Community Report

2023-24

nscc

Pjila'si (Welcome)

President and Board Chair message

Welcome to the 2024 Community Report.

We are pleased to share a snapshot of the major initiatives undertaken at the College during the latest academic year, and to introduce you to some of the College's incredible students and employees who have supported them on their learning journey.

It was a momentous year for the College with the opening of the impressive new Sydney Waterfront Campus and two important new student housing facilities in Dartmouth and Stellarton. In addition, we have been focused on the continued expansion of fast-track programs and microcredentials designed to quickly meet current and future needs in the in-demand professions within the healthcare and skilled trades sectors.

Together, the stories in this report reflects the results of the College's collaboration with partners within the province and beyond to create unique solutions to both address labour market needs and enhance the quality of life for Nova Scotians. With the help of these partnerships with government, industry and community we are transforming our province, one learner at a time.

Our thanks to all who have contributed to the progress and success of NSCC. Through your collective efforts, we are and will continue to positively contribute to communities across Nova Scotia.

I invite you to start turning the pages to learn more. You can review NSCC's 2024 Financial Statements at **nscc.ca/financials**.

With gratitude,

Don Bureaux
President, NSCC

Karen L. Churchill
Chair, NSCC Board of Governors

Action on healthcare

Creating a skilled healthcare workforce for Nova Scotians will result in a more efficient, modern, equitable and respectful health ecosystem for all.

Advancing careers with CCA to PN bridge program

The Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) to Practical Nursing (PN) bridge pilot program provides 25 certified CCAs working in the sector with the opportunity to study in a blended Practical Nursing program at NSCC's Truro Campus, free of charge. Supported by the Province, this first-in-Nova Scotia program provides a pathway for CCAs to become practical nurses while remaining on the job and earning a salary.

Expansion of Practical Nursing seats

With Provincial government support, NSCC continues to help address critical labour needs within the healthcare sector through the addition of 120 continuous and 180 one-time Practical Nursing seats. This extra capacity for learners in this in-demand field of study is helping to support the addition of more practical nurses being available for hire across the province.

Helping long-term care operators to go green

Customized modules were developed and delivered to long-term care homes to help make buildings more energy efficient. The 6-module, virtual course was offered to more than 120 long-term care facilities in the province, expanding capacity across Nova Scotia by educating building managers on best practices related to sustainability and energy efficiency.

Training Continuing Care Assistants faster

NSCC, the Province and Shannex collaborated on a new training program for Continuing Care Assistants (CCAs) with updated curriculum which will allow students to complete CCA training in a shorter time. The 6-month program, which is being tested, is supported by a $3.6 million Provincial government investment. The program will continue to focus on resident safety, personal care, and social and mental wellbeing.

Additional Medical Laboratory Technologist seats

More Medical Laboratory Technologists are being trained with the number of program seats increasing from 40 to 60. This additional capacity will ensure more Medical Laboratory Technologists are trained and ready to fill needs within this critical health profession. The program, which is primarily in-person learning, prepares students to perform essential laboratory testing and investigations crucial for diagnosis, treatment and prevention across the province.

663 health and human services graduates entering the workforce in 2023-24

13 new healthcare offerings (CCA and PN) at 8 NSCC campuses in 2023-24

Starleen Gould

Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) Eskasoni cohort, Marconi Campus

Envisioning a brighter future where she could provide a secure life for her family and fulfill her true calling as a caregiver, Starleen enroled in the Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) Eskasoni cohort. Starleen now works full time as a CCA at the Kiknu long-term care facility in Eskasoni.

"I'm grateful to have had the unique opportunity to learn in my community, in my language and with my people."

nscc.ca/starleen

Accelerating skilled trades

NSCC is dedicated to expanding the skilled trades workforce, enhancing housing development and fostering a healthier economy by preparing students for high-demand careers through innovative programs and initiatives.

Distribution of trades bursaries

The $5,000 Growing Nova Scotia's Skilled Trades Workforce Bursary supports 320 students enroled in construction programs at NSCC. This helps cover tuition and living expenses and promotes access to essential trades training by reducing financial barriers, empowering students to pursue careers in the trades sector and addressing critical skills shortages.

High school pilot initiative

Planning is underway to welcome 34 grade 12 students in pre-apprenticeship plumbing and electrical programs at NSCC in February 2025. The pilot, taking place at Sydney Waterfront Campus and Truro Campus will enable students to complete their training in 9 months and graduate in November 2025, accelerating their entry into the workforce.

