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Welcome to our future



The Evolution of Canada's Portfolio College

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NSCC is a modern comprehensive community college that has established itself in the past 10 years as Canada's Portfolio College. This unique foundation is the base from which we deliver educational opportunities that are responsive, value-based and keenly honed to the skills our learners need to enter the workplace.

The future is not predictable, and more and more in the 21st century we need educated citizens who have the skills, knowledge and imagination to ignite the possibilities before them. As NSCC enters its second decade as a Board-governed institution, and establishes its strategies for the future, the College is poised to create and deliver ever more flexible opportunities to meet the increasingly varied needs of Nova Scotia's learners, communities, businesses and industries.

Our first strategic plan defined NSCC as a modern college to support the ongoing development of Nova Scotia; this strategic plan will build from that foundation to deliver extraordinary learning to the province and the nation.

In developing the Strategic Plan, we engaged in dialogue with thousands of Nova Scotians. As we discussed the type of education and innovation they need to continue building our economy and quality of life, it became clear that it included high-quality career education; however, learners and employers told us definitively they needed something more.

The workplace is changing rapidly, and NSCC is changing to meet the demands of our communities and employers. We are truly at the cusp of a new horizon in learning and the evolution of the College. Our vision of education without boundaries will blend learning, community service and work in innovative ways to ensure NSCC stays at the center of supporting the Nova Scotia economy.

NSCC will build towards the future from its foundation as Canada's Portfolio College. NSCC is creating a new workforce for the skills shortage, new leaders and citizens to drive Nova Scotia and its increasingly globalized economy, and new graduates with strong personal visions of what they might accomplish in their lives.

NSCC and Portfolio Learning

As we worked with Nova Scotians to build our strategies it was clear our communities, businesses and industries wanted us to continue the work we were doing, and use our strong foundation as a portfolio college to design the future.

Nova Scotia Community College has spent years working towards the creation of a national-calibre college: it is now time to build on what we have done to ignite our collective imagination for the future.

Portfolio learning and assessment is a practice in education born from the concept that learning is undertaken and reflected in multiple ways. NSCC portfolio learning is a means through which learners can reflect upon, present, and demonstrate their skills and knowledge during their time at NSCC and use portfolio as the cornerstone of lifelong learning. For NSCC, becoming a practicing portfolio college has allowed us to embrace several educational philosophies and practices that support portfolio education:

- We undertake education from a set of values that support NSCC as a learning college; we understand that to develop the workers of tomorrow, as educators, we must be on the cutting edge of learning—individually and as an organization.
- We use and understand the concept of servant leadership and service to our communities.
- We use portfolio as a graduation requirement for our students so that they are able to articulate what they have learned and why that learning is relevant to employers.
- We also use portfolio as a graduation requirement for our students so they have the ability to be a knowledge worker for the 21st century where skill is not enough.
- We encourage the use of portfolio by all employees of NSCC as a way to reflect their learning as part of an organization that champions, not just what is known currently, but what might be imagined for the future.
- We create learner pathways that support multiple ways in which learning can happen.

NSCC provides learning opportunities for people who have not completed high school, who have high school and are seeking a career, who have post-secondary education, who want to participate in applied research, who are in the workforce with goals of career advancement, or who are simply seeking learning. We are Canada's Portfolio College.

Welcome to Our Future: The NSCC Strategic Plan

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NSCC is a portfolio college because we believe portfolio, as an educational practice, provides our learners with skills and abilities that more closely match the needs of employers. It is from this foundation that we present our Mission, Vision, and Strategies for the future.

NSCC is already at the forefront of education innovation in Canada. The last Strategic Plan helped us create a new college with increased capacity and new facilities. This Strategic Plan will use that foundation to deliver on our goal to be a national-calibre college. To sustain our leadership position in meeting the needs of learners, we must continue to evolve our learning, and the services we provide. The Mission and Values that have served us so well in the past remain current and will carry us into the future. This strategic plan—built in consultation with the citizens of Nova Scotia—defines a bold new Vision for NSCC as it enters its second decade as a Board-governed institution.

Learners come to NSCC to gain skills for respected, in-demand careers. Our strategies for the future will continue to deliver on this promise to Nova Scotians, while stretching to embrace a larger Vision—education without boundaries. This Vision will ensure our graduates have the cutting edge skills needed for in-demand careers in the 21st century. Accordingly, we have focussed our plan around three key strategies to achieve our Vision.

These strategies—Learning, Capacity, and Future—are the lens through which we will add even greater value to our learners' experience, and ensure our continued development as a national education leader. Through the implementation of these strategies our people—our NSCC community—will add new energy to our values by creating the highest quality programs and service available in College education.

Mission

Building Nova Scotia's economy and quality of life through education and innovation.

Vision

NSCC learners will blend learning, community service, and work in ways that put them at the innovative edge of the global economy, where the world places a premium on knowledge, imagination, and skill. In essence, education without boundaries.

Values

Student Success

We support, recognize and celebrate student success.

Accessibility

We are committed to providing greater access to educational opportunities.

Service

We reach out to people to help connect our programs and services to their needs.

Respect

We develop our working and learning relationships from a foundation of mutual trust and respect.

Collaboration

We reward collaboration, diversity of expression, and decisiveness.

Diversity

We believe diversity in the College is a strength that must be cultivated.

Innovation

We value innovative ideas and actions that engage students, employers, and communities in learning and development.

Public Accountability

We are responsible and accountable for the public's trust.

