



Community Report

2024-25

***nsc*cc**

Pjila'si (Welcome)

President and Board Chair message

Our 2025 Community Report offers an inspiring snapshot of how the College is advancing social and economic prosperity by strengthening productivity and innovation through programming, partnerships and applied research.

Building on last year's momentum, we continue to grow. Thanks to another Provincial multi-million-dollar investment, we are providing modern and affordable housing for an additional 200 students at Ivany Campus this fall and we're looking ahead to provide even more housing opportunities with the 4 student housing projects under development. We've also seen, just after a year in operation, the impact Sydney Waterfront Campus is having on students, employees and the local community.

We have been focused on innovating and optimizing our College supports and academic offerings across all campuses and schools, ensuring we're best equipped to support thousands of students through to graduation and into the labour market of today and tomorrow. We will continue to work with provincial and national partners to unlock the immense potential within Nova Scotia, including enhancing our role as a military-connected College.

Please take a look at the dedicated work, the lives enriched, the successes and innovative partnerships captured in our report – all aimed at ensuring we are responding to the needs of our communities, government, industry and individual learning journeys. You can find this year's Financial Statements at nsc.ca/financials.

With gratitude,




Don Bureaux
President, NSCC




Jackie Poirier
Chair, NSCC Board
of Governors

Program innovation for changing labour market needs

NSCC continues to respond to the evolving needs of learners, communities and industry through academic innovation and by reimagining how education is accessed and experienced.

Innovative and responsive programming

Labour market needs are changing at an accelerated pace, which is why the College continuously reviews the mix of approximately 130 programs to ensure new and emerging needs are being met. As part of this effort, the College has increased offerings in priority sectors like health and trades. In 2024-25, NSCC added 260 trades seats and continued to support an additional 180 health seats. In response to the growing need for skilled workers in Nova Scotia's wind sector, NSCC announced a new Wind Turbine Technician program that will launch in fall 2026. The first of its kind in Nova Scotia, the program will equip graduates with the skills needed to support the Province's goal of generating 50% of its electricity from wind energy by 2030.

Improving access to programming

Access to education continues to expand through flexible programming and innovative delivery methods. Initiatives supporting this growth, include the launch of the mobile learning centre, which is currently hosting the accelerated Electrical Construction and Industrial program at Digby Learning Centre. The GIS Remote Sensing program has transitioned fully online, while part-time offerings have been added to the Nonprofit Leadership and Behavioural Interventions programs, enhancing flexibility for learners. Additionally, following a successful pilot, on-site learning for the Continuing Care program has continued in partnership with private long-term care provider, Shannex.

260 new trades seats in 2024-25

Pathways to accelerate entry to labour market

Shorter credential pathways continue to be developed in high-demand fields like healthcare, trades and technology, helping learners enter the workforce more quickly. Accelerated programs now include Carpentry, Electrical Construction and Industrial, Building Systems Technician (HVAC&R) and Continuing Care. A new Teacher's Assistant certificate was launched as a customized work-and-learn pilot for 60 students in partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Microcredentials like Strategic Resilience for First Responders and Health Care Simulation Technician continue to be added, responding directly to industry needs.

Curriculum renewal for productivity

All Creative Industries programs have integrated outcomes focused on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a tool and understanding the ethics, legislation and profession-specific implications of AI. Similar work is also underway in Access and Engineering programs and will begin in the 2025-26 academic year for Technology programs. The School of Health and Human Services is reviewing specific programs through an inclusive language and equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility lens. Additionally, the School of Health and Human Services continues to explore the use of simulation to replicate real-world situations, allowing learners to practice skills, make decisions and gain experience in a safe, controlled setting.

60 learners in the new Teacher's Assistant certificate program



Trades training, close to home

For Madison, taking a trade had always been in the back of her mind. But living far from a campus made it feel out of reach. That changed when NSCC brought a mobile trades trailer to Digby, making it possible for the Electrical Construction and Industrial program to now be offered at the Digby Learning Centre. Even better, it was an accelerated format that would get her into the workforce faster.

"I knew I wanted to go back to school and study a trade, but I wasn't sure what would be the best to pursue. When I saw they were offering the Electrical Construction and Industrial accelerated program close by, I was sold." – Madison

nsc.ca/program-innovation



Built to serve: NSCC's role in military training and support

Aviator Vritsios, a Royal Canadian Air Force recruit, is completing his Construction Technician training at NSCC. His training is part of the College's trusted, 20+ year partnership with the Canadian Armed Forces, delivering customized, hands-on training that meets the evolving needs of military personnel.

