

Winter update



It is that time of the year again when we take a moment to unwind and connect with those we love. While this year has been challenging, **we can't help but feel grateful for every milestone you have made possible** and would like to extend our sincere thanks on behalf of each student you have impacted.

This year reminded us of the importance of community support. **Through relationships with industry partners, students across the province had opportunities to take part in career-building initiatives** like Tech Connect, Entrepreneur-in-the-Making, and Skills Competitions.

When Spring arrived, and we were faced with crisis, challenges and loss, it was you, our donors, supporters, and alumni, who stepped up for NSCC students.

Because of your timeliness and generosity, we immediately transitioned into 'help mode' to meet the changing needs of our students. This included financial aid through an expanded Urgent Aid program, growing the laptop and internet loaner program, and launching the all-new Career Supports program – all which continue to provide invaluable support to students and alumni.

The social climate this year has motivated us to become stronger allies for Black, African Nova Scotian and Indigenous communities as we work to build a stronger and more inclusive Nova Scotia. At the Foundation, this has meant **partnering with NSCC's Human Rights and Equity office to ensure that we continue to provide equitable solutions for students today and into the future.**

Despite all the challenges we are strengthened by an overwhelming sense of support. In November, **we celebrated over 4,500 graduates** from the class of 2020. Their success, in a year filled with uncertainty, inspires us all and was made possible by your generosity and unwavering commitment. We are incredibly grateful. Thank you for leading the way and being ambassadors of hope.

From all of us at NSCC Foundation and Alumni Relations, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



Gift of Sikorsky S-76 will boost Aviation Program

Every year, NSCC's Aviation Institute welcomes over 150 students to its programs, and while 2020 has changed how the mostly hands-on program is delivered, this year's students have something to look forward to—a Sikorsky S-76 Model Helicopter donated by Canadian Helicopters LifeFlight.

Prior to its retirement, the aircraft served as a Medivac Helicopter and was used for critical patient transport in the Maritimes. Although no longer in service for medical evacuation, the Helicopter is on a new mission, providing NSCC Aviation Institute with a much-needed training aid for students in the Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) programs.



▲ C-GIMN, the Sikorsky S-76 helicopter is readied for transport to NSCC's Aviation Institute

We are so pleased the aircraft had found a home within Nova Scotia, and with the NSCC program. With its distinctive red, white, and blue paint scheme, it was a fixture in the skies over Nova Scotia for over 20 years. It has flown thousands of missions in the Maritime Provinces, ranging from intensive care unit transfers, to trauma, neonatal and pediatric patients just to name a few.

As a NSCC graduate myself, and with numerous alumni working for CHL, I couldn't imagine a better home for the helicopter, and ecstatic it will continue its life right here in Nova Scotia.

– Shawn McCarville, Base Manager, Halifax LifeFlight Program

For Don White, the Aviation Institute's Quality Assurance and Compliance Coordinator, this donation is a much-needed **addition to the training aids available** to students in the various programs.

“Overall having a fully functional aircraft added to the Aviation Institutes training aids, will have enormous benefits to the school, students and to the program. We would like to thank Canadian Helicopters for their generous donation and the support they have provided throughout the acquisition.”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



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I was very excited to learn I was the recipient of the Scotiabank Entrepreneur-in-the-Making Award. As a Graduate of the Ocean Resources - Fisheries and Aquaculture Program, I hope to contribute to the growth of aquaculture in Nova Scotia by developing new methods of land-based food production through combining aquaculture and hydroponics.

I hope this endeavour will allow our province to have more local food production year-round and in turn help local markets depend less on the importation of produce. Receiving this grant will help support me financially as I begin my entrepreneurial journey. Your generosity allowed me to bring my ideas to life with more confidence during a time of economic uncertainty. Thank you.

Scott Gardiner

Recipient, Scotiabank Entrepreneur-in-the-Making Award - 2020

Ocean Resources – Fisheries and Aquaculture Program, Class of 2020
Shelburne Campus

Local Kentville vineyard supporting NSCC winemaking students

NSCC's Cool Climate Wine and Viticulture program started in 2019, the first of its kind in the province. The program combines viticulture – grape growing and wine production and is well on its way to boosting the wine industry in Atlantic Canada. All the graduates from the first year have gone on to find employment at vineyards, wineries, and cideries.

John Eikenleboom, a resident of Port Williams and owner of [1365 Church Street Vineyard and Winery](#) is a proud supporter of the program. "Our industry will not grow without supporting and training young people. It is the only way."

John knows first-hand the value of an NSCC training having attended the Introduction to Grape Growing course before transitioning his own farm into a Vineyard. In the fall, the vineyard donated over 400kg of grapes to the college, making it possible for students to make wine.



▲ Students harvesting grapes at the vineyard

While Kingstec Campus has an on-site grape lab, more external supply is required to support the practical winemaking exercises.