Strategic Direction One: Learning

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Learning is at the core of what we do at NSCC. We create environments that foster possibility and imagination, prepare people for work, and give them the ability to acquire new knowledge when they need it. NSCC will blend learning, community service and work in ways that put learners at the innovative edge of what employers and the economy need. NSCC will undertake the following goals dedicated to learning:

Learning

Portfolio Learning

Advance the use of Portfolio Learning to create programming that leads the nation and provides a critical tool for access, foreign credential recognition, program learning, transition to work and the knowledge economy, and Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition (PLAR).

Pathways

Provide extraordinary service in ensuring learners are prepared for the learning pathway process we create with our P-12 partners, Universities, Colleges, Community Partners and the Workplace.

Flexibility

Create greater flexibility across our learning experience to include the creation of virtual learning communities, fast-tracked programs, alternate delivery, and increasingly varied options to meet the needs of the future workforce.

Inclusiveness

Ensure an inclusive learning environment that honours the unique background and potential of each learner, and the diversity of cultures in our global community.

Student Life

Create a learning environment where the entire college community works to provide structured and informal opportunities for students to explore, expand, and enrich their learning experience.

Strategic Direction Two: Capacity

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Capacity is the basis on which NSCC will be able to deliver education without boundaries. NSCC will continue to build capacity in the College to ensure our ability to sustain our promise to Nova Scotians, while growing to meet the evolving demands of our market. We will focus our capacity building on people and partnerships. NSCC will undertake the following goals dedicated to strengthening our capacity:

Community

People

Create an environment that drives our passion for learning and our commitment to making a difference, while developing extraordinary people who bring out the best in others and apply their talents in pursuit of our Vision. By focusing on learning, flexibility, and wellness we will become an employer of choice and create an environment of celebration.

Brand

Ensure NSCC delivers on its promise of quality and excellence to Nova Scotia, and becomes known in the province, the country, and around the world for our ability to blend learning, community service and work, and for graduates who are at the innovative edge of the global economy.

Stewardship

Provide leadership in the management and development of our opportunities, resources and partnerships to ensure we demonstrate excellence and merit trust in everything we do as an organization.

Infrastructure

Accommodate the learners required by Nova Scotia's economy—in our own spaces and/or in partnership with others.

Advancement

Expand our capacity to foster lifelong relationships and initiatives which will support the continued development of the College, its relationship with alumni and the extended NSCC community, and its capacity to serve the province.

Strategic Direction Three: Future

Learning and capacity building form a natural platform from which to look to the future. We will ignite passion for the future of Nova Scotia inside NSCC and with our partners. NSCC will undertake the following goals focused on the future:



Employer Engagement

Design and deliver innovative methods of assisting employers in attracting and developing employees and potential employees.

Legacy Learning

Create and implement a model of learning that builds opportunities for Nova Scotians approaching retirement to contribute in new ways to the future of the province.

Community and Economic Development

Use our capacity in relationship building, entrepreneurship and learning to broker unique solutions for business, industries and communities, and generate in our graduates an entrepreneurial spirit for business and social ventures.

Ingenuity and Responsiveness

Expand our work in applied research and direct industry innovation to apply new knowledge to the emerging markets of our partners, and to the evolution of practice in our fields of expertise.

Teaching and Learning

Expand upon the expertise we have developed for community college teaching and learning so we operate in, draw ideas from, and share best practices in national and international arenas.

International

Create a global outlook in our curriculum, student learning, and employee experiences. Work with employers and communities to attract and retain foreign-trained experts from around the world to be part of the Nova Scotia economy and community.

Working for Nova Scotians

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Our Plan is enabled by the talent and commitment of NSCC employees, and the collective drive to live our values and deliver the highest standards of quality. As a public institution dedicated to high quality, stewardship and extraordinary learning in all we do, we will continue to expand the interconnectedness of the Strategic Plan, NSCC quality initiatives, our business and academic planning, and our public benchmarks.

NSCC learners will blend learning, community service, and work in ways that put them at the innovative edge of the global economy where the world places a premium on knowledge, imagination, and skill. In essence, education without boundaries.

This vision will take us into the next stage in the evolution of the Nova Scotia Community College. Our vision is both simple and bold. It is about partnerships that foster learning in all its various forms. And, it is about being Nova Scotia's college and being prepared to undertake the work Nova Scotia has asked us to do.

Welcome to the evolution of Canada's Portfolio College.

Thank You Nova Scotia

This Strategic Plan was built in partnership with the people of Nova Scotia.

We organized 60 external consultations with business, community and government leaders in 38 locations across the province. These leaders shared their time, experience, and ideas to build the future of the College.

This was combined with 25 strategic dialogue sessions we held with NSCC students and colleagues during the course of the Academic Year.

In total, over 2,000 Nova Scotians have had a hand in the creation of this Strategic Plan.

- Our students responded with ideas about student life, learning and their needs for the future.
- Our business and industry leaders responded to help us generate ideas about how we can continue to develop learners who have the abilities to match the needs of Nova Scotia's economy.
- Our communities responded, both urban and rural, with suggestions about how the college can support our communities as learning partners and economic drivers.
- Our governments responded from all three levels - federal, provincial, and municipal - to assist in designing a dynamic college.
- Our internal community responded to help us reflect on where we have been as a portfolio college and where we can go as a global leader in community college education.

In creating this new plan with Nova Scotians we held to our mission and values because they continue to be the foundation of NSCC and the learning it creates. Nova Scotians helped us create a new vision that is ambitious and future-focused.

Nova Scotia responded and we listened. This plan has been built from the work of Nova Scotians, and as Nova Scotia's College we thank you.

Our strategic commitment to you is to continue to listen and be responsive to the future of Nova Scotia.



Nova Scotia Community College Strategic Plan
welcometoourfuture.nsc.ca

