

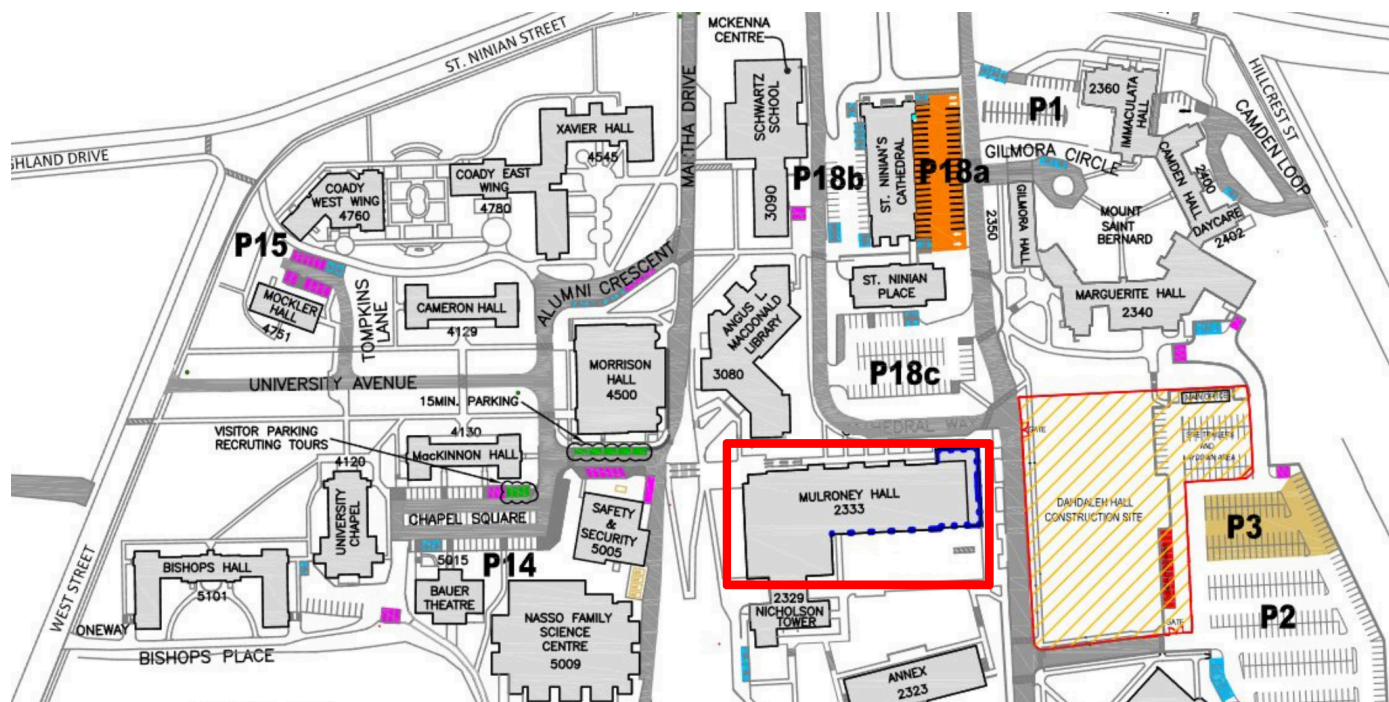
# Annual 2025 Leadership Meetings Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15, 2025



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**  
 UNIVERSITY

**Hosted by St. Francis Xavier University**

All meetings will be held in Mulroney Hall, Room 3022 (MULH 3022)  
 2332 Notre Dame Ave, Antigonish, NS B2G 1Z3



## Schedule of Events

(Nova Scotia Standard Time)

All meetings will be held in Room 3022 of the [Mulroney Hall](#) (MULH 3022), unless otherwise specified

### Friday, November 14

9:00 am-12:00 pm	Deans of Science Meeting (MULH 3022)
12:00-1:30 pm	Deans of Science Lunch (MULH 3024)
1:30-3:00 pm	Institutional Reps (IR) Meeting (MULH 3022)
3:00-4:00 pm	Registration/Reception (MULH East Foyer)
4:00-5:30 pm	Annual Members Meeting (livestreamed) (MULH 3022)
6:00-9:00 pm	Dinner and Social: <a href="#">McKenna Centre</a>

### Saturday, November 15

7:30-9:00 am	Division Chairs (DC) Breakfast Meeting (Maritime Inn Antigonish Celtic Room - Floor 1)
9:30-11:45 am	Joint IR/DC Meeting (MULH 3022)
12:00-1:15 pm	Lunch (MULH 3024)
1:15-2:45 pm	<a href="#">Science Communication workshop with Justin Gregg</a> (MULH 3024)
2:45-3:00 pm	Wrap up (MULH 3022)
3:00-3:30 pm	Board Meeting (Board only) (MULH 3022)

## Our Mission

To grow and connect the post-secondary science communities in Atlantic Canada.

## Our Values

### Inclusiveness

We embrace the values of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility.

### Leadership

We are a voice and a resource for science in Atlantic Canada's post-secondary communities.

### Responsiveness

We provide timely decisions and actions to advance our organization and support our members.

### Community

We provide a warm and welcoming environment.

### Sustainability

We support our communities into the future through responsible and sustainable resource allocation in our organization and activities.

## Our Vision

Science Atlantic is a committed, member-driven organization that builds collaboration and partnerships to strengthen post-secondary science communities across the Atlantic region.



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY

November 13, 2025

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to St. Francis Xavier University for the **2025 Science Atlantic Annual General Meeting**. Our University is pleased to host this year's meeting.

Science Atlantic plays an important role in fostering collaboration, innovation, and excellence in science education and research across the region. We are proud to support this vital network and to see the spirit of cooperation and discovery it inspires among our institutions.

On behalf of the entire StFX community, I extend a warm welcome to each of you. I hope you will find your time here both productive and enjoyable, and that the discussions and connections formed over the course of your meetings will strengthen your shared commitment to advancing science in Atlantic Canada.

I wish you an engaging and successful meeting, and a pleasant stay on our campus and in our community.

Sincerely,

Andy W. Hakin, PhD  
President and Vice-Chancellor



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

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## List of Participants

Carl Adams (StFX)	Division Chair; Physics & Astronomy
Joe Apaloo (StFX)	Host; Institutional Representative
Erin Austen (StFX)	Division Representative; Psychology
Robert Bailey (MUN-Grenfell)	Institutional Representative
Glen Briand (MtA)	Division Chair; Chemistry
Heather Bruce (Dal-Ag)	Institutional Representative
Carter Clifton (StFX)	Student Representative
Isaac Cook (Dal Innovates)	Board Director; Community-at-Large
Darien DeWolf (StFX)	Board Director; Division Chair, Mathematics
James Gauld (MUN)	Institutional Representative
Katherine Gottschall-Pass (UPEI)	Acting Institutional Representative
Jeff Hooper (Acadia)	Institutional Representative
Alain Joseph (NSCC)	Institutional Representative
Dale Keefe (Acadia)	Incoming Board Chair
Milton King (StFX)	Division Chair; Computer Science
Charles Macdonald (DAL)	Outgoing Board Chair
Andrew MacDougall (StFX)	Division Representative; Environment
Stephanie MacQuarrie (CBU)	Institutional Representative
Heather Penney (StFX)	Division Co-Chair; Applied Aquatic Sciences
Sanjeev Seahra (UNB-F)	Institutional Representative
Steven Smith (SMU)	Treasurer
Céline Surette (UdeM)	Board Director; Institutional Representative
Jennifer Taylor (UPEI)	Division Chair, Nutrition and Foods
Jennifer Tomes (MtA)	Board Director; Institutional Representative
Deanne Van Rooyen (Acadia)	Board Director; Division Chair, Earth Science; Chair of Division Chairs
Jonathan Wilbiks (UNB-SJ)	Acting Institutional Representative

## Staff and Guests

Justin Gregg	Guest Speaker
Maria Hamilton	Facilitator
Abigail Keeping	Administrative Assistant
Jessica Trigo	Full Stack Web Developer
Mikayla Hanlon	Conference Support Assistant
Lois Whitehead	Executive Director

# Annual Members Meeting

**November 14, 2025, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm AST**

Hosted by St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS

## Agenda

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
2. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum
3. Approval of the Agenda (vote) [[page 7](#)]
4. Approval of the Annual Members Meeting Minutes, Nov. 15, 2024 (vote) [[page 9](#)]
5. Opening Remarks from the Chair of the Board of Directors
6. Report from the Executive Director
7. Acceptance of the 2025 Board Committee Reports [[page 14](#)]
8. Acceptance of the 2025 Division Committee Reports [[page 24](#)]
9. Financial Report
  - i) Presentation of the 2024-2025 Financial Statement (vote) [[page 46](#)]
  - ii) Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2026 (vote)
  - iii) Presentation of 2025-2026 Budget [[page 12](#)]
10. Governance Report
  - i) Amendments to the By-laws (vote) [[page 57](#)]
  - ii) Election of 2024-25 Board of Directors (vote) [[page 13](#)]
11. Other Business
  - i) Host for 2026 Annual Meeting
12. Adjournment

## List of Motions

**Note: There is one vote per Member Institution, exercised by the Dean/Institutional Representative or their proxy.**

Agenda Item	Motion
3.	<b>Moved</b> that the agenda be approved as [circulated/amended].
4.	<b>Moved</b> that the minutes of the November 15, 2024, Annual Members Meeting be approved as circulated.
9.i.	<b>Moved</b> that the financial statements for the fiscal period ending August 31, 2025 be accepted as presented. (See <a href="#">Appendix A</a> )
9.ii.	<b>Moved</b> that Doane Grant Thornton be retained as the financial reviewer for 2025-2026.
10.i.	<p><b>1. Be it resolved by special resolution</b>, as outlined in the Notice of Motion circulated to Members on November 1, 2025, that the Articles of Incorporation be amended by deleting the existing Schedule entitled “Classes of Members” and replacing it with the revised Schedule noted below:</p> <p>The Corporation is authorized to establish two classes of members: Voting Members and Non-voting Members. The rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching to each class of members are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Voting Members: Voting Members shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote at all meetings of members of the Corporation.</li> <li>ii. Non-voting Members: Non-voting Members shall be entitled to receive notice of and attend all meetings of members of the Corporation but shall not be entitled to vote at such meetings.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Be it resolved by special resolution</b>, as outlined in the Notice of Motion circulated to Members on November 1, 2025, that amendments to the By-laws to establish new classes of membership, be approved as presented in the Notice of Motion. (See <a href="#">Appendix C</a>)</p>
10.ii.	<p>1. Vote to elect Director-at-Large (<a href="#">poll</a>). (See <a href="#">Appendix D</a>)</p> <p>2. <b>Moved</b> that Mount Allison University be authorized to recommend a student representative to the Board for 2025-2027.</p> <p>3. <b>Moved</b> that the slate of Board Directors be approved as presented.</p>



# 2024 Annual Members Meeting Minutes

Hosted by Memorial University  
Friday, November 15, 2024, 3:00 pm NST

## Minutes (Draft)

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

Host Travis Fridgen (MUN), presented a land acknowledgment and welcomed attendees.

2. **Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum**

The Board Chair, Charles Macdonald (Dal), confirmed that a quorum was met.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved** (Joe Apaloo/Sanjeev Seahra) that the agenda be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

4. **Approval of the Annual Members Meeting Minutes, November 24, 2023**

**Moved** (Joe Apaloo/and Jennifer Tomes) that the minutes of the 2023 Annual Members Meeting be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

5. **Opening Remarks from the Chair of the Board of Directors**

Charles Macdonald provided opening remarks.

6. **Report from the Executive Director**

Lois Whitehead, Executive Director, provided a written and verbal report.

7. **Strategic Planning Report**

Malcolm Butler (SMU) presented a summary of the activities undertaken over the past year to support the 2023-2028 strategic plan.

8. **Acceptance of 2024 Division Committee Reports**

The Division reports were accepted as circulated. Andrea Burgess (UNB-SJ) highlighted the activities of the Division Chairs over the past year.

9. **Financial Report**

i. **Presentation of the 2023-2024 Financial Statement**

As Steven Smith (Treasurer) was experiencing flight delays, on his behalf, Lois Whitehead presented Grant Thornton's August 31, 2024, financial statement.

ii. **Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2025**

**Moved** (Stephanie MacQuarrie/Robert Bailey) that Grant Thornton be retained as the financial reviewer for 2024-2025. **Carried.**

iii. **Presentation of 2024-2025 Budget**

On behalf of Steven Smith, Lois Whitehead presented the 2024-2025 budget.

## 10. Governance Report

### i. Amendments to the By-laws

The members reviewed the previously circulated Notice of Motion.

**Moved** (Joe Apaloo/Céline Surette) that Section 11.02, Makeup and Number of Directors, be amended so that the Board will include up to two student representatives and up to 14 voting Directors. **Carried.**

**Moved** (Joe Apaloo/Céline Surette) that Section 11.03, Term of Office of Directors, be amended to reflect a change in student representative term length to two years. **Carried.**

### ii. Election of 2024-25 Board of Directors

For the positions that did not have multiple nominees,

**Moved** (Jennifer Tomes/Stephanie MacQuarrie) that the slate of Board Directors for 2024-2025 be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

For the position of Director, Community-at-Large, an anonymous vote was held, appointing Svetlana Barkanova (Grenfell) to the position.