Successful pilot of Fast-Track Carpentry

The Carpentry Fast-Track Certificate program provides essential skills and hands-on training in just 27 weeks. This approach equips students with practical construction skills, safety practices and valuable real-world experience. Streamlining education without compromising quality ensures graduates are job-ready sooner, contributing directly to the skilled trades workforce.

Youth summer camps

Free skilled trades exploration camps for youth aged 12-15 took place at various campuses throughout the summer. These camps provided a safe and interactive environment for youth to explore careers in the skilled trades. They were funded by the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency as part of the Government of Nova Scotia's Actions to Accelerate Skilled Trades Growth. Through engaging activities, the camps inspired the next generation of trades professionals in the province.

Future-proofing programs

Equipment and learning spaces are continuously evaluated and updated as needed to ensure students are prepared for the future of skilled trades. The Precision Machining program, now housed in a new, modern shop at Akerley Campus in Dartmouth, provides hands-on experience with the latest industry standards and practices preparing students to enter the workforce confidently.

Melissa Beed

**Fast Track Carpentry Certificate,
Akerley Campus**

Melissa Beed shifted from full-time mom to full-time student in the Fast Track Carpentry Certificate program, where she gained skills to build houses and pursue her passion for helping those in need.

"Housing is a basic need, and it feels really cool to be part of providing that. Being able to say, 'I built that,' gives me a lot of pride."

nscc.ca/melissa

1,900 students enroled in trades and transportation programs in 2023-24

166 participants in 2024 summer youth camps

Future of programming

The workforce is rapidly changing with industries often requiring new skills. NSCC helps meet this demand by providing educational opportunities that allow for accelerated and flexible training and skill upgrading across current and emerging industries.

Quick training and upskilling with microcredentials

As part of Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery (C2R2), NSCC collaborated alongside other post-secondary institutions to develop and deliver microcredentials that quickly address critical skills shortages and help lead the transition to a clean economy. In the 2023-24 academic year, 27 microcredentials were delivered through flexible formats – including hybrid, in-person, and online – providing students with the competencies needed to remain competitive in an evolving job market.

Reimagining programming for a digital world

Machines and artificial intelligence are changing the skills employers need. NSCC is responding through the creation of dedicated programs like IT Programming for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and by integrating AI, machine learning and advanced robotics in the curricula of programs across all 5 schools. By doing this, we are teaching students how to leverage technology to increase productivity. This year, the College developed a healthcare simulation technician program to address training needs in Nova Scotia. This customized program will provide learners with the knowledge and skills required to fulfill simulation technical operations roles, offering key support to simulation-based learning in health care.

Fast track offerings

Accelerated offerings for Early Childhood Education (ECE), Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) and Carpentry programs are getting students into in-demand careers faster. These programs address critical workforce shortages by equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge in a shorter time frame. This approach supports the immediate needs of the community and prepares graduates for successful, impactful careers that are in high demand.

Training for green careers

To address the need for more green careers, programming is expanding to include new offerings like the Climate Change – Building Performance Technology Graduate Certificate, and a suite of solar-related microcredentials and modules for electric vehicle maintenance. These programs ensure students can build on their existing skillsets to gain new and emerging skills that will help make Nova Scotia a greener and more sustainable province.

550 microcredential students in 2023-24

26 new programs and courses offered in 2023-24

Tyler Butler

Power Engineering Technology, Strait Area Campus

NSCC Strait Area Campus and faculty Tyler Butler, in partnership with C2R2, won the 2024 Hydrogen Digital Innovator Award at the Canadian Hydrogen Convention for developing hydrogen and clean energy microcredential courses through Quick Train Canada.

"Turning out a compelling product in a condensed timeline was possible because of the opportunity to collaborate across the country. Undertakings like this help position Nova Scotia as a clean energy leader."

nscc.ca/hydrogen

Student housing

Finding long-term or short-term accommodation has become a challenge for many Nova Scotians, including students. NSCC is committed to providing safe, affordable and accessible living options through a combination of new campus housing facilities and support for off-campus housing.

Akerley and Pictou Campus student housing

Two new campus housing facilities opened in fall 2024, supported by a $112 million investment from the Province. The new facilities add 50 new living spaces in Stellarton's Pictou Campus and 100 in Dartmouth at Akerley Campus for students studying at NSCC. Existing housing facilities in Lawrencetown, Port Hawkesbury and Truro continue to offer safe and accessible living options for students.

