

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing glasses and a white t-shirt, is smiling and looking towards the left. She appears to be in a conversation with someone wearing a blue bucket hat. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with wooden structures and greenery.

**nsc**  
**REPORT TO THE  
COMMUNITY 2021**



# PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

It was a notably challenging year.

Throughout 2021, our students, alumni and employees placed an enormous level of trust in the College's leadership. To protect our community and province, we transitioned to online learning and nearly all 2,000 employees worked remotely. Around the globe, the pace of digitization ignited. At NSCC, our agile nature was tested in an unprecedented way.

Understandably, some learners questioned if the significant investment they'd made in education would be worth it, and employees wondered if they could make the same impact on students without traditional, face to face engagement.

Yet, as the continuously evolving global crisis called on the world to adapt, our community remained steadfast in preserving the qualities on which NSCC is built: accessibility, diversity, student and employee success, inclusion, innovation, public accountability, safety and sustainability.

Our instructors, campus employees and administrators prioritized students. They absorbed the chaos around them, instilled hope and reassured learners that, despite the disruption, anxiety and loneliness that many felt, they were not alone. Through innovative ideas and a deep desire to help, employees demonstrated that they were there for students and alumni by developing new services and supports that proved critical to their learning, careers and personal wellness.

At the same time, students and new alumni stood by the College. They persisted with resilience and determination as the way they learned, studied, worked and viewed the world fundamentally shifted. They demonstrated strength, compassion and the readiness to demand change for the common good.

For diverse communities, the pressures of this last year were heightened with inequity, racism and hatred hitting far too close to home. As a College, we renewed our efforts to support equity and address matters of social justice.

By introducing our Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion Department, we strengthened our resolve to create an equity ecosystem that eliminates systemic barriers throughout NSCC - inspiring a community where everyone feels a sense of belonging. A place where people are empowered to build awareness, equipped to become allies and compelled to act.

Across the province, we remained poised to once again welcome learners into programs directly tied to the economic fabric of Nova Scotia. We worked to ensure our campuses would endure as catalytic forces for the distinctive communities they serve; and we created resilient, sustainable infrastructure that will ready Nova Scotia for the post-pandemic economy of tomorrow, today.

The spirit and strength shown by students, employees and alumni emanated throughout NSCC and helped us through what is - we hope - the worst of this storm. That resolve has laid the groundwork for a brighter, more tenacious spirit to take root and flourish throughout our community. Our wish is that they continue to draw on this strength. For as they demonstrate a capacity to stay strong and move forward in the face of a history-making moment last witnessed a century ago, our entire province will benefit.

With gratitude, pride and awe,

Don Bureaux - President, NSCC

Judith Ferguson - Chair, NSCC Board of Governors

## AMELIA DINH

With support from NSCC International and EduNova's Study & Stay™ in Nova Scotia program, Amelia Dinh arrived in Springhill ready to build a career as an early childhood educator. Inspired to pay it forward, she became the Student Association President and an International Student Ambassador. As an active alum, she now helps others transition into their new lives and careers in Canada.

“Ever since my arrival in Canada, so many people helped me arrive where I am today. I found so much value in these connections. My ultimate goal is to help people become closer.”

[nsc.ca/Amelia](https://nsc.ca/Amelia)



# CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY.

Early Childhood Education  
Cumberland Campus



# BACK TO *NATURE.*

Remote Sensing  
Annapolis Valley Campus - Centre of Geographic Sciences

## NATHAN CROWELL

NSCC researcher Nathan Crowell is creating a 3D model of the proposed, seaside home for once-captive whales. By gathering data on the seafloor, tidal current velocities and flushing rates, he and the Applied Geomatics Research Group are helping the Whale Sanctuary Project answer complex questions about the future site of North America's first whale sanctuary.

"The area is gorgeous. There's tremendous public interest and it appears to offer a supportive habitat. Our work will help them understand the complex currents along this coastal area. It's too early to tell what the final outcome will be, but I'm honoured to support something so exciting."