The Board Directors for 2024-2025 were confirmed as:

#### **Executive**

- **Board Chair:** Malcolm Butler (Saint Mary's University)
- **Past Chair:** Charles Macdonald (Dalhousie University)
- **Treasurer:** Steve Smith (Saint Mary's University) (continuing)

#### **Directors, Institutional Representatives**

- Alain Joseph (NS Community College) (continuing)
- Jennifer Tomes (Mount Allison University) (continuing)
- Céline Surette (Université de Moncton)

#### **Directors, Division Representatives**

- Angie Birt (Mount Saint Vincent University) (continuing)
- Darien DeWolf (St. Francis Xavier University) (continuing)
- Deanne Van Rooyen (Acadia University)

#### **Directors, Community-at-Large**

- Isaac Cook (Dal Innovates) (continuing)
- Nick Nickerson (Eosense) (continuing)
- Svetlana Barkanova (MUN-Grenfell)

#### **Director, Student Representative**

- Rachael Bennett (St. Francis Xavier University)

Outgoing members Andrea Burgess and Travis Fridgen were thanked for their service. A special thanks was extended to Charles Macdonald for his two-year term as Chair of the Board.

**11. Other Business**

i. **Host for 2025 Annual Meeting**

Joe Apaloo, the Institutional Representative for St. Francis Xavier University, confirmed they will host the 2025 Annual Meeting.

**12. Adjournment of Business Meeting**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm NST.

## 2025-2026 Approved Budget Comparison to Past Actuals

	2025-2026 Approved Budget	2024-25 Actuals (Grant Thornton)	2024-25 Approved Budget	2023-24 Actuals (Grant Thornton)
<b>Revenues</b>				
Membership fees	\$ 196,917	\$ 187,540	\$ 187,540	\$ 182,080
Associate membership fees	0	-	3,000	-
Employment grants (confirmed)	51,854	65,868	17,624	56,293
Donations	5,000	3,745	5,000	4,294
Corporate sponsorships including awards	2,400	-	11,900	-
Conference income	2000	2,165	-	1,200
Miscellaneous income	-	12,399	-	418
	<b>258,171</b>	<b>271,717</b>	<b>225,064</b>	<b>244,285</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Division programs	1,600	1,601	1,800	1,457
Insurance	764	764	764	764
Office (including Fourwaves)	12,150	10,093	11,686	7,742
Professional fees	21,080	25,134	17,000	20,904
Student awards	6,400	5,998	6,400	6,400
Travel	4,000	2,741	3,000	3,592
Volunteer recognition	250	-	250	-
Strategic projects	-	-	-	-
Wages and benefits	224,924	243,851	201,871	230,133
	<b>271,168</b>	<b>290,182</b>	<b>242,771</b>	<b>270,992</b>
<b>(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenditures</b>	<b>(12,997)</b>	<b>(18,465)</b>	<b>(17,707)</b>	<b>(26,707)</b>
<b>Other income</b>				
Interest income	2,500	3,145	4,000	4,578
Loss on sale of marketable securities	-	-	-	(9,081)
Adjustment of investment to market value	5,000	18,628	5,000	20,664
	<b>7,500</b>	<b>21,773</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>16,161</b>
<b>(Deficiency) excess of total income over expenditure</b>	<b>\$ (5,497)</b>	<b>\$ 3,308</b>	<b>\$ (8,707)</b>	<b>\$ (10,546)</b>
<b>Use of previous investment gains</b>				
2025 surplus for 2026 (\$6K); 2023 surplus (\$22,313) for 2024 (\$10.5K) and 2025 (\$10K)	6,000	10,000	10,000	10,500
<b>Final operating (deficit) surplus</b>	<b>\$ 503</b>	<b>\$ 13,308</b>	<b>\$ 1,293</b>	<b>\$ (46)</b>

## 2025 Slate of Board Nominees

(See [Appendix D](#))

\* Names in **bold** are nominated or reoffering Directors

### Executive

- **Incoming Chair: Dale Keefe** (Acadia) (to Nov. 2027)
- **Nominated: Treasurer: Katherine Gottschall Pass** (UPEI) (to Nov. 2027)
- Past Chair (Continuing): Charles Macdonald (Dal) (to Nov. 2026)

### Directors-at-Large, Institutional Representatives (one position available)

- Continuing: Céline Surette (UdeM) (to Nov. 2026)
- **Reoffering: Jennifer Tomes** (MtA) (to Nov. 2027)
- **Nominated: Sanjeev Seahra** (UNB-F) (to Nov. 2027)

### Directors-at-Large, Division Committee Chairs

- Continuing: Deanne van Rooyen; Chair of Division Chairs; Chair, Earth Science Division (to Nov. 2026)
- **Reoffering: Angie Birt (MSVU)**; Chair, Psychology Division (to Nov. 2027)
- **Reoffering: Darien DeWolf (StFX)**; Chair, Mathematics and Statistics Division (to Nov. 2027)

### Directors-at-Large, Community (one position available)

- Continuing: Nick Nickerson (EOSense) (to Nov. 2026)
- Continuing: Svetlana Barkanova (Grenfell) (to Nov. 2026)
- **Nominated: Vote** (to Nov. 2027) ([poll](#))

### Student Representatives (one position available)

- Continuing: Carter Clifton (StFX) (to Nov. 2026)
- **To be determined: Appointed by Mount Allison University**

# 2025 Annual Members Board Committee Reports

## Board Development

Chair	Isaac Cook, ( <i>Director-at-large; Dal Innovates</i> )
Members	Charles Macdonald ( <i>Past Chair; Dalhousie University</i> )

### 2024-25 Developments

- Amended Board Charter (Approved March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025)
- Developed new Board Agreement (May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025)
- A friendly reminder that the [Board Hub](#) contains all relevant board-related documents and information.

### 2025 – 2027 Board of Directors Nominations

#### Treasurer

- Katherine Gottschall-Pass (UPEI)

#### Director, Institutional Representative (One Vacancy)

- Sanjeev Seahra (UNB, Fredericton)

#### Director: Community-at-Large (One Vacancy)

- Carrie-Ellen Gabriel (DFO)
- Ophelia Fernandes (Fora: Network for Change; Newfoundland and Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs (NLOWE))
- Shannan Grant (MSVU)
- Asif Saiyed (Delviom, LLC)

### Other

Many thanks again to outgoing Board members:

- Isaac Cook (Dal Innovates), Director-at-Large, Chair of Board Development
- Alain Joseph (Nova Scotia Community College), Director, Institutional Representative
- Steven Smith (Saint Mary's University), Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee

## Community of Practice

Chair	Jennifer Tomes (MtA)
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### Activities and Projects

- A Deans and equivalent community of practice group has been created. The group is meeting once per month. Participants can raise issues they are dealing with and other members of the group can provide support and advice.
- There have been several meetings and 4-6 people have been attending the meetings.
- The discussions appear to have been helpful for those who are participating.
- If anyone is not on the email distribution list for the group, but is interested in participating, please send an email to [jtomes@mta.ca](mailto:jtomes@mta.ca).

## Division Chairs Committee

Chair	Deanne van Rooyen
Members	<i>Tammy Rodela (Acting Chair for Heather Penney) (AAS), Anne Dalziel (AAS), Stevan Springer (Biology), Lois Murray (Biology), Brian MacLean (CHEM), Glen Briand (CHEM), Cezar Câmpeanu (CS), Deanne Van Rooyen (Earth), Joshua Kurek (ENV), Nelson O'Driscoll (ENV), Carl Adams (PHYS), Darien DeWolf (MATH), Jennifer Taylor (NUTR), Angie Birt (PSYC)</i>

### Activities and Projects

- Committee meeting highlights
  - Committee had meetings in March and September 2025.
  - Major issues for all committees include:
    - Faculty engagement – many committees struggling to fill representative positions, not much buy-in from some departments
    - Conference finances – hard for students to manage, finance offices not always responsive, will improve with new MOU
    - Conference rotations – some committees have a very hard time finding universities willing to host conferences, others have no problems with it because they either have a set schedule or committee representatives, or both.
    - Lack of awareness within some departments of the benefits/activities of Science Atlantic – some institutions or departments have less history

<p>with SA, pandemic interrupted many conferences, and new faculty from outside region may not know much about SA if they do not get information from their department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey on reasons for Division Chairs to attend AMM highlighted some things Division representatives would be interested in seeing as workshops or activities. Suggestions were forwarded to organizers.</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the large majority of the Division Chairs, the major contribution that Science Atlantic makes is in supporting student conferences.</li> <li>The student conference system in the Atlantic Region is unique in Canada for the number of different conferences, and the extensive participation by a large number of universities.</li> <li>Undergraduate conferences in particular are the most important things that Science Atlantic can contribute to, and without SA support some conferences would not continue while others would be perfectly fine without SA.</li> <li>There is a real desire to focus on this core function of the organization to make it continue successfully.</li> </ul>

## Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Committee

Chair	Nola Etkin (UPEI)
Members	<i>Svetlana Barkanova (Vice-Chair; MUN Grenfell Campus)</i> <i>Isaac Cook (Dalhousie)</i>

<b>Activities and Projects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee has met several times with James Gauld (Dean of Science MUN), Landon Getz, Sarah Martell (Dal), and Lois to discuss support to re-start the QATCanSTEM Conference, which James Gauld has offered to host in St. John's in the spring of 2027.</li> <li>Committee met with CISE Chairs to discuss potential interactions and collaborations</li> <li>Committee will be reviewing terms of reference and recruiting new members in 2026.</li> </ul>



## Finance

Chair	Steven Smith
Date submitted	Oct. 15, 2025
Changes to membership (if any)	Chair stepping down Nov. 15, 2025; Céline Surette (new member), Nick Nickerson (continuing member)

Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had fees discussion – focus for review will be associate memberships and fee calculations for colleges; ad hoc fees committee struck at Board level</li> <li>• Continued to discuss value proposition</li> <li>• Opened new bank account with TD in order to facilitate e-payments to universities for conferences</li> <li>• Monitored 2024-2025 budget and expenses; finished year with small surplus</li> <li>• Developed 2025-2026 budget; consulted with Executive and Board on specific challenges; approved by Board Aug. 18, 2025</li> <li>• Strong investment performance (include numbers)</li> </ul>
Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Treasurer to be elected at the Nov. 15, 2025, AMM</li> <li>• Ad hoc Membership Fees committee to continue meeting to discuss college and associate member fees</li> <li>• Continued budget monitoring</li> <li>• Continued monitoring of investments</li> </ul>

## Fundraising Committee

Chair	Nick Nickerson (Eosense)
Members	Angie Birt (MSVU), Sanjeev Seahra (UNB), Glen Briand (Mt.A), Lois Whitehead (Executive Director)

2024-25 Summary
The Fundraising Committee continued to build Science Atlantic's fundraising capacity through structured processes, expanded outreach, and the introduction of long-term engagement strategies. Over the year, the Committee shifted from a testing phase to a more systematic approach to sponsorship, grant writing, and alumni engagement. This included the

implementation of new standard operating procedures (SOPs), a detailed potential sponsors and grants database, and improved internal coordination.

### **Key Achievements**

- Established consistent fundraising procedures and tools, including SOPs for outreach and standardized templates for calls and emails.
- Conducted outreach to more than 100 companies; developed reciprocal partnership with Digital Nova Scotia for newsletter promotion.
- Submitted multiple grant applications, including the Honda Membership Development proposal and the New Horizons for Seniors Program focused on alumni mentorship.
- Created and maintained a comprehensive sponsorship, grant, and donations spreadsheet to support annualized fundraising cycles.
- Launched alumni research initiative identifying over 700 former award winners and building the foundation for long-term donor relations.
- Introduced the Income Diversification Scorecard to track and communicate progress efficiently.
- Secured funding to continue the Administrative Assistant position through August 2026, ensuring continuity of support.
- New committee membership with the addition of Sanjeev Seahra and Glen Briand.
- The Committee faced several structural and cultural challenges, including balancing organizational fundraising with conference-level independence and navigating limited staff capacity for sustained donor relationship management. Timing of outreach emerged as a key factor for success, underscoring the importance of early engagement in conference planning cycles. There was also recognition of the need to focus efforts on higher-value opportunities to ensure a strong return on investment.

### **Ongoing Activities and Projects**

- Complete at least one grant application and 20 company contacts per month.
- Achieve a \$5,000 fundraising goal.
- Continue the alumni campaign rollout with a focus on relationship-building and communications.
- Explore development of an associate membership model and alumni donation mechanisms.
- Encourage committee and Board members to contribute contacts and fundraising ideas to strengthen Science Atlantic's network.

## Governance and Policy

Chair	Darien DeWolf
Members	Darien DeWolf, Chuck MacDonald, Steven Smith, Deanne van Rooyen

<b>Updates</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worked with Science Atlantic staff and Board to draft amendments to the articles of incorporation and to the By-laws to introduce a class of non-voting membership to Science Atlantic. This work stems from Member consultation at the 2024 AMM.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policies regarding membership.</li> <li>Work with SA staff to establish a <a href="#">database of governance documents, policies, committee terms</a>, etc., in manner that makes maintenance sustainable.</li> </ul>
<b>Items to be added to the agenda and/or motion(s) to be made</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are two Special Resolutions to be made at the AMM.</li> </ul>
<b>Reports/proposals to submit to the Board (name below and attach separately)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Resolution to amend the articles of incorporation to introduce a class of non-voting membership to Science Atlantic.</li> <li>Special Resolution to amend the By-laws of incorporation to introduce a class of non-voting membership to Science Atlantic.</li> <li>A track-changes version of the By-law amendments against the original By-law text.</li> </ul>

## 2023–2028 Strategic Plan: Year 3 Summary (2024–25)

### Strategic Priority Area 1: Capacity Building

Strengthening our organizational foundation enables us to enhance our community network, programs, and services.