2025: Ivany Campus student housing

Opening in fall 2025, the NSCC Ivany Campus housing facility is part of the $112 million investment from the Province. This 200-bed, 96,000 square foot building will offer stunning views of Halifax Harbour, addressing the need for additional student accommodation and enhancing the overall campus experience.

Four new student housing builds announced

As part of the Province's housing strategy, the Nova Scotia Government announced 4 new NSCC student housing facilities to provide students with more affordable options and ease pressure on the local housing supply. The facilities are planned for Institute of Technology Campus (100 beds), Kingstec Campus (90 beds), Cumberland Campus (40 beds), and Lunenburg Campus (40 beds). Each location will be built on government-owned land at or near each campus.

Off-campus housing support

To assist students in securing suitable off-campus housing, an online resource guide, 'NSCC Living in Nova Scotia: A Resource Guide for Students,' has been developed. This online module series covers topics like Nova Scotia culture, signing a rental agreement, lease or contract; being aware of rental scams; and how to live with others peacefully. Additionally, partnerships with Places4Students and Happipad offer free tools to connect students with property owners, further supporting their search for housing.

811 current and upcoming student housing beds

10 student housing facilities open or in development

Learn more about the Sydney Waterfront Campus
nscc.ca/sydneywaterfront

Sydney Waterfront Campus

Sydney Waterfront Campus in downtown Sydney, Cape Breton opened its doors in September 2024, replacing Marconi Campus. The purpose-built campus has 4 buildings connected by a series of pedways and is built with sustainability, accessibility and inclusion top of mind. The campus offers expanded programming, new technologies, new features and enhanced spaces including a 50-space Childcare Centre, operated by the YMCA of Cape Breton.

305K square feet

100% sustainably heated and cooled using geothermal energy

Community impact

The 305,000 square foot campus located in a walkable area in the heart of downtown is a driver for social and economic growth. The modern, centrally located build makes the College top of mind for people when considering their education options and is a piece of social infrastructure, transforming the lives of students, their families, our communities and our province.

Accessibility

As part of NSCC's commitment to accessible and equity-centered education for the entire community, Sydney Waterfront Campus exceeds accessibility standards through features and building design. Designed according to Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification, Sydney Waterfront Campus is one of the most accessible buildings in the province providing full inclusion for all learners.

Sustainability

Built according to the province's highest standards in sustainability, Sydney Waterfront Campus has a lower carbon footprint than most conventional buildings in the province. The Campus is targeting LEED Gold Standard – an international standard of sustainability excellence and green building leadership. From conserving water and energy to generating better air quality and utilizing natural light, Sydney Waterfront Campus provides optimal learning conditions for students and employees, while preventing the depletion of natural and physical resources.

Mark Mortel

**Occupational Health and Safety,
Institute of Technology Campus**

Mark Mortel, a nurse in his home country of the Philippines, came to NSCC to pursue an Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) diploma. He recently secured his Nova Scotia nursing license through an expedited pathway for international nurses. He now works at Dartmouth General Hospital, integrating his nursing skills with his OH&S training.

"NSCC has a lot of great resources to help international students settle in the province. These supports helped me make new connections and improve my skills."

nscc.ca/mark

Creating a welcoming and diverse community

NSCC is committed to fostering an equitable, inclusive, and diverse environment for everyone. This dedication is reflected in various initiatives and supports designed to encourage students and employees to actively contribute to an equitable community.

Community councils

The NSCC-Mi'kmaq Joint Working Committee and Joint Steering Committee, Black Community Council and Accessibility Advisory Committee provide first-voice input to help drive systemic change, provide guidance and support decolonizing efforts to create an inclusive educational environment. These councils focus on improving student experiences, addressing systemic barriers and fostering equity and accessibility for equity-deserving communities.

International student experience and immigration

Various supports and programs have been developed to ensure international students feel welcomed in community and are supported throughout their studies. This includes dedicated international student advisors, immigration advice, EAL supports and a Writing Centre, as well as the International Student Ambassador (ISA) Program, which fosters community through events and activities. Additionally, NSCC participates in the Pathway to Stay Program, in collaboration with the Business + Higher Education Roundtable and the Government of Canada, which prepares international students for Work Integrated Learning and employment.

Tuition and financial support for students from equity-deserving communities

Last year, $41.1K in cost-of-living bursaries, were dedicated to students from equity-deserving communities including Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotian learners. Financial support has been continuously enhanced through current and new student awards and programs including Entrepreneur-in-the-Making, Student Works, Pathways to Shipbuilding for People of African Descent and the Growing Nova Scotia's Skilled Trades Workforce Bursary.