[nsc.ca/Nathan](https://nsc.ca/Nathan)

## MARK PATERSON AND KRISTA LETERTE

Chefs Mark Paterson and Krista LeTerte are building a culinary empire in Cape Breton. Each day, the award-winning talents and their team of 30+ create hundreds of thoughtfully curated, expertly prepared apps, entrees and desserts for clients in Sydney and beyond. Across their four lines of business, they're creating jobs and gaining a reputation for mouth-watering flavours and a deep respect for the foodservice sector.

"The program made us appreciate the industry so much. We were inspired to do better and be better by amazing chefs every day - some of the best in the business. It really opened our eyes to how things should be run and it's how we approach things now."

[nsc.ca/MarkandKrista](https://nsc.ca/MarkandKrista)

\* Now called Culinary Management



RECIPE FOR  
**SUCCESS.**

Culinary Arts\*  
Marconi Campus

# WI'KIPATMU'K MI'KMAWEY.



Applied Media and Communication Arts  
Marconi Campus

## RIKI LEE CHRISTMAS

Riki Lee Christmas is the talented artist behind a new program launched at NSCC libraries during Mi'kmaq History Month. The spines of all Mi'kmaq and other first-voice, Indigenous books have been affixed with a label featuring Riki Lee's deeply-symbolic design. The change makes research easier and encourages reconciliation by celebrating Indigenous authors and content.

"The turtle is part of my culture. It's a sacred symbol to the Mi'kmaq and has many meanings. I never thought I'd create something so meaningful. I feel honoured and like I'm capable of so much more."

[nsc.ca/RikiLee](https://nsc.ca/RikiLee)

## VANITY THOMPSON

At the age of 6, Vanity Thompson knew she wanted to become a nurse. While life took a different path than expected, she discovered her dream was within reach when she enrolled in the African Canadian Transition Program\*. Today, Vanity is a Licensed Practical Nurse in the QEII's COVID-19 Unit, and one of the hundreds of frontline workers battling the pandemic to keep Nova Scotians safe.

"I learned what support really was. I was with my community, among my peers. I watched them overcome what society said they couldn't. I gained my confidence in the classroom, and today I wear it like a badge of honour."

[nsc.ca/Vanity](https://nsc.ca/Vanity)

\* Now called Adult Learning Program -  
Africentric Learning Option



**A LIFE'S  
PURPOSE.**

African Canadian Transition Program\* | Practical Nursing  
Akerley Campus | Ivany Campus



# POWER OF LEARNING.

Taisa Bacharini, Business Administration  
Ivany Campus

While we can trace the beginnings of online learning at NSCC to 1998, this year, the COVID-19 pandemic and provincial lockdowns called on our students and instructors to embrace the virtual learning space like never before.

For students, the shift brought on added responsibility, new technology requirements and, for some, unfamiliar learning methods. For instructors, it meant reimagining a curriculum that preserved the academic integrity and essential spirit of what an NSCC education is - applied, innovative and connected to industry.

It was a tall order.

To support them, NSCC launched the Centre for Teaching and Learning and tasked it with developing a culture of teaching and learning excellence. More than 500 faculty members participated in the Centre's voluntary professional development opportunities and gained the skills they needed to foster culturally-responsive online spaces, design authentic assessments and thrive in the new teaching space.

Similarly, students were given new tools, training options and communications methods to help them adapt and find their way forward through the uncertainty.

Across the province and from afar, students and instructors found innovative ways to meet the challenges the year presented.

Guest speakers from across Canada joined classes and learning partnerships were forged with post-secondary institutions as far away as the Philippines - granting students access to game-changing expertise and insight.

Horticulture and Landscape Technology Instructor Michelle Muis visited independent nurseries and garden centres around Nova Scotia, creating videos for her Kingstec Campus students. The virtual field trips provided valuable, real-time instruction on how greenhouses were adapting to the growing demands brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At Ivany Campus, Instructor Chris Davison, a 22-year veteran of the construction industry, found that his testing methods hadn't adequately translated to the online environment. By hosting focus groups with his students, he was able to co-create an assessment tool that better reflected learning outcomes.

The future of our province lies in the power of learning. The commitment to innovation and the eagerness to learn shown by students and instructors demonstrates that Nova Scotia is in great hands.