"I'm using what I learn here at NSCC as a foundation for my future; it's all connected, from the classroom to the field." – Avr Vritsios

nsc.ca/building-partnerships

Building partnerships and unlocking opportunities

NSCC works with national and provincial partners to lead in the delivery of innovative and supportive workforce development that responds to community and industry needs. Through applied research, the College is driving innovation across sectors and strengthening Nova Scotia's workforce.

Making an impact with federal support

Through federally-supported initiatives, NSCC continues to provide new opportunities to Nova Scotians that are changing industries both nationally and provincially. This year, the College was selected by the federal government to develop Canada's first Deaf Interpreter program which began over the summer at Ivany Campus. The program, which attracted students from across the country, trains Deaf individuals on how to become Deaf Interpreters who provide information to Deaf clients as well. The College, with the support of Transport Canada, continues to offer the A'paqt program which is diversifying the marine workforce by helping to reduce barriers to education for Indigenous Peoples and women.

A military-connected College

NSCC has been a trusted training partner for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) for over 20 years, developing customized training solutions that respond to evolving military needs. Through a long-standing contract with the Department of National Defence, the College delivers tailored training where new military recruits gain hands-on experience in trades like carpentry, electrical and plumbing. As a military-connected College, NSCC offers resources to support CAF members, Reservists, Veterans and their families.

Increasing student opportunities for research and entrepreneurship

NSCC students are gaining valuable research experience and support to develop their own ventures. The newly-launched Student Research Network has engaged over 450 students and faculty in research collaborations, while microgrants are opening up student-led projects with industry and community partners. As the lead of the Atlantic Hub for the National Labs4 Entrepreneurship Program, NSCC students are receiving more support taking their ideas to market through hands-on experience, training and mentorship.

Modernization of traditional industries through innovation

NSCC is supporting the modernization of Nova Scotia's forestry and ocean sectors by promoting sustainable practices, through initiatives like the Ecological Forest Equipment Program, which offered grants to businesses to buy eco-friendly forestry equipment. In the ocean sector, NSCC's Technology Access Centre, SEATAC, is developing renewable energy solutions aimed at reducing fossil fuel reliance in the fishing industry, supported by a grant from Nova Scotia's Low Carbon Communities Program.

451 A'paqt graduates since 2019

631 Canadian Armed Forces learners since 2001

Advancing community prosperity

With 17 campuses and learning centres located within communities across Nova Scotia, NSCC plays a critical leadership role in building the economy and social fabric of Nova Scotia.

Creating opportunities for youth with trades camps

More 12-15 year-olds are getting the opportunity to explore trades careers thanks to the expansion of a successful partnership with the Province and the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA). This year, the College added March Break camps and doubled the number of summer camp seats, providing 2 dedicated camps for equity-deserving youth. The College also introduced a forest stewardship-focused camp. These in-demand camps provided hundreds of young Nova Scotians with practical exposure to skilled trades, cementing the Province's leadership in shaping the next generation of trades professionals.

Supporting community health for children and seniors

The Centre of Rural Aging and Health (CORAH), supported by the Nova Scotia Department of Seniors and Long-term Care, operates across NSCC campuses in Middleton, Port Hawkesbury and Shelburne. These centres offer social, cultural, learning and recreation programs to adults 55+ and often include College learners and employees in their offerings. Additionally, campuses in Yarmouth, Springhill, Kentville and Sydney host Early Childhood Development Support Centres in collaboration with the Early Years Professional Development Committee to provide training and resources for early childhood learning professionals.

Connecting community with service learning

Whether it's partnering with the local Boys and Girls Club, supporting community organizations, replacing a promotional banner for a beloved festival, engaging in service-learning projects, or providing a safe space for those in need, NSCC's campuses serve as both vibrant learning environments and welcoming community hubs. These initiatives reflect the spirit of collaboration and community support that defines NSCC.

Workforce development training for equity-deserving communities

The College continues to expand training opportunities for equity-deserving groups and newcomers, by developing learning that meets unique community needs and provides job-ready skills quickly. A 90-hour program with Culture Link is helping African Nova Scotians enter the film industry, with hands-on experience leading to employment in roles such as sound, lighting and production assistance. Partnering with the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) and Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency, the College delivered a Bridge to Construction program to help prepare newcomers for important entry-level jobs in the trades. The College also partnered with the Confederation of Mainland Mi'kmaq to deliver chainsaw and trail-clearing training.



Bridge to Construction training helps newcomers build futures

Mohamed, originally from Somalia, joined the Bridge to Construction program at NSCC to pursue a career in the trades. He gained hands-on carpentry skills, safety certifications and confidence and is eager to work in trades construction.