Accessibility

Aligned with the Accessibility Plan and Nova Scotia's goal of becoming barrier-free by 2030, accessible course materials and a resource guide have been introduced to aid faculty with implementing academic accommodations. Accessibility Teaching Specialists were also hired to support faculty in complex teaching situations, and the Admissions Policy was updated to include a designated seat for Persons with Disabilities.

74 international student ambassadors

102 awards distributed to students from equity-deserving communities

Community and industry partnerships

Through hands-on, industry-led partnerships, the College is helping Nova Scotia tackle pressing issues like climate resilience, healthcare for seniors and digital transformation. This work advances social enterprise, drives productivity and supports economic growth while giving students valuable work experience through innovative projects and up-training programs tailored to future skills.

Climate change initiatives with partners

The College works on projects to advance clean technologies and protect Nova Scotia from climate change. We create de-carbonization AI bots for industry partners like clean tech company Acuicy and use advanced mapping techniques to tackle climate issues like floods, coastal erosion and ocean pollution. Work in energy research, including data analysis and battery testing now extends to marine propulsion projects, supporting the integration of electric and hybrid systems into boats. Collaborating with 3D Wave Design, 3D mapping models have been enhanced to improve wildfire planning and emergency response.

SEATAC renewal

SEATAC, a federally funded Technology Access Centre, provides essential support for small and medium-sized ocean-technology businesses. In June 2024, SEATAC was one of 15 centres nationwide to receive $1.7 million in renewal funding for the next 5 years, building on its impactful work since 2019. SEATAC has been involved in 60+ projects helping companies increase economic competitiveness and productivity since its inception.

Supporting longevity and community engagement for seniors

The Centre of Rural Aging and Health (CORAH), a partnership between the Province and NSCC, has expanded to include locations at Shelburne Campus and Strait Area Campus. These new hubs are modelled after a successful pilot at Annapolis Valley Campus, which launched in 2021. All locations offer activities, education and services tailored to the needs of local seniors, helping them remain engaged in and connected to their communities.

Agricultural innovation

The quality of balsam firs in Nova Scotia is at risk. In partnership with Perennia Food and Agriculture Corporation and the Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia, NSCC researchers have improved tissue culture methods to produce superior seedlings. This resulted in a federal grant in June 2024 of over $500K to establish an Agriculture Biotechnology Cool Climate Centre. The Centre will work with local businesses to research biostimulants and soil amendments to develop resilient crops and increase yield.

21,931 CORAH registration sessions at Annapolis Valley Campus from 2020-24

$5.8M in research income/funding received in 2023/24

Mamadou Coulibaly

**Geographic Information Systems/
Applied Research AGRG, COGS**

Under the guidance of NSCC geomatics researchers, Geographic Information Systems student Mamadou Coulibaly is assisting Mahone Bay-based 3D Wave Design in refining its wildfire simulation software by comparing it to existing models.

"3D Wave Design's software simulates fires in 3D, unlike the current 2D models, which will significantly improve wildfire planning and emergency preparation. This experience has deepened my passion for geospatial analysis and its real-world impact."

nscc.ca/mamadou

Making an impact

140+
programs offered [1]

19,000
students welcomed each year [1]

26
average age of NSCC students [1]

87%
of NSCC students are from Nova Scotia [1]

54%
of incoming students have previous post-secondary experience [3]

33%
of incoming students are first generation to attend post-secondary [3]

93%
of employed NSCC graduates live and work in Nova Scotia [2]