#### a. Increase Stable Funding

Possible activities: Multi-year budgeting; diversifying income sources; developing investment and fundraising policies; soliciting sponsorships

Year 1 Achievements: developed investment policy; completed major funding application for federal recovery program (submitted but unsuccessful)

Year 2 Achievements: Established Fundraising Committee; hired student Business Development Assistant; developed sponsorship package; developed initial list of potential sponsors; updated investment policies and changed investment advisor

**Year 3 Achievements:** Fundraising Committee continued work on long-term sponsorship strategy. Additional investment in the Business Development Assistant role provided expanded capacity for sponsor outreach and development of new fundraising materials. Initial sponsorship discussions underway with several potential partners. Investment policies monitored and updated to reflect evolving portfolio and advisor changes.

#### b. Support Sustainable Leadership

Possible activities: Establishing sustainable staffing; providing Board and member development opportunities; supporting Division Chairs

Year 1 Achievements: Moved Executive Director position to full time; 360 evaluation of Executive Director (in progress); host virtual Division Chairs meetings (ongoing); developed weekly conference organizer drop-in for assistance with planning events (ongoing)

Year 2 Achievements: Struck Board Development Committee; surveyed conference organizers to understand accomplishments and roadblocks; developed membership benefits package for Institutional Representatives to share with their senior administrators

**Year 3 Achievements:** Ongoing review of leadership roles and workload capacity across committees and activities. Discussed SPC Chair transitions; recruitment and succession planning for committee leadership identified as ongoing need. Institutional Representative (IR) engagement prioritized as key leadership-development strategy. Revised IR Job Description, implemented new IR welcome process including one-on-one meetings with EDs, and updated IR Hub resources. Community of Practice for IRs relaunched with first sessions held.

### c. Bolster Policies and Processes

Possible activities: Updating by-laws; reviewing and implementing organizational policies and resources

Year 1 Achievement: completed comprehensive revision of by-laws (approved by the members, Nov. 24, 2023)

Year 2 Achievements: Drafted Memorandum of Understanding for Member Institutions; struck Governance and Policy Board Committee; proposed amendments to by-laws to add a second student representative to the Board (for member approval Nov. 15, 2024); developed Terms of Reference for several committees; created Online Awards System, a database for collecting student award winner data; updated Conference-in-a-Box organizer resources (in progress); signed agreement for annual group license for Fourwaves conference website/registration/abstract submission software.

**Year 3 Achievements:** Signed new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 12 Member Institutions. Committee Terms of Reference reviewed and updated. Expanded Conference-in-a-Box resources and created Online Awards System to centralize student award data. Explored metrics for IR engagement (e.g., website visits, meeting attendance) to support data-informed planning. Standard Operating Procedures developed for many core staff tasks.

### d. Embody Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility (EDIA)

Possible activities: Developing EDIA policies; reviewing activities through an EDIA lens

Year 1 Achievements: Added commitment to accommodations to letter of offer for all employees; hosted BIPOC Mentorship online presentation

Year 2 Achievements: NA

**Year 3 Achievements:** Meetings to re-establish QAtCanSTEM Symposium (Queer Atlantic Canadian STEM) for 2027 to be hosted at MUN; agreement to support national 2SLGBTQ+ in STEM Conference in 2026 hosted at Dalhousie.

### e. Apply Social Responsibility Principles

Possible activities: Developing environmental, ethical, social, and economic guidelines

Year 1 Achievements: Establish SR Committee; develop scope of work

Year 2 Achievements: NA

**Year 3 Achievements:** No new committee actions this period.

## Strategic Priority Area 2: Connecting Our Communities

Facilitating connections strengthens the diverse post-secondary science communities in Atlantic Canada.

### a. Diversify and Increase Membership

Possible activities: Recruiting new members (institutional and individual)

Year 1 Achievement: Research our audiences and develop value propositions for each (in progress)

Year 2 Achievements: Exploring development of Associate Membership category (for discussion Nov. 15, 2024)

**Year 3 Achievements:** Drafted changes to Articles of Incorporation and by-laws to add Associate Membership category to broaden participation beyond traditional academic memberships (for approval at AMM 2025). Promotional materials and faculty/student poster campaign developed to highlight member benefits and Science Atlantic value proposition. Alumni strategy drafted (pending capacity to implement); research ongoing to reconnect with over 800 award winners from 2011-2021.

### b. Increase Member Engagement

Possible activities: Enhancing current and new activities for faculty and IRs; implementing member recognition initiatives

Year 1 Achievements: Hosted three Science Atlantic Sessions for All attended by several faculty not involved in SA; recognize emeritus members (ongoing)

Year 2 Achievements: Continued SASAs; continued Division Chairs meetings; exploring Community of Practice for Institutional Reps (in development); surveyed IRs for topics of interest; investigated improved web portal options for member interaction (no software yet chosen); surveyed website users to improve web navigation and user experience; member engagement will be a focus for the 2024 Annual Members Meeting.

**Year 3 Achievements:** Institutional Representatives engagement plan implemented: revised IR job description, welcome journey, and IR Hub overhaul. Community of Practice for IRs relaunched. Faculty and student engagement recognized as interdependent; discussions on framing conference organization as experiential learning for students and teaching-related service for faculty. Updates and improvements to member portal and digital communication tools.

**c. Use Our Collective Voice**

Possible activities: Communicating on important issues; sharing knowledge across institutions

Year 1 Achievement: Established History Project to digitize and review APICS documents 1962-2000 (ongoing)

Year 2 Achievements: Exploring creation of network of student societies (preliminary)

**Year 3 Achievements:** Exploring development of a network of student societies to strengthen student representation and knowledge exchange. Committee discussed options to broaden Science Atlantic's visibility and recruitment through targeted outreach and cross-disciplinary promotion.

## Looking Ahead to Year 4 (2025-26)

The Strategic Planning Committee will focus on:

- Finalizing and implementing Associate Membership and/or alumni communications plans.
- Continuing leadership succession planning and recruitment for Board and Committee roles.
- Conducting a review of the 2023–2028 Strategic Plan to prioritize objectives for the remaining term.
- Renewing EDIA Action Committee with clear deliverables.

## Division Reports

### Applied Aquatic Sciences

Chair	Anne Dalziel (SMU; outgoing) and Heather Penney (StFX; incoming)
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trevor Avery (Acadia; <a href="mailto:trevor.avery@acadiau.ca">trevor.avery@acadiau.ca</a>)</li> <li>• Andrea Morash (Mount Allison; <a href="mailto:amorash@mta.ca">amorash@mta.ca</a>)</li> <li>• Jordan Jun Chul Park (Université Sainte-Anne; <a href="mailto:jordan.park@usainteanne.ca">jordan.park@usainteanne.ca</a>)</li> <li>• Carly Buchwald (Dalhousie Halifax; <a href="mailto:cbuchwald@dal.ca">cbuchwald@dal.ca</a>)</li> <li>• Suchinta Arif (UNB, Saint John; <a href="mailto:suchinta.arif@unb.ca">suchinta.arif@unb.ca</a>)</li> <li>• Rod Beresford (CBU; <a href="mailto:Rod_Beresford@cbu.ca">Rod_Beresford@cbu.ca</a>)</li> <li>• Tim Erikson (UNB, Fredericton; <a href="mailto:timothy.erickson@unb.ca">timothy.erickson@unb.ca</a>)</li> <li>• Javier Santander (Memorial University; <a href="mailto:jsantander@mun.ca">jsantander@mun.ca</a>)</li> <li>• Suzanne Gray (UPEI; <a href="mailto:sugray@upei.ca">sugray@upei.ca</a>)</li> <li>• Danielle Philibert (Huntsman Marine Science Centre; <a href="mailto:Danielle.Philibert@huntsmanmarine.ca">Danielle.Philibert@huntsmanmarine.ca</a>)</li> </ul> <p><i>*No currently active representatives for Crandall, NSCC, MSVU, Dal-Agriculture or Université de Moncton (Simon Lamarre has stepped down).</i></p>

#### 2024-25 Conference <Acadia, March 7-9<sup>th</sup>>

- **Conference co-hosted with Biology.**
- **LOC: Dr. Russel Easy, Dr. Trevor Avery and student organizer April Sharpe**
- **Conference summary:**
  - 127 Attendees total (26 faculty, 94 undergraduate, 5 graduate students)
  - 89 presentations. 62 in Biology (17 talks, 45 posters all undergraduate) and 27 in AAS (13 talks, 14 posters with mix of graduate and undergraduate presenters). Note that Biology limits presentations to undergraduates and only has two speakers per university, while AAS includes graduate students and currently has no limits of presentations per university.
  - Plenary speaker for Biology was Dr. Laura V. Ferguson (Acadia) and Dr. Benjamin de Jourdan (Huntsman) for AAS.
- **Suggestions for future conferences:**



- Fourwaves did a great job with registration, payments and website. Highly recommend using again in future.
  - Acadia catering was great.
  - Having a paid student volunteer was wonderful; April organized an event Friday for students and kept everything running very well. In the future we will continue to pay a student to do pre-event organizing and help organize volunteers during the weekend.
  - We had local plenary speakers to reduce cost of this part of conference
  - We increased payment to MUN to \$2,000 from \$1,200 due to increased travel costs.
- **Financial Information:** Deficit due to high catering costs; covered by Acadia (host institution).

#### Upcoming Conference <Mount Allison University, March 6-8, 2026>

- We will co-host our conference with Biology again this year
- LOC at Acadia: James Baxter Gilbert (Biology) and Andrea Morash (AAS) + student coordinator

#### Activities and Projects

- **Fall workshop:** We will host a fall workshop in collaboration with Biology on Nov 14th-15th at Mount Allison (3rd annual combined AAS and Biology workshop). The goal of this workshop is to plan for the meeting and provide professional development and networking opportunities to our members and any other new early career researchers that would like to attend and can get funding from their departments to do so. The workshop topic is "Alternative Modes of Undergraduate Evaluation" and we will have Dr. Andrea Morash (Mount Allison, AAS) and Stevan Springer (UPEI, Biology) facilitate this workshop. Unfortunately, this was the only weekend open for our members so conflicts with the Science Atlantic AGM.
- **Use of Holding Account funds:**  
Current balance in AAS is \$2,322.79 and we have a joint conference fund with Biology that is now at \$7,613.24.

We will use this money to:

- i) provide additional financial support for travel to our MUN members. We will provide \$2,000 to MUN in future years (increase from \$1,200 in prior years), due to rising travel costs. I have emailed to ask for Science Atlantic to send a cheque to them in early 2026 so the MUN Biology department can use this to refund students/professors as quickly as possible.
- ii) Hire a student organizer to begin work a few months ahead of the combined

conference with Biology to organize/recruit/manage volunteers (for conference weekend events), help decide on catering/room venues/organize sessions. We do still hope that students will have time to volunteer for shorter shifts (a few hours) during the conference weekend. Costs TBA.

- iii) provide additional student awards and increase the value of some student awards for the March 2026 conference across the board. This will be determined when we get an idea of the 2026 conference budget.

**Other** - Include any motions or requests for topics for discussion at the AMM.

- **Member engagement continues to be a major issue in AAS due to faculty time constraints.** We do not have representatives for many member universities and finding a replacement chair has been difficult. In general, the time required to organize annual conferences for undergraduate students is beyond what most members can provide, making it very hard to find volunteers as they are aware they will be 'hit' with conference organizing and travel to the Science Atlantic AGM; this is two full weekends of volunteer time, plus a great deal more when organizing conferences.

**Potential solution 1:** Reduce time commitments of conference LOC by hiring a new paid 'conference organizer' position with Science Atlantic to liaise with Universities. This person would help set up financial accounts at host universities (a major roadblock), book caterers and venues, do the tasks assigned by Science Atlantic regarding social media, organize volunteers on the weekend of the event, etc. Having one person do this for all divisions would reduce the 'learning curve' for each new volunteer. The conference is the main contribution of Science Atlantic to our students, so should be the focus of any Science Atlantic paid position.