"I like exercising, working with my hands and staying active. When you have training, you have confidence and that makes all the difference." – Mohamed

nsc.ca/community-prosperity

500 Nova Scotia youth took part in youth trades camps in 2024-25

100 equity-deserving students have taken part in the Bridge to Construction program since 2016



Enhancing learning in accelerated programming

Leah is a Faculty member for the accelerated Continuing Care program at Ivany Campus. She worked closely with newly-introduced Accessible Teaching Specialists to help address a wide range of barriers for students in the program. She partnered with Accessible Teaching Specialists to navigate the unique demands of teaching in an accelerated program.

“The Accessible Teaching Specialists have been invaluable to me. As a College, we know that not all students learn the same way and it’s also true when faculty are trying to learn and adapt.” – Leah

nsc.ca/supportive-community

A supportive community for student success

NSCC is committed to creating a learning environment where every student feels supported, included and empowered to succeed. This commitment is reflected in the College’s focus on service excellence, accessible learning and inclusive learning supports.

Campus service excellence

The College has transitioned to a Regional Service Delivery Model to provide a more equitable and consistent level of service and support for NSCC students and employees. The new model consists of 5 campus regions and 3 standalone campuses, each led by a principal. This new shared management structure allows us to expand on needed frontline services in areas such as campus security, student supports and campus activities.

Supporting international student learning

In a shifting immigration landscape, the College continues to ensure international students are making informed program decisions and have the support they need to succeed so they can stay and work in our communities beyond graduation. These supports include dedicated International Student Advisors, housing and transition support, English as an Additional Language (EAL) supports, a Writing Centre and the International Student Ambassador (ISA) Program which fosters community through events and activities. A student-centered international strategy has also been developed to help the College achieve enrolment goals that are responsibly tied to labour market needs.

Accelerated success

In the 2024-25 academic year, Accessible Teaching Specialists were introduced to support faculty in addressing learning barriers within accelerated healthcare and trades programs. Their expertise has enabled the successful delivery of accelerated programming by guiding faculty in adapting their teaching and evaluation methods. This support has helped remove a wide range of barriers, ensuring more inclusive and effective learning experiences for all students.

Accessibility

In April 2025, NSCC renewed its 3-year Accessibility Plan, advancing ongoing efforts to foster an equity-centered culture, rooted in awareness, allyship and actionable change. The goal of the plan is to ensure that every individual feels a profound sense of dignity, empowering each to contribute fully and reach their highest potential at the College. NSCC has introduced additional accessibility resources, including Accommodate, a new accessibility management tool designed to support students throughout their learning journey.

77 students in accelerated programs in 2024-25

27% of NSCC’s population self-identified as having a disability in 2024-25

Modern facilities for living and learning

NSCC continues to modernize and add to its campuses to ensure students are equipped with the tools, technologies and spaces that reflect real-world industry settings to ensure students gain the skills and confidence needed for in-demand careers across Nova Scotia.



Sydney Waterfront Campus opening

It was an exciting and successful first year for the Sydney Waterfront Campus, which welcomed 1,200 students to the purpose-built campus that offers new technologies, enhancing spaces for learning and breathtaking views in a facility that’s built with sustainability and accessibility at its core.



Aklerley and Pictou Campus housing opening

In fall 2024, NSCC welcomed 148 students to 2 new housing facilities located at Aklerley Campus (Dartmouth) and Pictou Campus (Stellarton). These facilities were supported by a \$112 million investment from the province to expand student housing across Nova Scotia.



Upcoming student housing builds

In fall 2023, the Province announced 4 new student housing facilities. The College continues to work with the Province in support of these important projects at Cumberland, Institute of Technology, Kingstec and Lunenburg Campuses. This will enhance student housing availability by 270 beds.



Upgrades to shops and labs

With labour shortages affecting critical sectors across Nova Scotia, NSCC has modernized several learning spaces for in-demand programs to better prepare students for entry into the workforce. New pharmacy and dental labs, along with upgrades to trades shops are giving students hands-on experience that aligns with industry-standards.



Ivany Campus housing opening

The new 96,000 square foot student housing at Ivany Campus opened in September 2025, providing 200 students with safe, modern, on-campus housing just steps away from the campus. Like all of the College’s recent builds, many alumni were involved in the design and construction of this facility.

Full circle: NSCC grad helps with inclusive student housing design

Mirella graduated from NSCC’s Architectural Engineering Technician program in 2022 and soon found herself contributing to Ivany Campus’ student housing build which opened its doors in September 2025. She supported interior design efforts by selecting samples, contributing to furniture layout studies and helping develop millwork that met accessibility standards.