Dr. Aldrin Darilag, Commission on Higher Education, Philippines



Instructor Chris Davison, Ivany Campus



# **RISING FROM THE PANDEMIC.**



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the construction sector. As borders closed, supply chains slowed; and new safety protocols required worksites and critical activities to be reconceived to ensure this essential work could continue.

Throughout 2021, NSCC Facilities and Engineering completed more than 20 construction projects totaling \$36 million.

Across the industry, while building costs and timelines swelled, the College's unwavering commitment to safety and realizing efficiencies in energy, materials and labour during all phases of a project proved crucial to maintaining budgets and schedules.

At the recently opened Strait Area Campus Residence, the IT Campus Information Technology Innovation Centre and the Annapolis Valley Campus Residence and Innovation Centre at the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS), local crews used locally-sourced, recycled materials to reduce the project's carbon footprint and the need to harvest new resources.

Together, the three facilities expanded the College by 68,000 sq/ft, added 91 beds to its residence offerings and created new opportunities for collaboration, research and applied learning. The projects followed LEED, BOMA Best and Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ standards and will become tremendous models of sustainable, accessible, ethical building practices for tomorrow's workforce.

With support from the Province of Nova Scotia, NSCC also completed life-extending infrastructure upgrades at nine campuses and sites - improving accessibility, efficiency and learner experience.

This commitment to preparing learners and the diverse communities the College serves for a bright, sustainable future also extends beyond the present.



**75-kilowatt solar photovoltaic array at Shelburne Campus**

In Cape Breton, the Downtown Sydney Campus is being built to withstand forecasted sea level rise for the next century. Along with geothermal heating and cooling systems, the campus is being readied to become net zero and produce solar energy. As the province works to increase its reliance on affordable, renewable energy sources, NSCC is ready.

Over the last year and a half, new 75-kilowatt solar photovoltaic arrays have also been installed at COGS, Shelburne and Strait Area Campuses - and six new Level 2 and Level 3 electric vehicle charging stations have significantly grown Nova Scotia's publicly-accessible options.

Through bold leadership and innovative thinking, NSCC is creating future-proof infrastructure that's strengthening the sustainability and capacity of the College, while showcasing a commitment to sustainable development for others to follow.

# LOOKING BACK. THINKING FORWARD.

1872

## HALIFAX MARINE SCHOOL

Nova Scotia's first vocational and technical education institution is established. The marine tradition endures at the Nautical Institute of Strait Area Campus, where training is provided that meets the needs of the marine industry.

1946

## MAJOR JAMES CHURCH

Following WWII, Major James Church moves the Canadian Army's No. 6 Vocational Training School from Halifax to Lawrencetown. In 1963 a purpose-built training facility is established with the construction of the Nova Scotia Land Survey Institute, which is known as the Centre of Geographic Sciences today.

1950

## PREDECESSOR SCHOOLS

Many of the facilities that remain part of NSCC today opened in the 50's, 60's and 70's. Of the existing structures, Truro Campus's Forrester Hall was the first (1961). Only the Halifax County Vocational High School, which would become Bell Road Campus, opened earlier (1950). It would close in 2005.

1996

## BILL 55

On April 1<sup>st</sup> *the Community Colleges Act* is proclaimed and NSCC in its modern form is born. In August, NSCC's first Board of Governors is confirmed.

1997

## STUDENT SERVICES

A task force is formed to improve the range of student supports at NSCC. They develop province-wide admission and registration systems and launch Centres for Student Success at each campus. The centres are the foundation for Student Services, Accessibility Services, Writing and Testing Centres and Career and Employment Services.

1998

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The first positions dedicated to supporting African Nova Scotian students, Indigenous students and those with a disability are introduced.

## ONLINE LEARNING

NSCC launches online programming to support apprenticeship training. In 2018, nine, fully online programs are introduced and eCampus becomes the College's 14<sup>th</sup> campus.

1999

## STRATEGIC PLAN

The College's 1<sup>st</sup> strategic plan is published, and diversity and accessibility are added to NSCC's values. In 2001, NSCC would partner with the Province of Nova Scotia to begin delivering the Adult Learning Program (ALP).