**Potential solution 2:** Reduce time commitments of division chairs by making Science Atlantic AGM fully hybrid.

## Biology

Chair	Stevan Springer (UPEI; outgoing) and Lois Murray (DAL; incoming)
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Zoe Panchen (Zoe plans to replace Russell Easy) (Acadia)</i></li> <li>• <i>James Baxter (Mount Allison)</i></li> <li>• <i>Jesse McNichol (Saint Francis Xavier)</i></li> <li>• <i>Shawn Craik (Université Sainte-Anne)</i></li> <li>• <i>Lois Murray (Dalhousie Halifax)</i></li> <li>• <i>Yunfei Jiang (Dalhousie Agriculture)</i></li> <li>• <i>Rebekah Oomen (UNB, Saint John)</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheryl Bourgazie (CBU)</li> <li>• <i>Tim Erikson (UNB, Fredericton) Note: double-listed with AAS.</i></li> <li>• Craig Purchase (Memorial University)</li> <li>• Stevan Springer (UPEI)</li> <li>• Zhan Yang (Crandall)</li> <li>• Mariana Horn (U de Moncton)</li> <li>• David Chiasson (SMU)</li> <li>• David Awde (Mount St. Vincent)</li> </ul> <p><i>*We have lost a representative from Dalhousie. Nicanor Gonzales left but did not recruit a replacement.</i></p> <p><i>*Tim Erikson is listed both as AAS and Biology. I have made many attempts to recruit an additional representative from UNB-F... unsuccessfully. This is a matter of urgent importance, because UNB-F is scheduled to host next year. The Dean at UNB-F has been asked to find a rep.</i></p>
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- **Conference co-hosted with AAS.**
- **LOC: Dr. Russel Easy, Dr. Trevor Avery and student organizer April Sharpe**
- **Conference summary:**
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  - Plenary speaker for Biology was Dr. Laura V. Ferguson (Acadia) and Dr. Benjamin de Jourdan (Huntsman) for AAS.
- **Suggestions for future conferences:**
  - Fourwaves did a great job with registration, payments and website. Highly recommend using again in future.
  - Acadia catering was great (*but costs for reasonable and modest catering exceeded \$8000 and put the conference well over budget*).
  - Having a paid student volunteer was wonderful; April organized an event Friday for students and kept everything running very well. In the future we will continue to pay a student to do pre-event organizing and help organize volunteers during the weekend.

- We had local plenary speakers to reduce cost of this part of conference
- We increased payment to MUN to \$2,000 from \$1,200 due to increased travel costs.

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#### Upcoming Conference <Mount Allison University, March 6-8, 2026>

- We will co-host our conference with AAS again this year
- James Baxter Gilbert (Biology) and Andrea Morash (AAS) + student coordinator

#### Activities and Projects

- **Fall workshop:** We will host a fall workshop in collaboration with AAS on Nov 14th-15th at Mount Allison (3rd annual combined AAS and Biology workshop). The goal of this workshop is to plan for the meeting and provide professional development and networking opportunities to our members and any other new early career researchers that would like to attend and can get funding from their departments to do so. The workshop topic is ***"Alternative Modes of Undergraduate Evaluation"*** and we will have Dr. Andrea Morash (Mount Allison, AAS) and Stevan Springer (UPEI, Biology) facilitate this workshop. Unfortunately, this was the only weekend open for our members so conflicts with the Science Atlantic AGM.

- **Use of Holding Account funds:**

Current balance in Biology is \$643.77. We have a joint conference fund with AAS that is now at \$7,613.24.

We will use this money to:

- i) provide additional financial support for travel to our MUN members. We will provide \$2,000 to MUN in future years (increase from \$1200 in prior years), due to rising travel costs. Anne Dalziel has emailed to ask for Science Atlantic to send a cheque to them in early 2026 so the MUN Biology department can use this to refund students/professors as quickly as possible.
- ii) Hire a student organizer to begin work a few months ahead of the combined conference with Biology to organize recruit/manage volunteers (for conference weekend events), help decide on catering/room venues/organize sessions. We do still hope that students will have time to volunteer for shorter shifts (a few hours) during the conference weekend. Costs TBA.
- iii) provide additional student awards and increase the value of some student awards for the March 2026 conference across the board. This will be determined when we get an idea of the 2026 conference budget.

**Other** - Include any motions or requests for topics for discussion at the AMM.

I second the suggestions from the AAS committee Chair Anne Dalziel. We must focus on the student conference to succeed, paid positions should be in service of that aim. My additional comments are in blue.

- **Member engagement continues to be a major issue in Biology due to faculty time constraints.** We do not have representatives for many member universities and finding a replacement chair has been difficult. In general, the time required to organize annual conferences for undergraduate students is beyond what most members can provide, making it very hard to find volunteers as they are aware they will be 'hit' with conference organizing and travel to the Science Atlantic AGM.
- For regular committee members Science Atlantic is two full weekends of volunteer time. *We held an informal vote and many of our members would prefer to eliminate the fall meeting. We have kept it this year, but if engagement remains low the cost/benefit ratio of the fall meeting will have to be considered. Most no longer participate despite our best efforts to motivate involvement.*
- For conference organizers the time commitment is a great deal more. *Conference organizing efforts consume a great deal of time and are not being given the consideration they deserve by tenure and promotion committees. Thus, conference organizing morale is low. I second Anne's proposed solutions below.*

**Potential solution 1:** Reduce time commitments of conference LOC by hiring a new paid 'conference organizer' position with Science Atlantic to liaise with Universities. This person would help set up financial accounts at host universities (a major roadblock), book caterers and venues, do the tasks assigned by Science Atlantic regarding social media, organize volunteers on the weekend of the event, etc. Having one person do this for all divisions would reduce the 'learning curve' for each new volunteer. The conference is the main contribution of Science Atlantic to our students, so should be the focus of any Science Atlantic paid position.

**Potential solution 2:** Reduce time commitments of division chairs by making Science Atlantic AGM fully hybrid.

## Chemistry

Chair	Glen Briand (MtA)
Members	<i>Brian MacLean (Vice-Chair and Speaker Tour Coordinator; StFX)</i>

### **CHEMCON 2025 – May 22-24, UPEI**

Student co-chairs for CHEMCON 2025 Julia Larkin and Tyler Taylor attended last year's AGM and began planning the current event not long afterwards. The organizing committee for the UPEI conference consisted of ten students and three faculty members. A theme of "Sustainability in Chemistry" was chosen for the event.

Invited Speakers Dr. Marissa Clapson (UPEI) and Dr. Mita Dasog (Dalhousie University) delivered keystone lectures for the event. Workshops were hosted which focused on the use of AI in chemistry (Dr. Jason Pearson, UPEI; Dr. Stijn De Baerdemacker, UNB) and also three industry-themed presentations were conducted (Krissi Ewing, coop; Dr. Alyssa Grunwald, AAFC; Krista Affleck, BioVectra). Like the year before, a student discussion panel was held (and again, was well-attended) consisting of Amaya Giraudier (StFX), Cyler Vos (MUN), Jamey Toney-Gagne (CBU) and Liah Christie (SMU).

Five graduate schools were represented by recruiting officers at the event, as well as three career fair recruiters and a representative from the Nova Scotia Chemists' Society. The total conference registration numbers broke down as follows: 161 attendees (95 undergrad, 20 graduate, 31 faculty) in addition to some late registrants. Registration opened on March 25<sup>th</sup> and was closed on May 16<sup>th</sup>. An early-bird registration rate was offered to help get some firmer numbers for catering, etc. Presentations included 47 oral (undergrad/grad: 34/13) and 32 poster (28/4). In terms of attendees, most universities had strong undergraduate representation (with SMU sending 19 undergrads).

For the conference budget, \$41,470.00 was raised, \$38,864.12 was spent. The awards budget was \$2,650 and cheque for NL student travel subsidy of \$1,500 was sent after the event. Food costs were \$22,984.08. UPEI provided \$6,500 of support for the event. Total sponsorships for the conference amounted to \$15,250. There are plans to forward the remaining balance to next year's event, though the idea of transferring the excess funds back to the university was also proposed.

### **CHEMCON 2026 – May 5-7, UNB-Fredericton**

Student Conference Chair – Destiny Njoku (and possibly Brianna Aube); Faculty Advisors – John Neville and Stijn de Baerdemacker. Representatives for CHEMCON 2026 at the AGM in May informed that preparations for next year's event were still in the early stages, but underway. It is expected that the meeting will be held on-campus (Fredericton). The

organizers, the Division Chair, and SA executive held an introductory meeting in July. The mid-week conference dates of May 5-7 were chosen to avoid conflicts with university convocations and the early CSC national meeting. The Division Chair and Vice-Chair will meet with the Organizing Committee in late October/early November to receive updates and provide support.

#### **Speaker Tour (if applicable)**

2024-25 Speaker Tour (coordinator: Glen Briand) - Tour speakers were:  
 Dr. Marissa Clapson (UPEI), Lecture Title - Green Chemistry Approaches to Base Metal Catalyst Design: Leveraging a Lewis Acidic Secondary Coordination Sphere for Small Molecule Applications; locations - StFX, SMU, MtA (in-person) and CBU (virtual).  
 Dr. Huck Grover (MUN), Lecture Title - Exploring Selective C–H Functionalization Strategies in Target Oriented Synthesis; locations UNBF, MtA, UPEI, SMU (in-person) and CBU, Acadia (virtual). Dr. Clapson's expenses came in at \$869.37 and Dr. Grover's at \$1156.10.

2025-26 Speaker Tour (coordinator: Brian MacLean) - Tour speakers are Dr. Jane Ferguson (SMU) and Dr. Dhesmon Lima (MSVU).

#### **Activities and Projects**

The Chemistry Division AGM was held on May 23 during the CHEMCON 2025 meeting at UPEI. Items of discussion included:

Executive Positions: The terms of the Chair and Vice-Chair have finished. G. Briand will assume the role of Chair and vacate the roles of Vice-Chair and Chemistry Speaker Tour Organizer. A request for volunteer(s) for these roles was made but no volunteers stepped forward. B. MacLean will oversee the roles of Vice-Chair and Chemistry Speaker Tour Organizer until a replacement is named.

Terms of reference: Terms of reference for the Chemistry Division were established and circulated to the members. A Treasurer position was outlined in the terms; however, because Science Atlantic has its own accounting personnel, this position is unnecessary. Revised terms will be circulated and voted on at the next AGM.

Budget: After covering Tour Speaker expenses, the holding account balance was \$6,603.48. MUN students will receive travel support for CHEMCON 2025 (\$1,500) bringing the account balance to \$5,103.48. There are plans to cap division holding account balances at \$3,000 starting next year and so plans to use excess funds may need to be put forward by June, 2026.

## Computer Science

Chair	Cezar Câmpeanu (Milton King was elected chair during the October meeting)
Members	<p>In-person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cezar Câmpeanu (Chair, UPEI)</li> <li>• Milton King (Secretary, StFX)</li> <li>• George Chen (CBU)</li> <li>• Eric Hervet (UdeM)</li> <li>• Liam Keliher (MTA)</li> <li>• Amir Eaman (Acadia)</li> </ul> <p>On-line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josée Tasse (UNB SJ)</li> <li>• Vlado Keselj (DAL)</li> <li>• Fatemeh Khoda Parast (UNB F)</li> <li>• Somayeh Kafaie (SMU)</li> </ul> <p>In the meeting, the following people were elected to a position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milton King (Chair)</li> <li>• Amir Eaman (Vice-chair)</li> <li>• Vlado Keselj (Secretary)</li> </ul>

### 2025 Conference <Oct. 17, 18 2025, Cape Breton University>

Organizers: George Chen (CBU) and Shannon Ezzat (CBU)

Attendance:

- 100 undergraduate registrations
- 28 undergraduate research presentations (8 in CS and 20 in Math/Stat)
- 13 graduate registrations
- 26 faculty registrations
- 3 plenary speakers
- Total, there were 142 registrations and 41 research presentations

47 students competed in the mathematics competition. This included 23 teams of two, and 1



team of one.

- 19 teams competed in the programming competition (results: <https://atlantic-canada.kattis.com/contests/atlantic-canada25/teams>)

Plenary speakers:

- Pengfei Guan (McGill University) – Blundon Lecture
  - Isoperimetric type inequalities, geometric flows and beyond
- Neil Spencer (University of Connecticut) – Field Lecture
  - If the Shoe Fits: Statistics, Coincidences, and Forensic Footwear Analysis
- Rita Orji (Dalhousie University) – Sedgwick Lecture
  - Persuasive Mobile Apps for Promoting Mental Health and Well-being

Issues:

- Due to an unexpected technical issue, the start of the programming competition was delayed by 45 minutes.

### Upcoming Conference at UNB SJ

Date: TBD

The Computer Science Department at UNB SJ has not confirmed to host the Computer Science division of the Science Atlantic 2026 conference due to limited resources. The Computer Science division is currently working on finding a solution.

### Activities and Projects

We discussed purchasing Raspberry Pi computers with the holding account funds, that would belong to the Computer Science division and be transferred between hosts to be used for the programming competition.

A motion was passed in the meeting to allow students from MUN to present in the CS talks online.