“The project prioritized accessibility and inclusive design, reinforcing the importance of creating spaces for everyone. After this experience, I enrolled in the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification program, which is also offered through NSCC.” – Mirella

nsc.ca/modern-facilities

Making an impact

130+

programs offered¹

22K

students welcomed each year¹

26

average age of NSCC students¹

88%

of NSCC students are from Nova Scotia¹

56%

of incoming students have previous post-secondary experience³

38%

of incoming students are first generation to attend post-secondary³

93%

of employed NSCC graduates live and work in Nova Scotia²

94%

of graduates satisfied with their overall NSCC experience²

\$2.2B+

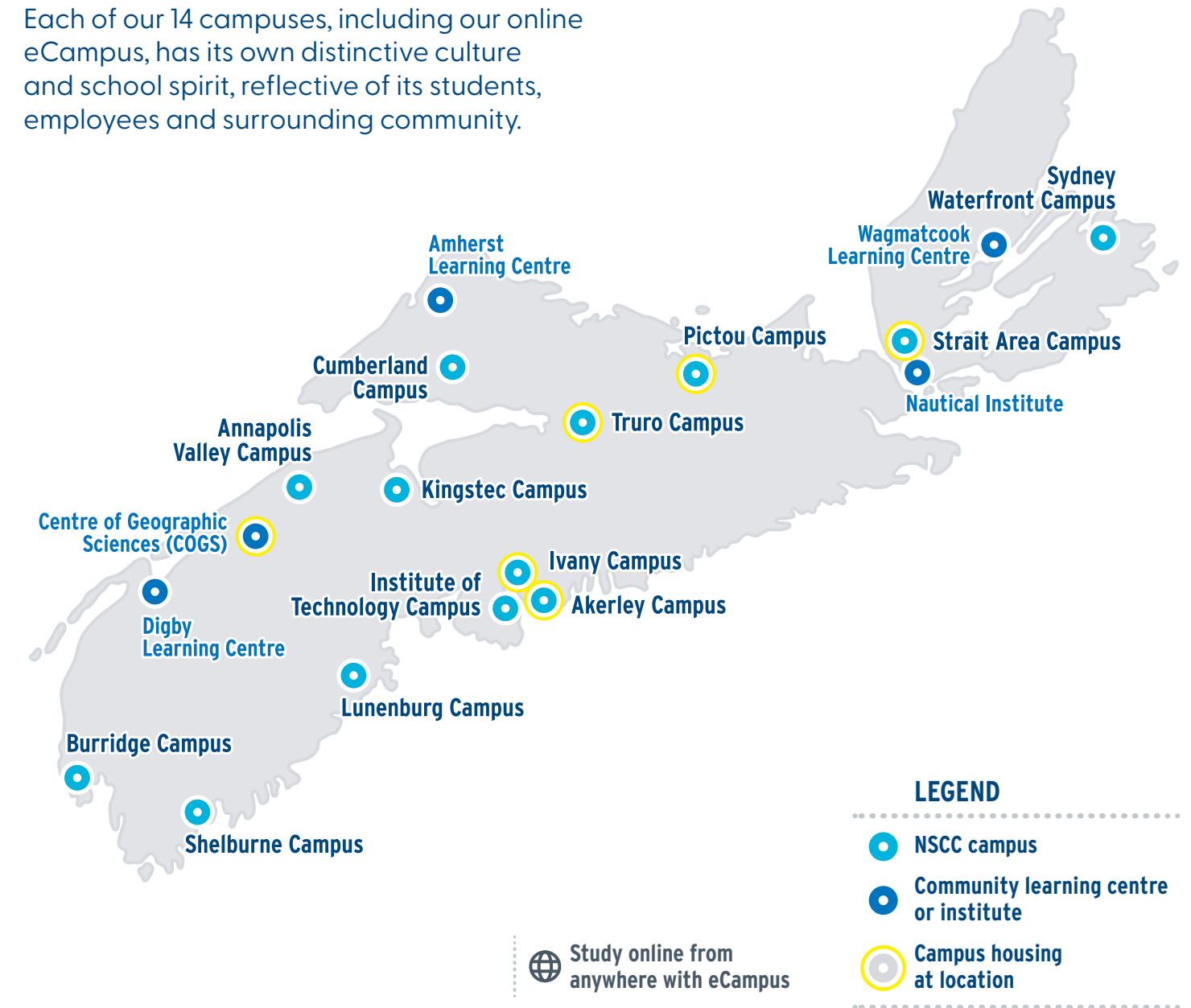
contributed to the Nova Scotia economy by NSCC and its students in 2022-23⁴

Sources:

1. NSCC Institutional Research
2. NSCC 2024 Graduate Survey
3. NSCC 2024 Fall Student Success Survey
4. The Economic Value of Nova Scotia Community College, Lightcast 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.



nsc.ca/communityreport

communityreport@nsc.ca

1-866-679-6722

Financial statements: View the full version of NSCC's Consolidated Financial Statements at nsc.ca/Financials.

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