2001

## NSCC FOUNDATION

The NSCC Foundation is incorporated and brings together eight, separate, campus-based, charitable organizations. In 2020, due to the generous support of donors, \$2.3M was distributed in student awards and urgent aid across the College.

2003

## HISTORIC INVESTMENT

The Province of Nova Scotia makes a landmark investment of \$123M in NSCC. The investment supports the modernization of existing facilities across the province and the creation of a new campus - resulting in increased student capacity and enhanced programming.

2007

## SUSTAINABILITY

NSCC Executive pledges to become leaders in sustainability for the benefit of all Nova Scotians.

## WATERFRONT CAMPUS

Waterfront Campus opens in Dartmouth. In 2017, the campus is renamed in honour of former NSCC President Ray Ivany.

2018

## ACCESSIBILITY

NSCC begins offering the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) training program.

NSCC and the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents also begin work on the Nova Scotia Post-Secondary Accessibility Framework.

2021

## NEW BUILDINGS

The IT Campus Information Technology Innovation Centre, Residence and Innovation Centre at the Annapolis Valley Campus - Centre of Geographic Sciences and Strait Area Campus Residence open.

Work continues on the Downtown Sydney Campus, which is set to open in 2024. The project is following LEED, BOMA Best and RHFAC™ standards.

The foundations of NSCC can be seen in the on-the-job training and apprenticeship that sustained Nova Scotia's economy in the late 1800's, and in the province's first vocational and technical education institution - the Halifax Marine School.

Between 1872, when the Halifax Marine School was established, and the end of WWII, demand for specialized,

technical training at the post-secondary level that could support the province's economy at sea and on land swelled.

In time, the demand would lead to the creation of the Canadian Army's No. 6 Vocational Training School in Lawrencetown in 1946 and nearly 20 additional vocational schools that would open in regions across Nova Scotia during the 50's, 60's and 70's.

By 1988, the Province of Nova Scotia began work to bring these schools together under one umbrella, which it would oversee. Less than a decade later, the Minister of Education and Culture introduced a bill calling for the institutions to be formally moved outside of government. On April 1, 1996, that bill - *the Community Colleges Act* - was proclaimed. A Board of Governors was established shortly after, and NSCC in its modern form was born.

Today, NSCC remains focused on serving the constantly evolving needs of its students and the province. Through innovative thinking, bold leadership and a deep commitment to fostering pathways to education, NSCC is a catalytic force and that strives to set an example others can follow to a brighter future for all.

[nsc.ca/timeline](https://nsc.ca/timeline)

# MAKING AN IMPACT

**20K**

STUDENTS WELCOMED EACH YEAR

**55%**

INCOMING STUDENTS WITH PREVIOUS POST-SECONDARY EXPERIENCE <sup>1</sup>

**77%**

GROWTH IN MI'KMAQ AND INDIGENOUS STUDENT ENROLMENT SINCE 2010 <sup>2</sup>

**93%**

GRADUATES SATISFIED WITH THEIR OVERALL NSCC EXPERIENCE <sup>3</sup>

**86%**

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PLANNING TO APPLY FOR A POST GRADUATE WORK PERMIT <sup>4</sup>

**94%**

EMPLOYED NSCC GRADUATES LIVING AND WORKING IN NOVA SCOTIA <sup>3</sup>

**\$2.3M**

DISTRIBUTED IN STUDENT AWARDS AND URGENT AID <sup>5</sup>

**86%**

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN FULL TIME STUDIES <sup>6</sup>

**36%**

FIRST GENERATION TO ATTEND POST-SECONDARY <sup>1</sup>

**NSCC IS FOR**  
THOSE WHO STRIVE  
TO KNOW MORE,  
DO MORE, BE MORE.

1. 2020 Fall Student Success Survey  
2. 2010-2020 Official Fall Milestone Enrolment  
3. NSCC 2020 Graduate Survey

4. 2019 Incoming Student Success Survey  
5. NSCC Foundation & Alumni Relations 2020-2021 Annual Report on Giving  
6. 2020 Official Fall Milestone Enrolment