## Earth Science

Chair	Deanne van Rooyen (Acadia)
Members (2024-25)	Lilian Navarro CBU Sian Kou-Giesbrecht Dalhousie Randolph Corney SMU Lucy Wilson UNB-SJ Penny Morrill MUN Jamie Braid StFX David Lentz UNB-F

<b>2024-25 Conference</b> Dalhousie University 24-26 October 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizer Alyssa Jones</li> <li>• Three field trips on Friday: Rainy Cove, the South Mountain Batholith, and a walking tour of the Halifax Drumlin.</li> <li>• Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (CSEG) Regional Challenge Bowl</li> <li>• 13 talks, 7 posters, industry presentation from David Murray, PDAC</li> <li>• Dinner speaker panel with Jade Atkins, Lauren Mclellan, Sana Salehi, and Lexie Arnott</li> <li>• Biggest issue is getting the university finance departments to open accounts for conferences.</li> <li>• Fundraising was not adequate, volunteer engagement was low.</li> </ul>
<b>Upcoming Conference</b> St. Francis Xavier University 30 October to 1 November 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizers Michaela Holt, Lauren Riendeau</li> <li>• 61 attendees</li> <li>• 24 abstracts, 12 posters and 12 talks</li> <li>• Dinner speakers Dr. Sandra Barr (Acadia) and Dr. Brendan Murphy (St.FX)</li> <li>• Successful despite communication challenges and a hurricane</li> </ul>
<b>Speaker Tour (if applicable)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deanne van Rooyen coordinator</li> <li>• <b>2024-25 tour summary</b></li> <li>• Celeste Cunningham (St. FX University) visiting MUN (November 26), Acadia University (January 20) and SMU (November 22) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Making Waves: Using the Sedimentary Record to Unravel Mysteries of the Deep Ocean.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Michael Parsons (NRCAN) visiting Dalhousie University (November 14), UNB (November 4), St.FX (November 20) and CBU (January 2025)</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Critical Minerals in Canada: Mitigating Mining Impacts in the Quest for a Low-Carbon and Digital Economy.</i></li> <li>• <b>2025-26 Tour Summary</b></li> <li>• Hilary Corlett, (MUN) visiting Acadia (November 3), St. FX (November 4), SMU (November 5), and CBU (November 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>The present is the key to the past, and to the future: Investigations of modern sedimentary environments in contrasting hot and cold environments</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jillian Kendrick (MUN) visiting UNB (November 6), MUN (November 13) and Dalhousie (TBA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>What is at the bottom of Archean crust?</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Activities and Projects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Special projects</b> - None</li> <li>• <b>Committee meeting highlights</b> – we have had some renewal in membership but it is difficult to get faculty members to sit on the committee. Meetings were held at AUGC at Dalhousie and the AGS Colloquium in February 2025.</li> <li>• <b>Use of Holding Account funds</b> – we will be using the holding account funds for two things <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The first is to expand the Speaker Tour to CBU in years where the topic is of interest so that we can support their connections with Science Atlantic</li> <li>o The second is to provide a boost to travel funding specifically to MUN students for the upcoming conference at UNB in 2026. We have had a number of years with difficulties in fundraising and would like to make sure the UNB conference is well-attended.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Environment

Chair	Josh Kurek, Mount Allison, jkurek@mta.ca
Members	We do not have positions. However, we do have reps from most universities in Atlantic Canada. Historically, our goal as a committee has been to coordinate a successful annual conference for BA, BSc, and graduate students studying environmental themes.

<b>2024-25 Conference &lt;March 21-23, 2025, Mount Allison&gt;</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizers: Josh Kurek and Chris Kelly, plus 5 students</li> <li>• 93 attendees from 10 universities, including 10 faculty from 8 universities</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We hosted a successful keynote on Arctic Environmental Change (Dr Zoe Panchen from Acadia) and a student-led panel on careers in the environmental sector. Trivia at the banquet was also a fun social event.</li> <li>No real issues aside from high cost of food. Awards were provided to both UG and GS presenters with &gt;\$1000 awarded</li> </ul>
<b>Upcoming Conference &lt;March 13-15, 2026, Acadia&gt;</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizers: Nelson O'Driscoll and Sarah Hines, plus 5 volunteers</li> <li>Conference planning is underway. Initial budget has been reviewed, and suggestions were made. A deficit of ~\$1,100 is expected but further fund-raising efforts and more attendees than predicted may mitigate this.</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>
Holding account funds from Environment may be used to cover conference deficit if needed.

## Mathematics and Statistics

Chair	Darien DeWolf (StFX)
Members	<i>Nabil Abboud (USainteAnne), Tom Baird (Secretary, MUN), Iain Beaton (Vice Chair, Acadia), Robert Dawson (SMU), Darien DeWolf (Chair, StFX), Shannon Ezzat (CBU), Herman Goulet-Ouellet (UdeM), Svenja Huntemann (MSVU), Andrew Irwin (Dalhousie), Nathaniel Johnston (MtA), Connie Stewart (UNBSJ), Dania Tamayo-Vera (UPEI), Nicholas Touikan (UNBF), Yevgeniy Vasilyev (MUN)</i>

<b>2025 MSCS Conference: October 17-18, 2025, hosted at Cape Breton University.</b>
<p>The 2025 MSCS conference was generously sponsored by AARMS, Science Atlantic, CANSSI, and Cape Breton University.</p> <p>The membership of the organizing committee at Cape Breton University included Shannon Ezzat, Ryan Gibara, Tom Potter, Justin Makary, Scott Rodney, George Chen, Ahmet Aktas, James Preen, Iain Beaton (from Acadia).</p> <p>There were 100 undergraduate registrations and 28 undergraduate research presentations (8 in CS and 20 in Math/Stat). There were 13 graduate registrations and 13 graduate research presentations (4 in CS and 9 in Math/Stat). There were 26 faculty registrations and 3 plenary speakers. In total, there were 142 registrations and 41 research presentations.</p>

47 students competed in the mathematics competition. This included 23 teams of two, and 1 team of one.

There were three plenary lectures by invited speakers:

- The Sedgewick Lecture, (CS) delivered by Dr. Rita Orji (Dalhousie University), was entitled "Persuasive mobile apps for promoting mental health and well-being."
- The Blundon Lecture (Math), delivered by Dr. Pengfei Guan (McGill University), was entitled "Isoperimetric type inequalities, geometric flows and beyond."
- The Fields Lectures (Stats), delivered by Dr. Neil Spencer (University of Connecticut), was entitled "If the shoe fits: statistics, coincidences, and forensic footwear analysis."

**Upcoming Conference: 2026 Mathematics and Statistics Conference hosted by University of New Brunswick, Saint John, tentatively scheduled for October 30-31, 2025.**

### Activities and Projects

The Joint Math/Stat/CS committee met on October 17, 2025.

- No motions were made.
- There was extensive discussion on future MSCS Conferences.
- It is not clear yet whether CS will join Math/Stat at our 2026 conference hosted at UNB SJ. Issues related to the logistics of hosting the CS competition at UNB SJ were discussed and the CS Division agreed to investigate solutions that would let them join our conference.

The Mathematics and Statistics Division Committee met on July 2, 2025, and October 17, 2025.

- No motions were made.
- There was extensive discussion on the above-mentioned UNB SJ conference. To facilitate planning of the conference, the CS Division will inform the Math/Stat Division by December 5, 2025, as to whether they will join us.
- In the event of a Math/Stat (no CS) conference, there was discussion on changing the timing of the conference to late October/early November.
- The holding account balance was discussed.

## Nutrition and Foods Division, Nutrition et Alimentation

Chair	Jennifer Taylor
Members	<i>Ed Barre (CBU); Karen Doody (MUN Grenfell); Ruth Harvie (St FX); Irene Ogada (MSVU); Sukhinder Kaur (MUN Biochem); Rachel Prowse (MUN Medicine); Vasantha Rupasinghe (Dal Ag); Carole C. Tranchant (U de M); Judy Loo (Acadia) (replacing Matt McSweeney- on leave)</i>

### 2024-25 Conference: Mar 28, 29, 2025; Online

The conference was co-hosted by Dalhousie University (Dal) (Faculty of Agriculture) and Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) Faculty of Professional Studies, Department of Applied Human Nutrition. Conference organizers included Dr. Vasantha Rupasinghe (Dal-Ag), Dr. Irene Ogada (MSVU), and Dr. Shannan Grant (MSVU). After Dr. Grant left her position in the Department of Applied Human Nutrition in January 2025, she kindly continued to assist the conference organizers.

*Format:* A virtual delivery format was selected because it was perceived as more manageable from a workload perspective and removed barriers due to cost of travel.

*Attendance:* 52 students (11 undergraduate, 33 graduate, 4 uncategorized, 4 graduate student observers from outside Atlantic region) and 11 faculty (Atlantic region) + 4 “other” attendees. 52 community members attended the keynote address on Friday night.

*Conference theme:* *Food is Medicine*. Theme was helpful in providing focus for submissions and funding.

*Speakers* included Tuma Young, (CBU), who facilitated a discussion titled “Mijipjewey na Pisun (Food as Medicine): Food security, Land and Indigenous Rights as a Foundation”, Dr. David Ma (U of Guelph), Dr. Thomas Pulinilkunnil (Dal), and Dr. Petra Kienesberger (Dal)

*Funders* included the [Two Eyed Seeing Program](#), which includes programming on food as medicine

(<https://www.msvu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Mijipjewey-na-Pisun-Food-is-Medicine.pdf>), and *Sperry*, a locally grown supplement product.

*Program:* A 3-minute poster presentation was introduced for the first time and was very successful.

*Awards:* A prize for best oral presentation in French was awarded for the first time (Abderrahmane Meziane, U de M).

*Primary challenges* include required time commitment from organizers, resulting in difficulties securing a host for the conference each year. We have considered co-hosting with another discipline but timing is an issue due to dietetic interns being unavailable after May 01.

### Upcoming Conference <March 27, 28, 2025; University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI)

- Host: Dr. Jennifer Taylor, Department of Applied Human Sciences, UPEI (previously hosted 2020, 2023). Although the number of division members support the possibility

of an eight-year hosting cycle, two programs have indicated that they cannot host the conference. As a result, there are six programs that can potentially host (a six-year cycle). Since no one was able to take on this role for 2026 due to programmatic challenges and faculty on leave, UPEI will host.

- The 2026 conference will use a hybrid delivery format to maximize students' experience while increasing accessibility for students and faculty that have to travel.
- A three-member student planning committee has been formed but only one student is able to participate in fall planning due to time and health constraints. We plan to use holding account funds to hire a student assistant (see below).

### Activities and Projects

*Committee meeting highlights:* We welcomed two new members this year. Dr. Ruth Harvie (StFX), representing areas of food service, medical nutrition therapy (replacing Marcia English who is now Department Chair) and Rachel Prowse, representing public health nutrition (MUN Medicine). Judy Loo (Acadia) is replacing Matt McSweeney who is on leave. We held four meetings thus far this year.

*Division member survey:* The Chair surveyed members re: conference formats and interest in taking on the role of chair.

- There was a preference for online conferences, with some support for in-person and hybrid formats.
- There was strong support for developing Terms of Reference for the division to clarify roles and responsibilities. There was no expressed interest in being NF Division Chair. This is a concern since Taylor's term would normally be finished by fall 2025. It was suggested that co-chairs could alleviate the workload. This can be considered when developing the terms of reference.

Draft terms of reference were developed and discussed. Final version will be circulated and approved at a November meeting. It was agreed that responsibility for taking minutes will be rotated among members.

The Division has agreed to use Holding Account funds to a) provide more travel funds for students and b) hire a student to help with conference planning (planned for 2026 conference).

Concern has been expressed regarding website management and allocation of tasks related to French translation.

One challenge has been demands on faculty organizers; there is a need to increase student involvement. Plans are to consult with other Division chairs about ToR and encouraging student involvement in planning. Further, we will check with the Canadian Nutrition Society conference which has used strategies to better engage students.

## Physics and Astronomy

Chair	Carl Adams (StFX)
Executive members	Vice-Chair Maria Kilfoil (UPEI)

### 2024-25 Conference: Memorial University, Jan 31-Feb 2, 2025

- 59 attendees: among them 38 undergraduate students, with 27 student presenters.
- The talks ran in single session and there was no poster section.
- Flight delays prevented delegates from Dalhousie, SMU and StFX from attending on Friday evening. Porter Airlines did provide a group rate for these delegates (\$434 round trip).
- 3 student prizes were given: 1st place (\$200): Maxwell McNeil (St. Francis Xavier University), 2nd place (\$125): Tashi Wangchuk (University of New Brunswick, Fredericton), 3rd place (\$75): Samantha Ryan (Memorial University of Newfoundland, Grenfell)
- Guest speakers: Makoto Fujiwara (TRIUMF), Bethany Downer (European Space Agency), Brynle Barrett (University of New Brunswick), Jeff Dahn (Dalhousie University).
- For the first time we combined one of the Atlantic stops on the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) lecture tour with AUPAC. The speaker was Pablo Bianucci from Concordia University.
- In my opinion, the guest speakers were excellent. The talks were shorter in duration (30 minutes) but that did help keep the attention of the audience.
- 11 universities were represented at the graduate fair. Good student attendance.
- Budget: Total expenses were about \$19k and we had a small (\$500) deficit that was covered by the P&A holding account.
- The P&A holding account was also used to offset travel expenses of students from outside of NL with \$100 for each attending student. Cheques were sent to the Universities or Departments.
- Almost all of the conference organization fell to the faculty rep (Misha Evstigneev). He expressed concerns that students were not given enough motivation to volunteer. There were also some knowledge gaps. None of the students organizing students had ever attended an AUPAC.
- The biggest logistical issue for timing is that nearly all the delegates (including judges) had left by the time of the scheduled award ceremony, so it was cancelled. Awards were announced after the conference following an online discussion by the judges.
- The Ukrainian folk band at the Saturday supper was a definite highlight.

### Upcoming Conference: UPEI, March 4 – 6, 2026

- Maria Kilfoil is the local faculty rep. Work has proceeded for the budget.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We opted to change the weekend to March rather than February in hopes of better weather.</li> </ul>
<b>Speaker Tour (optional)</b>
Coordinator: Carl Adams (St.FX) Will again work to have a CAP speaker at AUPAC.
<b>Other</b>
I didn't submit a "plan" for the excess in the holding account but frankly we have enough accumulated funds that if it goes/has gone to general Sci Atlantic expenses I have no issue with that.