93%
of graduates satisfied with their overall NSCC experience [2]
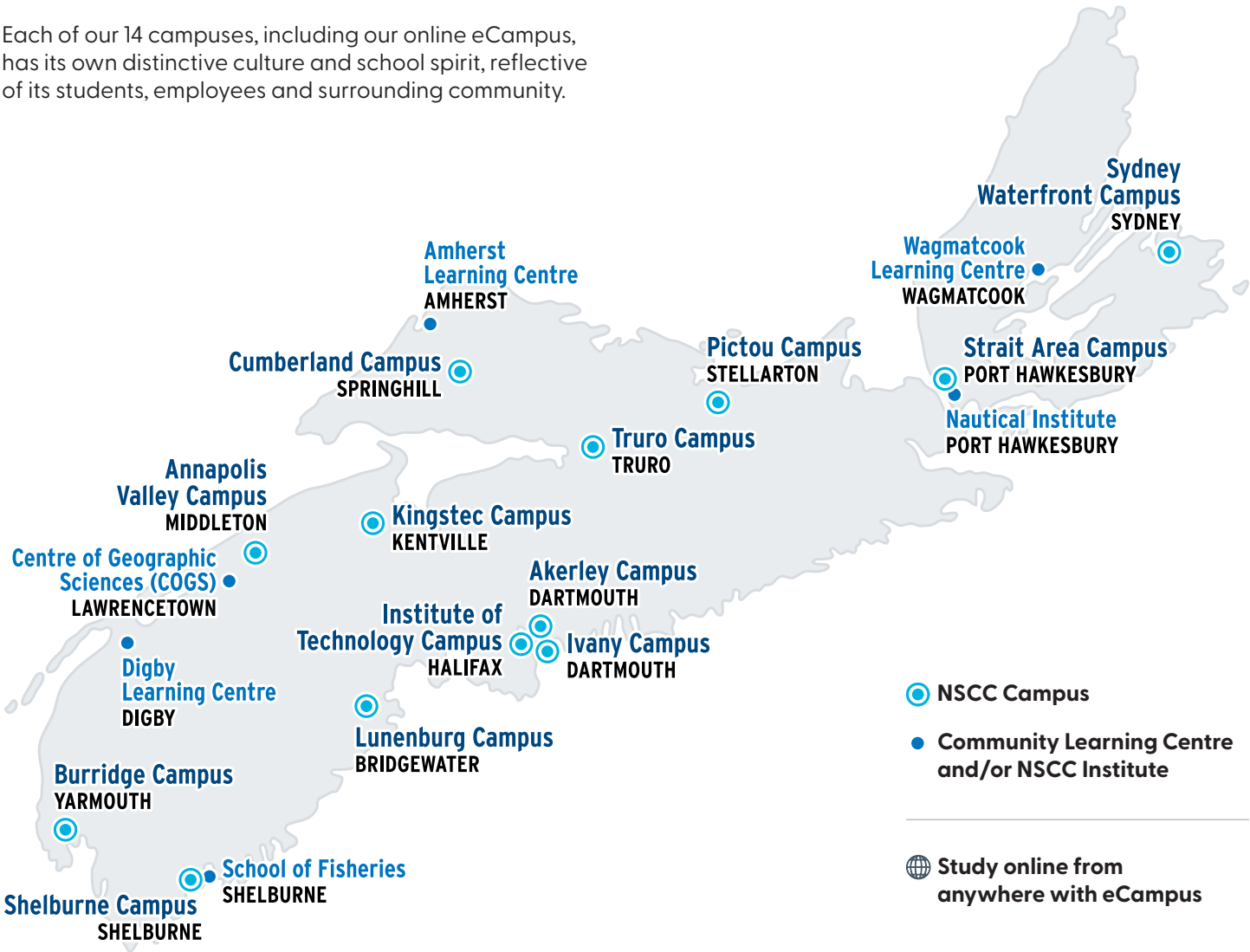
$2.2B+
contributed to the Nova Scotia economy by NSCC and its students in 2022-23 [4]

Sources:
1. NSCC Institutional Research
2. NSCC 2023 Graduate Survey
3. NSCC 2023 Fall Student Success Survey
4. The Economic Value of Nova Scotia Community College – November 2023

Find your place. Make your mark.

Each of our 14 campuses, including our online eCampus, has its own distinctive culture and school spirit, reflective of its students, employees and surrounding community.

Sydney Waterfront Campus
SYDNEY

Amherst Learning Centre
AMHERST

Wagmatcook Learning Centre
WAGMATCOOK

Cumberland Campus
SPRINGHILL

Pictou Campus
STELLARTON

Strait Area Campus
PORT HAWKESBURY

Nautical Institute
PORT HAWKESBURY

Truro Campus
TRURO

Annapolis Valley Campus
MIDDLETON

Kingstec Campus
KENTVILLE

Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS)
LAWRENCETOWN

Akerley Campus
DARTMOUTH

Institute of Technology Campus
HALIFAX

Ivany Campus
DARTMOUTH

Digby Learning Centre
DIGBY

Lunenburg Campus
BRIDGEWATER

Burridge Campus
YARMOUTH

School of Fisheries
SHELBURNE

Shelburne Campus
SHELBURNE

- NSCC Campus
- Community Learning Centre and/or NSCC Institute

Study online from anywhere with eCampus

nscc