017

### ABOUT THE EVALUATION

- The evaluation assessed the relevance and performance of the program.
- It covered the period from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2016.

### WHAT THE EVALUATION FOUND

- There is a continued need to provide refurbished computers to students and other Canadians.
- Recent changes to the program have made computer technology accessible to Canadians who could not otherwise afford it.
- The program aligns with federal responsibilities to foster access to technology, maximize the use of crown assets and contribute to sustainable development through the appropriate disposal of IT equipment.
- The objectives of the program are consistent with federal government priorities related to developing stronger digital skills among Canadians and providing work experience to youth.
- The program enhances the employability of youth through internship and other employment opportunities in refurbishment centres.
- CFS reduces the environmental footprint of government and businesses through reuse and recycling of their computer equipment.
- The partnerships surrounding the program are vital to its success, providing donations and in-kind contributions.
- The program continues to meet delivery targets, despite a reduction in resources over the assessment period, and is successful in leveraging funding from other sources.
- It has worked to realize efficiencies since the previous evaluation, including reducing reporting requirements and introducing multi-year contribution agreements. However, it continues to mine data manually, creating some challenges with program reporting.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- *Launched in 1993, Computers for Schools refurbishes donated computers and distributes them to schools, libraries, not-for-profit organizations and Aboriginal communities across Canada.*
- *Canadian youth are engaged in the refurbishment process, and develop skills in computer repair and software testing while cultivating softer skills.*
- *Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada leads this program for the federal government, working with provincial and territorial governments, not-for profit organizations as well as the private and volunteer sectors.*
- *Since inception, the program has distributed over 1.4 million refurbished computers nationwide.*

### RECOMMENDATION (as agreed upon by management)

1. The CFS program should consider modernizing its data collection, capture and storage with a view to ensuring adequate performance information is available.
2. The CFS program should continue to explore the diversity of its interns and consider what more could be done to attract female candidates.