## Psychology

Chair	Angie Birt, Ph.D., MSVU
Members	<i>Matt Orr (Acadia), McLennon Wilson (CBU), Jordan Schriver (Crandall), Julie Blais (Dal), Drew Weatherhead (Dal), Donna Thompson (MSVU), Mitchell Lapoint (MtA), Tyler Pritchard (MUN-Grenfell), Cheryll Fitzpatrick (MUN-St. John's), Sorchia Parker (NSCC), Patrick Carolan (SMU), Meg Ternes (MSVU), Erin Austen (StFX), Ralph Redden (StFX), Sandra Thomson (StU), Sarah Vannier (StU), Jean-Michel Robichaud (UdeM), Annabel Cohen (UPEI), Jason Doiron (UPEI), Elaine Perunovic (UNB-F), Caroline Brunelle (UNB-SJ), Kristel Mayrand (U Ste-Anne)</i>

<b>2024-25 Conference: May 1-2, 2025, St. Thomas University</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successful in-person conference</li> <li>Conference co-chairs: Drs. Sarah Vannier and Sandra Thompson</li> <li>187 attendees, including 135 students (120 presenters, 55 oral presentations, 65 poster presentations), 26 faculty, 13 invited guests, 11 student staff/volunteers, and 2 non-student companions of presenters.</li> <li>6 award winners: 2 Science Atlantic Undergraduate Research Awards (1 oral, 1 poster), 3 Science Atlantic Science Communication Awards (2 oral, 1 poster), and 1 Karen Nicholson Award in Neuropsychology (poster).</li> <li>Keynote speakers: Dr. Michelle Lafrance (StU) gave a talk titled "Adventures in psychology: Reflections on a 30-year journey" and Dr. Rachel Ouellette (Alum of StU) a pediatrician who graduated with an honours degree in psychology before completing medical school, who gave a talk on her nontraditional career trajectory.</li> <li>Faculty workshop focused on Honours programs in psychology</li> </ul>

- Student professional development workshops included topics such as career planning, how to ace an interview, what to expect in grad school, resumes and cover letters, job search strategies, and applying for research funding
- Replaced the career panel that had been held the last few years with a graduate and career information fair. The goal was to give students a chance to learn more about different career/educational pathways. Included tables from 7 employers/agencies (Under One Sky Friendship Centre, RCMP, John Howard Society of Fredericton, WorkingNB, Beyond Behavioural Intervention, GNB Talent Recruitment Division, Horizon Health Network) and 5 post-graduate programs (SMU, STU Social Work and Education, UNB, and NSCC). This event was well attended, but some students expressed disappointment that there was not representation from more organizations outside of New Brunswick.
- Made bilingualism a priority, and hired a Francophone student to prepare the French materials and to act as the French student liaison.
- Moved to electronic judging of presentations and updated judging criteria, and both were successful. Will continue with this in future conferences.
- The conference co-chairs generated a final report that will serve as a valuable guide for hosting conferences in the future.
- Registration fees were raised from \$50 to \$70 for students and \$100 to \$120 for faculty to keep up with increased expenses associated with hosting conferences.
- Financial: Total income: \$46,750.42; Total Expenses: \$43,866.36, minus float \$0.00 = \$2,884.07 surplus.
- Key issues included (1) the amount of work involved, especially at the end of the term/weeks immediately prior to the conference especially given the early dates of the conference in May and (2) problems with Fourwaves scheduling of presentations as well as generating the conference schedule. Key recommendations include (1) start organizing early, (2) collect student pronouns at registration and put them on the conference badges, (3) have students select presentation keywords from a pre-determined list of options during abstract submission, and (4) make sure computers allow for presenter view, but if not possible, be sure to inform students in advance.

#### **Upcoming Conference: May 21 – 22, 2026, MUN-St. John's**

- Conference co-chairs: Drs. Cheryll Fitzpatrick (MUN-St. John's) and Tyler Pritchard (MUN-Grenfell)
- Generously offered to host the conference due to unforeseen circumstances at UPEI who had originally planned to host.
- Planning and organization is underway.
- Dates/locations confirmed for following years: 2027—UNB-Fredericton, 2028—Acadia

#### **Activities and Projects**

- Annual meeting was held in person on May 1, 2025

- Discussions are ongoing regarding the theme and focus of the faculty workshop for the upcoming conference. In addition, a proposal has been put forward to introduce an additional student award. The proposed award would recognize the best student presentations from a designated university, with a trophy to be displayed at that institution for a one-year period.
- Holding account funds were used to fund NL student travel, with \$2500 distributed between MUN-St. John's and MUN-Grenfell students proportionately. Funding student travel will remain a priority. Further discussions will be held to determine how any additional surplus funds will be spent.

## Science Communication Workshop, Justin Gregg

### The Future of Science Communication: Why Authenticity and Vulnerability Wins

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 1:15 - 2:45 AST

At a time when trust in science and universities faces unprecedented challenges, how scientists communicate matters more than ever. But effective science communication isn't about starting a TikTok or launching a newsletter—it's about showing up as a human being whenever you engage with the public. Drawing on his own journey as a scientist and science communicator with expertise spanning dolphin behavior, linguistics, psychology, and the arts, bestselling author Justin Gregg makes the case for vulnerability and authenticity in science communication. Through examples of communicators who lead with humanity and humility, he'll show why dropping the "expert scientist" facade is the key to making people receptive to scientific ideas. This interactive session combines practical tips for better science communication with improv exercises designed to help you practice vulnerability, have fun, and showcase your humanity. Whether you're a working scientist, student, or aspiring communicator, you'll leave with tools to bridge the growing gap between science and society—one human conversation at a time.



#### About Justin Gregg, PhD

Justin Gregg is a scientist, bestselling author, and entertainer who transforms complex ideas about human and animal behavior into laugh-out-loud learning experiences. He is author of the bestseller *If Nietzsche Were a Narwhal: What Animal Intelligence Reveals About Human Stupidity and Humanish: What Talking to Your Cat or Naming Your Car Reveals About the Uniquely Human Need to Humanize*. A dolphin cognition researcher with the Dolphin Communication Project and adjunct professor at St. Francis Xavier University, Justin holds a PhD in

Psychology from Trinity College Dublin. Beyond academia, Justin is a voice actor, improv instructor, podcaster, music producer, and fronts the Nova Scotia punk rock band Minivans.

## Appendices

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## Appendix A - Signed Financial Statement (Grant Thornton)



Doane  
Grant Thornton

Financial Statements

Science Atlantic

August 31, 2025

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# Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report

To the members of  
**Science Atlantic**

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Science Atlantic that comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2025, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

## **Management's responsibility for the financial statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

## **Practitioner's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

## **Conclusion**

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Science Atlantic as at August 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Antigonish, Canada  
November 10, 2025

*Doane Grant Thornton LLP*  
Chartered Professional Accountants



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**Science Atlantic****Statements of Operations and Changes in Net Assets**

Year ended August 31

**2025****2024**

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## Revenues

Membership fees	<b>\$ 187,540</b>	\$ 182,080
Employment grants	<b>65,868</b>	56,293
Donations	<b>3,745</b>	4,294
Conference income	<b>2,165</b>	1,200
Miscellaneous income	<b>12,399</b>	418
	<b><u>271,717</u></b>	<u>244,285</u>

## Expenditures

Division programs	<b>1,601</b>	1,457
Insurance	<b>764</b>	764
Office	<b>10,093</b>	7,742
Professional fees	<b>25,134</b>	20,904
Student awards	<b>5,998</b>	6,400
Travel	<b>2,741</b>	3,592
Wages and benefits	<b>243,851</b>	230,133
	<b><u>290,182</u></b>	<u>270,992</u>

Excess of revenues over expenditures from operations	<b><u>(18,465)</u></b>	<u>(26,707)</u>
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## Other income (item)

Interest income	<b>3,145</b>	4,578
Loss on sale of marketable securities	<b>-</b>	(9,081)
Adjustment of investment to market value	<b>18,628</b>	20,664
	<b><u>21,773</u></b>	<u>16,161</u>

Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<b><u>\$ 3,308</u></b>	<u>\$ (10,546)</u>
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Net assets, beginning of year	<b>\$ 112,086</b>	\$ 122,632
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Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<b><u>3,308</u></b>	<u>(10,546)</u>
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Net assets, end of year	<b>\$ 115,394</b>	\$ 112,086
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**Science Atlantic**  
**Statement of Financial Position**

August 31

**2025****2024**

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**Assets**

## Current

Cash	<b>\$ 103,083</b>	\$ 129,852
Receivables	<b>43,524</b>	42,043
Prepays	<b><u>1,729</u></b>	<u>553</u>

**148,336** 172,448Investments, at market value **153,297** 134,863**\$ 301,633** \$ 307,311

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**Liabilities**

## Current

Payables and accruals	<b>\$ 106,793</b>	\$ 133,957
Division funds	<b><u>79,446</u></b>	<u>61,268</u>

**186,239** 195,225**Net assets** **115,394** 112,086**\$ 301,633** \$ 307,311

---

On behalf of the Board



Member



Member

# Science Atlantic

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended August 31

2025

2024

Increase (decrease) in cash

### Operating

Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ 3,308	\$ (10,546)
Items not affecting cash		
Gain	(18,434)	(20,664)
Loss on sale of marketable securities	<u>-</u>	<u>9,081</u>
	(15,126)	(22,129)
Change in non-cash working capital items		
Marketable securities	-	(9,081)
Receivables	(1,481)	14,462
Prepays	(1,176)	8,170
Payables and accruals	(27,164)	25,476
Division funds	18,178	(19,572)
Deferred revenue	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,804)</u>
	<u>(26,769)</u>	<u>(6,478)</u>

### Financing

Restricted for W. J. Blundon		
Lecture Fund (note 4)	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,439)</u>

### Investing

Purchase of investments, at market value	-	(120,811)
Proceeds on sale of investments, at market value	<u>-</u>	<u>129,892</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,081</u>

(Decrease) increase in cash (26,769) 1,164

### Cash

Beginning of year	<u>129,852</u>	<u>128,688</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 103,083</u>	<u>\$ 129,852</u>

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# Science Atlantic

## Notes to the Financial Statements

August 31, 2025

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### 1. Nature of operations

Science Atlantic is a non-profit charitable organization composed of scientists, universities and other institutions in Atlantic Canada. The mission of Science Atlantic is to advance post-secondary science education and research in Atlantic Canada by, providing opportunities that foster and enrich students, supporting and inspiring researchers, educators, and the broader scientific community, and using their collective voice to address important regional issues.

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### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies

The Organization applies the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

#### Basis of presentation

Science Atlantic has prepared these financial statements in accordance with the Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations, (ASNPO).

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash, balances with banks and other financial institutions, net of overdraft.

#### Investments

Investments are recorded at market value.

#### Revenue and expenditures

Major revenue and expenditure items are recorded on an accrual basis.

Certain sources of revenue including donations and other fundraising projects are recorded on a cash basis. Donated goods and services are only receipted and reported in the accounts when the fair value can be reasonably estimated and they are used in the normal course of the Organization's operations.

Investment revenue is recorded in the period in which it is earned and measurement and collectability is reasonable assured.

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# Science Atlantic

## Notes to the Financial Statements

August 31, 2025

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### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### Financial instruments

The Organization considers any contract creating a financial asset, liability or equity instrument as a financial instrument, except in certain limited circumstances. The Organization accounts for the following as financial instruments:

- cash and cash equivalents
- receivables
- other financial assets
- payables
- division funds

A financial asset or liability is recognized when the Organization becomes party to contractual provisions of the instrument.

#### Measurement

Financial assets or liabilities obtained in arm's length transactions are initially measured at their fair value. In the case of a financial asset or liability not being subsequently measured at fair value, the initial fair value will be adjusted for financing fees and transaction costs that are directly attributable to its origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption.

The organization subsequently measures all of its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value and investments in equity instruments that are not quoted in an active market, which are measured at cost less any reduction for impairment. Changes in fair value are recognized in the statement of operations.

The Organization removes financial liabilities, or a portion of, when the obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Financial assets measured at cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. Previously recognized impairment losses are reversed to the extent of the improvement provided the asset is not carried at an amount, at the date of the reversal, greater than the amount that would have been the carrying amount had no impairment loss been recognized previously. The amounts of any write-downs or reversals are recognized in net income.

#### Use of estimates

In preparing the Organization's financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

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### 3. Division funds

The organization provides funding to divisions focused on academic areas. Each division generates funds and incurs expenditures as part of the fulfillment of its mandate. The additional activities are not included in these financial statements. Funds held for each academic division are as follows:

# Science Atlantic

## Notes to the Financial Statements

August 31, 2025

### 3. Division funds (continued)

	Balance September 1, 2024	Funds received	Funds disbursed	Balance August 31, 2025
Aquaculture & Fisheries	\$ 2,323	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,323
Biology	644	-	-	644
Chemistry	6,757	16,573	12,819	10,511
AFB Conference	-	12,413	4,800	7,613
Computer Science	6,724	2,963	2,261	7,426
Earth Science	5,162	15,097	7,118	13,141
Environment	3,359	1,776	1,315	3,820
Math & Statistics Division	5,824	2,611	3,618	4,817
Physics & Astronomy	9,300	279	3,179	6,400
Psychology	4,136	4,404	3,540	5,000
Nutrition	6,545	3,349	2,714	7,180
Special Projects Fund	10,494	77	-	10,571
	<u>\$ 61,268</u>	<u>\$ 59,542</u>	<u>\$ 41,364</u>	<u>\$ 79,446</u>

### 4. Division programs

	2025	2024
Speaker Tours	<u>\$ 1,601</u>	<u>\$ 1,457</u>

### 5. Financial instruments

The organization's policy for managing significant risk includes an infrastructure of policies, procedures and oversight designed to reduce the risks identified to an appropriate threshold. The Board of directors is provided with timely and relevant reports on the management of significant risks. Significant risks managed by the organization include liquidity, market and credit risks.