Faculty Patrick Cantieni hopes to see increased collaboration with wineries and vineyards that would mean working together, sharing knowledge, equipment and personell to further build the industry. He sees this donation as a step in the right direction.

"There is no substitute to practical learning," Cantieni says. "At the end of the day, when we sell the product, what the customer sees is a Nova Scotia wine and we have to work together to build that reputation."

Support from the community is growing. Grape growers and Wineries in the Valley have opened their doors to host NSCC students for their work placements. Prior to the establishment of NSCC's program, training could only be taken at Ontario's Niagara College. Having this program now available within Nova Scotia means companies can build stronger workforces with a better understanding of the uniqueness of Atlantic wines.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Tsubaki Onishi moved to Canada at age 15 to attend high school. When the time came for her to select a post-secondary institution, she was looking for a program that aligned with her passion for cooking and entertaining, one that would prepare her for employment immediately after graduation. She selected NSCC.

Pursuing higher education came with financial challenges. Tsubaki applied to several awards and was pleased to find out that she had been selected for the Devour Diversity Scholarship.

"With more money in my budget, I am now able to get the right ingredients to practice at home with different dishes." Tsubaki says.

Tsubaki is thankful for the support from donors that has made it possible for her to go to NSCC. "I am getting hands-on experience. Every day I am learning something new; new recipes and new ways of doing things. NSCC gives me the confidence that I am on the right career path and I know that when I graduate, I will be ready for this industry."

Following graduation, Tsubaki is looking forward to continuing with the Culinary Management Program, becoming a permanent resident, and starting her career in the culinary field.

Tsubaki Onishi
Recipient, Devour Diversity Scholarship
Culinary Skills, Class of 2021
Lunenburg Campus

Three Brothers Project launched to support men's mental health

For those who knew him, Matthew Keating was the person that always looked out for others. He was always there to help and it was that selflessness that made him a true friend. Matthew Keating passed away in September 2017 after a silent struggle with mental illness. In his honour, his brothers Mark and Michael Keating have launched the Three Brothers Project to foster meaningful conversations about men's mental health and to promote physical activity throughout the community.

As part of the project, the brothers have established the Matthew Keating Memorial Fund at NSCC. The fund will generate an annual bursary in Matthew's name that will assist students attending NSCC's Marconi Campus. The award will help lessen the financial burden for a student while giving them the much-needed motivation to succeed in their educational and career goals.



▲ Brothers Mark, Michael, and Matthew Keating in 2017. Mark and Michael have launched The Three Brothers Project in honour of Matthew who died later that year

To participate in this initiative, please [visit the donation page](#) here or [visit their online community here](#) to join the conversation.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



In November we celebrated over 4,500 graduates from the Class of 2020. For many students, this was a tremendous accomplishment. Through your generosity, you helped get these students across the finish line and they are well on their way to making valuable contributions in our communities and economy.

“When COVID-19 restrictions set in, I was not able to continue working. I reached out to my campus and applied for the COVID-19 relief fund. I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the financial support received. This support

shows your unwavering commitment to the wellbeing and success of the NSCC students who dream about being successful while pursuing their careers.

“This grant assisted in alleviating the financial burden I faced while looking for a job. Thankfully, I received a job a month later, and was able to get out on a good foot without considering mounting bills. Thank you immensely for your support.”

Dewal Boucher
International Business, Class of 2020
Truro Campus

NSCC is the next great adventure for Marine Geomatics student

Alex is no stranger to adventure, originally from Russia, Alex arrived in Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia to begin the Survey Technician program at NSCC. He previously worked as a land surveyor building railroad high in the North of Russia. On this landscape of frozen tundra, high in the North, science and adventure came together, which for Alex was the perfect mix.

He chose the Survey Technician program at NSCC out of three programs offered at institutions across the country, and it was this decision that set him on a path to a future career in Marine Geomatics.

While his background in surveying gave him a good foundation, he still finds himself dedicating most of his waking hours to studying to keep up with the more complex aspects of the program.

Between his studies, his young family, and work, Alex does not have time for much else. Under these circumstances, learning he was the recipient of the Tech Nova Award for Survey Technicians was a welcome surprise. Alex explains that awards like these can be crucial in the decision-making process for students, and that decisions to go to post-secondary can open pathways that can drastically change lives.

“To get into the environment here. To hear the instructors. To hear other students. To get an idea of the opportunities that can come if you graduate from just a one-year program can put you in a completely



▲ Alex Maizlish in a Marine Geomatics class

different situation. You can see the world. You can earn a lot of money.”

Alex is excited about the future and the path that has opened for him. “The demand for these professionals is growing rapidly every year. If I had chosen another institution, I would never have gotten into Marine Geomatics. NSCC is a game changer. It has changed my life completely.”

Thank you. Your support makes a difference for students everyday.

To get in touch, please contact:

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