#### (a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The organization's main credit risk relates to its accounts receivable. The entity provides credit in the normal course of its operations. In the opinion of the organization the credit risk exposure is low and not material.

#### (b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Organization will encounter difficulty in meeting the obligations associated with its financial liabilities. The Organization is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its division funds, and accounts payable.

The organization reduces its exposure to liquidity risk by ensuring that it documents when authorized payments become due. In the opinion of management, the liquidity risk exposure to the organization is low and is not material.

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# Science Atlantic

## Notes to the Financial Statements

August 31, 2025

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### 5. Financial instruments (continued)

#### (c) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or expected future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk.

Price risk relates to the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes of market prices of securities held. There is no significant change in exposure from the prior year.

## Appendix B - Special Resolution - Articles of Incorporation

### **Special Resolution of the Members of Science Atlantic (the “Corporation”).**

**WHEREAS** the Corporation is governed by the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (the “Act”); and

**WHEREAS** Section 197(1) of the Act permits the articles of a corporation to be amended by special resolution of the members; and

**WHEREAS** the members wish to amend the Articles of Incorporation to create additional classes of members.

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION THAT:**

1. Amendment of Articles: The Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation are hereby amended by deleting the existing Schedule entitled “Classes of Members” and replacing it with the amended Schedule set out below.
2. Complete Texts for Reference: For clarity, the current text and the full wording of the amended text are reproduced in their entirety:

##### **a. Current Schedule:**

The Corporation is authorized to establish one class of members. Each member shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote at all meetings of the members of the Corporation.

##### **b. Amended Schedule:**

The Corporation is authorized to establish two classes of members: Voting Members and Non-voting Members. The rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching to each class of members are as follows:

- i. Voting Members: Voting Members shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend and vote at all meetings of members of the Corporation.
- ii. Non-voting Members: Non-voting Members shall be entitled to receive notice of and attend all meetings of members of the Corporation but shall not be entitled to vote at such meetings.



## Appendix C - Special Resolution - By-laws Amendments

### NOTICE OF MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION that the following amendments to the By-laws be made to establish new classes of membership and to make related changes to the definitions and membership provisions.

In this motion, the complete sections of the current By-laws are marked up to indicate the amendments: strike-through is text to be deleted and red text is text to be added.

#### Part A) Amendments to Section 1.01 – Definitions

##### **Section 1.01 Definitions**

In these By-laws and all other by-laws of the Corporation, unless the context otherwise requires:

**“Act”** means the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*, SC 2009, c. 23, including the regulations made pursuant to the Act, and any statute or regulations that may be substituted, as amended from time to time;

**“Action Committees”** means committees of the Corporation that carry out activities of the organization and report to the Board but do not require a Board Director;

**“Articles”** means the original or restated articles of incorporation or articles of amendment, amalgamation, continuance, reorganization, arrangement, or revival of the Corporation;

**“Board”** means the Board of Directors of the Corporation;

**“Board Committees”** means committees that must include at least one Board Director;

**“By-laws”** means these by-laws and all other by-laws of the Corporation as amended and which are, from time to time, in force and effect;

**“Committee”** means any Action Committee, Board Committee, or Division Committee;

**“Committee Members”** means individuals who sit on any Committee;

**“Director”** means a member of the Board. Directors are elected by the Members;

**“Divisions”** means the groupings of Science Atlantic activities and participants by academic area of focus; for example, the Biology Division;

**“Division Committees”** mean academic committees of the Corporation composed of Division members that carry out activities of the organization and report to the Board but do not require a Board Director;

**“Institutional Representative”** means the most senior administrator (or designate appointed by the senior administration) of a Member Institution.

**“Meeting of Members”** includes an annual meeting of Members or a Special Meeting of Members;

**“Member Institutions”** means the institutions that pay membership fees;

**“Members”** means Voting Members, Institutional Associate Members, and Individual Associate Members of the Corporation;

**“Officers”** means those Directors who are elected by the Members to the Executive Committee of the Board;

**“Non-Voting Member”** refers to the following classes of membership:

- a. **“Institutional Associate Member”** means organizations other than Atlantic Canadian post-secondary institutions whose interests align with Science Atlantic's mission and that meet the criteria specified in Section 9.01(b)(i);
- b. **“Individual Associate Member”** means individuals whose interests align with Science Atlantic's mission and who meet the criteria specified in Section 9.01(b)(ii);

**“Ordinary Resolution”** means a resolution passed by a majority of not less than 50 per cent plus 1 of the votes cast on that resolution;

**“Proposal”** means a proposal submitted by a Member of the Corporation that meets the requirements of Section 163 of the Act;

**“Regulations”** means the regulations made under the Act, as amended, restated, or in effect from time to time;

**“Special Meeting of Members”** means a special meeting of all members entitled to vote at an annual meeting of Members;

**“Special Resolution”** means a resolution passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast on that resolution;

**“Voting Members”** means post-secondary educational institutions in Atlantic Canada that are involved in the dissemination of pure and applied scientific knowledge and pay membership fees as established by the Board.

## Part B) Amendments to Section 9.01 – Criteria of Membership

### Section 9.01 Classes and Criteria of Membership

Subject to the articles, there shall be two classes of Members in the Corporation:

- a. **Voting Members.** Voting Membership shall be available to post-secondary educational institutions in Atlantic Canada that:

- i. teach pure or applied science or are engaged in pure or applied scientific research; and,
- ii. pay membership fees as established by the Board.

**b. Non-voting Members**

- i. **Institutional Associate Members.** Institutional Associate Membership shall be available to:
  - i. not-for-profit organizations engaged in scientific research or science education;
  - ii. government laboratories engaged in pure or applied scientific research;
  - iii. post-secondary institutions within Atlantic Canada that do not teach pure or applied science and are not engaged in pure or applied scientific research;
  - iv. post-secondary institutions outside Atlantic Canada; and,
  - v. for-profit organizations engaged in scientific research or science education.
- ii. **Individual Associate Members.** Individual Associate Membership shall be available to:
  - i. current or retired faculty or staff;
  - ii. students engaged in post-secondary science education or research;
  - iii. graduates from Member Institutions, and,
  - iv. other individuals whose interests align with Science Atlantic's mission.

**Application and Approval**

- iii. Membership in any class is by application to, or invitation of the Board.
- iv. Applications for Voting Membership must be approved by the existing Voting Members at an Annual Members' Meeting.
- v. Applications for Institutional Associate Membership and Individual Associate Membership may be approved by the Board.

Pursuant to subsection 197(1) (Fundamental Change) of the Act, a special resolution of the Members is required to make any amendments to this section of the By-laws if those amendments affect membership rights and/or conditions described in paragraphs 197(1)(e), (h), (l) or (m).

**Part C) Amendment to Section 9.02 – Membership Rights and Responsibilities**

**Section 9.02 Membership Rights and Responsibilities**

a. **Rights of Voting Members.** The Institutional Representative of each Voting Member shall have the right to:

- i. receive notice of, attend, submit business, speak, and vote at Meetings of the Members, all in accordance with the requirements set out in the By-laws;
- ii. vote in elections and on referenda in respect of which they are eligible to vote pursuant to the By-laws;
- iii. attend and speak at any meetings of the Board and its Committees (except in camera sessions), subject to any applicable meeting policies and regulations;
- iv. seek election as a Director, in accordance with the By-laws and any applicable policies;
- v. nominate candidates for election to the Board, in accordance with the By-laws and any applicable policies;
- vi. access the services, materials, and other resources made available by Science Atlantic to its Members; and,
- vii. exercise any other rights and privileges granted to Voting Members by the By-laws, policies, and Board resolutions.

Members have the responsibility to pay membership fees in accordance with the section on membership fees of these By-laws and to comply with the By-laws and any policies made in accordance with the By-laws.

b. **Rights of Non-voting Members.** Non-voting Members shall have the right to:

i. **Institutional Associate Members.** Associate Institutional Representatives shall have the right to:

- i. receive notice of and attend meetings of the Members but shall not be counted toward quorum;
- ii. participate in Committees as specified by the Board;
- iii. seek election to the Board of Directors, in accordance with the By-laws and any applicable policies; and
- iv. access designated services, materials, and resources as determined by the Board;
- v. submit business to the Chair for consideration for inclusion on the agenda of Members' meetings;
- vi. speak to and debate motions at Members' meetings, but shall not vote on any motion; and
- vii. exercise any other rights and privileges granted to Institutional Associate Members by the By-laws, policies, and Board resolutions.

Institutional Associate Members have the responsibility to pay membership fees in accordance with the section on membership fees of these By-laws and to comply with the By-laws and any policies made in accordance with the By-laws.

- ii. Individual Associate Members.** Individual Associate Members shall have the right to:
- i. receive notice of and attend meetings of the Members but shall not be counted toward quorum;
  - ii. participate in Committees as specified by the Board;
  - iii. seek election to the Board of Directors, in accordance with the By-laws and any applicable policies; and
  - iv. access designated services, materials, and resources as determined by the Board; and,
  - v. submit business to the Chair for consideration for inclusion on the agenda of Members' meetings;
  - vi. speak to and debate motions at Members' meetings, but shall not vote on any motion; and
  - vii. exercise any other rights and privileges granted to Individual Associate Members by the By-laws, policies, and Board resolutions.

Individual Associate Members have the responsibility to pay membership fees in accordance with the section on membership fees of these By-laws and to comply with the By-laws and any policies made in accordance with the By-laws.

## Part D) Amendment to Section 9.03 - Membership Fees

Replace Section 9.03 Membership Fees with:

### **Section 9.03 Membership Fees**

The continued membership of any institution or individual is contingent upon payment of fees and assessments as determined by the Board. The membership of any Member shall cease immediately if applicable fees are unpaid at the end of the fiscal year in which written notice of their assessment is given.

- a. The Board shall establish fee schedules for each class of membership.
- b. For Voting Members a standard fee will be assessed and determined by the Board.
- c. For Non Voting Members fees shall be assessed and determined based on:
  - i. Institutional Associate Members:
    - i. non-profit organizations and government laboratories; and

- ii. for profit organizations
- ii. Individual Associate Members:
  - i. retired faculty and staff;
  - ii. students; and
  - iii. other individuals.

## Part E) Add a New Section: Defining Institutional Representatives

### **Section 9.07 Institutional Representatives**

- a. Each Voting Member and Non-voting Institutional Associate Member shall designate one individual as its Institutional Representative to Science Atlantic.
- b. Representatives must be:
  - i. For Voting Members, the most senior administrator (or designate appointed by the senior administration) involved in Science Atlantic from the institution. These Institutional Representatives vote at the Meeting of Members on behalf of their institution.
  - ii. For Non-voting Institutional Associate Members, an individual in a leadership position within the organization. The Board shall establish procedures for the designation and replacement of Associate Institutional Representatives.

## Appendix D - Board of Directors Nominations, 2025-2027

The following individuals have been nominated for positions on Science Atlantic's Board of Directors. The last page of this package includes continuing and finishing Directors.

The vote will be held during the 2025 Annual Members Meeting, Nov. 14, 2025, hosted by St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS. **There is one vote per Member Institution**, exercised by the Dean/Institutional Representative or their proxy.

### Treasurer

Nominated: [Katherine Gottschall-Pass](#) (UPEI)



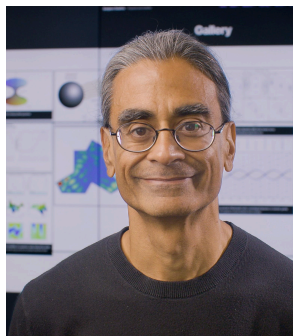
Kathy Gottschall-Pass obtained her BSc (Nutrition & Consumer Studies) from St. Francis Xavier University and a Dietetic Internship from Victoria Hospital in London, ON. She worked in healthcare and industry prior to obtaining a PhD in Human Nutrition from the University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Gottschall-Pass is a nutritional physiologist. She has received funding from numerous sources including NSERC, CIHR, and industry. She has presented her work at national and international conferences and published numerous papers and technical reports. Dr. Gottschall-Pass has over 25 years teaching experience at both the undergraduate and graduate level. She is the co-author of an introductory nutrition textbook and was awarded an award for teaching excellence from UPEI in 2000.

Dr. Gottschall-Pass has served as a Department Chair, Interim Dean of Science, and Interim Vice-President Academic and Research at the University of Prince Edward Island. She has extensive experience in program development, organizational restructuring, and university administration, including having served as Vice-Chair of Senate. She has volunteered extensively including over 20 years as a surveyor for accreditation of nutrition programs, 3 years as secretary of the CSNS, 6 years on the Quality Assurance Committee for MPHEC, and 2 years as UPEI's institutional representative for Science Atlantic. During her time with Science Atlantic, she played a key role in the creation of the Nutrition and Foods division.

## **Director, Institutional Representative (one vacant position)**

Nominated: [Sanjeev Seahra](#) (University of New Brunswick, Fredericton)



Sanjeev Seahra obtained his PhD from the University of Waterloo and has held NSERC and PPARC postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Portsmouth in the United Kingdom. He is currently the Dean of Science and a Professor in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics at the University of New Brunswick (Fredericton) and an affiliate member of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics. He has previously served as the Director of AARMS (the Atlantic Association for Research in the Mathematical Sciences) and as Department Chair.

He has published over 50 peer reviewed articles on general relativity and cosmology; been the principal investigator of funded research collaborations with industry and governments; and led an AARMS Collaborative Research Group on the Mathematics of Black Holes. His recent work on infectious disease modelling has played a role in the governmental response to the COVID-19 pandemic in New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories, Prince Edward Island, and other jurisdictions. He has been named a University Research Scholar (2022-24) by the University of New Brunswick.

He has also been awarded for his teaching; been named a Friend of Guiding by the Girl Guides of Canada for founding the “All SySTEMs Go” provincial camps; and actively promoted science via public lectures and media appearances. He co-founded the AARMS Industrial Problem Solving Workshop program, which has spawned many new funded collaborations between Atlantic Canadian mathematical scientists and various non-academic entities. He has served as a member of the NSERC-Canadian Association of Physicists liaison committee.

## **Director: Student Representative (one vacant seat)**

To be selected by Mount Allison University



## Director: Community-at-Large (one vacant position, four candidates)

Nominated: [Carrie-Ellen Gabriel](#) (DFO)



I am a bilingual environmental scientist and science educator, and I draw upon my interest, education and experience in multiple scientific disciplines (BSc Chemistry (CBU 1995), BSc Hon. Biology (Dal 1998), MSc Earth Science (StFX 2010), and PhD Earth Science (Dal 2020)) to develop a deeper understanding of Earth's integrated systems and to determine the impacts of anthropogenic activities. I am a skilled communicator (written and oral), having published my NSERC-funded research in biogeochemistry in leading peer-reviewed journals, presented at regional, national and international conferences, and experience working with community stakeholders.

I am devoted to science education, with formal education, training (BEd, St. FX 2003) and broad frontline experience in teaching at all levels. Notable experiences include teaching junior high science and math, coordination of summer STEM camps, and consulting on inquiry-based science curriculum and bilingual classroom-ready resources on climate change for the government (NSDEECD, Dept of Agriculture) and non-profit sectors (Clean Foundation). I thrive in innovative, interdisciplinary environments, and delight in collaborating with others across disciplines, stakeholders and the community-at-large. In my role as a PhD student, researcher and limited-term professor in Earth Sciences at St. FX, I helped to foster community across campus by leading an interdisciplinary NSERC-CREATE seminar series, supporting student research, integrating service learning in my courses, and developing local community outreach programs for youth.

I am currently a sea-going aquatic chemist and laboratory manager with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) where I study carbon cycling in blue carbon ecosystems and ocean acidification. In this role, I report data from monitoring programs, provide science advice to management and stakeholders, volunteer with youth outreach, coordinate logistics for Arctic field programs, and am presently working on the regional strategic plan for DFO Maritimes. In my spare time, I am an accomplished musician and budding film-maker.

### Statement of Interest

I am eager to contribute to the work of Science Atlantic, an organization that seeks to foster community across disciplines, that connects scientists with the community-at-large, and that helps to support the next generation of scientists. I believe I am ideally suited for the role of Director, Community-at-Large, due to the close alignment of my personal attributes, as outlined above, with the principles, mission, and vision of your organization, and due to my breadth of knowledge, skills and experience in the post-secondary sector in Atlantic Canada and the larger community. Notably, my current role as a federal government laboratory manager has allowed

me to develop key senior leadership skills and competencies, especially in regards to strategic planning, policy, managing finances and budgets, and human resources. I approach my work with great care, integrity and enthusiasm, and would be honoured to act as a credible, passionate advocate for the post-secondary science community in Atlantic Canada.

Nominated: [Ophelia Fernandes](#) (Fora: Network for Change; Newfoundland and Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs (NLOWE))



I am an MBA graduate (Social Enterprise and Entrepreneurship) from Memorial University and currently serve as Program Coordinator for NLOWE's Inclusive Entrepreneurship Lab in St. John's, where I am developing programming to support newcomer women entrepreneurs across Newfoundland and Labrador. I am also a Young Director with Fora Network's Rise on Boards Program, where I am completing comprehensive training in board governance, strategic planning, fiduciary oversight, and inclusive leadership. I have most recently completed the GBA+ Analysis Certification as well.

### Relevant Experience and Skills

My background aligns strongly with Science Atlantic's mission to grow and connect post-secondary science communities:

- **Governance Training:** Currently completing advanced board governance training through the Rise on Boards Program, including practical exercises in strategic decision-making and fiduciary responsibility
- **Community Building:** Experienced in building partnerships across government, nonprofit, and private sectors to expand program reach and impact
- **Quality & Sustainability:** Led Certificate of Recognition (COR) certification processes and implemented ISO 9001:2015 quality management systems, demonstrating strong organizational and systems-thinking skills
- **Communication & Engagement:** Proven track record in stakeholder engagement, content creation, and building connections across diverse communities
- **Atlantic Canada Connection:** As a Memorial University graduate who also studied and worked in Australia, I bring both local knowledge and an international perspective to supporting science students and faculty across the region

### Why Science Atlantic

Having benefited from Science Atlantic's opportunities as a student, I am passionate about giving back and ensuring the next generation of science students has access to networking, research, and professional development opportunities. I am particularly interested

in supporting Science Atlantic's commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility, and helping to strengthen connections between institutions across Atlantic Canada.

I am prepared to commit 3-5 hours per month, serve on a Board committee, attend meetings and the Annual Members Meeting, and support fundraising initiatives. My flexible schedule allows me to be responsive and engaged in advancing Science Atlantic's mission.

Nominated: [Shannan Grant](#) (Mount Saint Vincent University)



Shannan Grant, RD, MSc, PhD, lives and grows in K'jipuktuk (Halifax), Nova Scotia, with her family. As a registered dietitian, Shannan has worked in clinical, community, public health and industry settings in Ontario, Northern Ontario and Nova Scotia. 2015-25, Shannan has been a devoted dietetic educator in the Department of Applied Human Nutrition, Faculty of Professional Studies, Mount Saint Vincent University, an Affiliate Scientist at IWK Health, and an Adjunct Professor in Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, passionate about inter-professional and interdisciplinary education, experiential learning, psychological safety, accessibility, and knowledge mobilization. While at MSVU (10-years), she has developed a successful research program, funded by internal and external grants, exploring nutrition and foods intervention development, implementation and evaluation. Since 2016, she has also been part of community-led initiatives in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) program development; including the NSERC PromoSci Two-Eyed Seeing Program.

Skilled in survey, clinical trials, quality assurance and health and wellness communications design and methodology, she is known for her unfailing advocacy for evidence-based decision-making and programming. Shannan has knowledge in and passion for human anatomy, physiology, and metabolism, clinical nutrition, and biological life sciences, which she has shared with youth through after school programming, undergraduate and graduate students through courses, research projects, and internships, and in the context of adult or continuing education.

Shannan enjoys spending time with her family and friends, gardening, hiking, collecting plant specimens, and cooking. True to her original training in Biological Life Systems at the University College of Cape Breton (Unama'ki), Shannan is captivated by botanicals and flora and passionate about plant pressing, from which she creates 'pressed plant wall art' and cards. Other interests include reading and writing, yoga, sewing, and spending time with her pets.

Her work and life are guided by many teachings, and frameworks, but perhaps most notably are Etuaptmunk (Two-Eyed Seeing), feminism, socioecological frameworks, internal

family systems model, knowledge mobilization, and recent efforts (provincially and nationally) to increase accessibility through design.

Nominated: [Asif Saiyed](#) (Delviom, LLC)



I am deeply inspired by the organization's mission to connect and strengthen post-secondary science communities across Atlantic Canada and would be honored to contribute to this vision through my leadership and experience.

I bring over a decade of experience leading AI, data engineering, and governance initiatives that integrate technical innovation with ethical leadership and community impact. My background spans the design and implementation of metadata-driven data platforms, responsible AI frameworks, and cloud-based analytics solutions across Microsoft Fabric, Azure Databricks, and Snowflake ecosystems. Throughout my career, I have prioritized equity, inclusiveness, transparency, and collaboration—values that align closely with Science Atlantic's guiding principles.

I have worked extensively across academic, research, and financial ecosystems, leading initiatives that improve data quality, interoperability, and scientific collaboration. As a reviewer for IEEE and other peer-reviewed journals, I have evaluated innovative research in AI and data management, contributing to the advancement of open science and evidence-based decision-making.

As a Board Director, I would bring both strategic governance and technical insight to support Science Atlantic's mission and sustainability. Specifically, I aim to:

- Engage actively with members to understand their perspectives and strengthen community collaboration.
- Support policy development and governance frameworks that promote equity, accessibility, and innovation.
- Advance responsible data and digital practices across post-secondary science communities.
- Contribute to sustainable resource allocation and organizational strategy to ensure long-term community impact.

I am fully committed to the principles of Inclusiveness, Leadership, Responsiveness, Community, and Sustainability, and I see this role as an opportunity to meaningfully contribute to Science Atlantic's continued growth and influence.

## Continuing to November 2026

### **Executive:**

- **Chair:** Dale Keefe (Acadia University)
- **Past Chair:** Charles Macdonald (Dalhousie University)

### **Directors, Institutional Representatives:**

- Céline Surette (Université de Moncton)
- Jennifer Tomes (Mount Allison University)

### **Directors, Division Representatives:**

- Angie Birt (Mount Saint Vincent University)
- Darien DeWolf (St. Francis Xavier University)
- Deanne van Rooyen (Acadia University)

### **Directors, Community-at-Large:**

- Svetlana Barkanova (Grenfell Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland)
- Nick Nickerson (Eosense)

### **Director, Student Representative:**

- Carter Clifton (St. Francis Xavier University)

### **Many thanks to outgoing Board members:**

- Isaac Cook (Dal Innovates), Director-at-Large, Chair of Board Development
- Alain Joseph (Nova Scotia Community College), Director, Institutional Representative
- Steven Smith (Saint Mary's University), Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee

## Appendix E - Science Atlantic Membership Benefits

Science Atlantic membership offers a suite of benefits designed to foster academic excellence, enhance your institution's reputation, and create valuable opportunities for both faculty and students. Here's how the Science Atlantic membership serves your institution:

### Summary of Benefits

**Enhanced Institutional Reputation:** Demonstrate your commitment to student academic excellence and institutional prestige by supporting student-led research and conference planning opportunities.

**Student Development and Recognition:** Students gain valuable leadership experience and recognition through organizing conferences, networking, and presenting their research to peers and faculty. These opportunities foster academic growth, enhance career development, and strengthen CVs by showcasing active involvement in the scientific community.

**Cross-Institutional Collaboration:** Access networking and professional growth opportunities both within and beyond your institution. Leverage the network to share knowledge, advice, and best practices, while building valuable regional connections and cross-institutional partnerships.

**Improved Communication/Relationships:** Reinforce professional relationships through collaborative workshops and discussions, while enhancing connectivity between deans and faculty within your institution and the region.

**Professional Advantages:** Interact with talented undergraduate and graduate students and faculty in the region to explore collaborative research opportunities.

**Streamlined Conference Support:** Access resources and experienced mentorship to facilitate efficient conference planning and management, easing the burden on faculty and staff

### Academic Conferences

For over 50 years, Science Atlantic has helped facilitate student conferences, providing a valuable platform for students to present their research, enhance their academic portfolio, and network with other students and faculty.

- **Enhanced Student Experiences:** Top students present their research to peers and faculty from other institutions, gaining recognition and improving their academic portfolio
- **Regional Networking for Faculty:** Connecting faculty and students across the region, facilitating cross-institutional partnerships and graduate recruitment
- **Student Awards:** 75 to 100 awards presented each year for outstanding research and science communication skills

### Resources for Conference Organizers and Host Institutions

Science Atlantic provides knowledge and support in all facets of conference planning.



- **Conference-In-A-Box (CIAB):** A comprehensive, custom-created resource to aid in effective conference planning
- **Conference Organizer Drop-In:** Weekly opportunity to ask questions and get advice
- **Website, Registration, and Abstract Submission Platform:** Free access to Fourwaves, a solution for website management, registration, fees collection, and abstract submission
- **Financial and Policy Information:** Assistance with budgeting, sponsor recognition, and guidance to help organizers operate within compliance of host institution policies
- **Awards Management:** Awards disbursement and communication with winners

## Networking Across Science Divisions

Science Atlantic coordinates membership networks for faculty in 10 science disciplines.

- **Improved Communications:** Connects colleagues from 18 member institutions across the region, providing knowledge-sharing and collaboration opportunities
- **Community Development:** Builds a sense of belonging and improves professional relationships through workshops and discussions

## Faculty Development Opportunities

- **SASA (Science Atlantic Sessions for All):** Informal discussions led by experienced faculty; topics include grant applications, mentoring, best practices, and more
- **Deans' Community of Practice (NEW):** Closed-door forum allowing senior administrators to discuss critical issues in higher education

## Why These Benefits Matter

**Institutional Reputation:** Membership demonstrates your commitment to academic excellence and provides valuable research and recognition opportunities for students, highlighting your dedication to advancing educational standards.

**Strengthened Atlantic Science Community:** Networking is vital for students to find mentors, career opportunities, and collaborators. Our platforms facilitate these connections, supporting students in their academic and professional journeys.

**Experiential Learning/Skill Development:** Unique learning experiences through involvement in conferences and research presentations, enhancing their educational journey and career prospects.

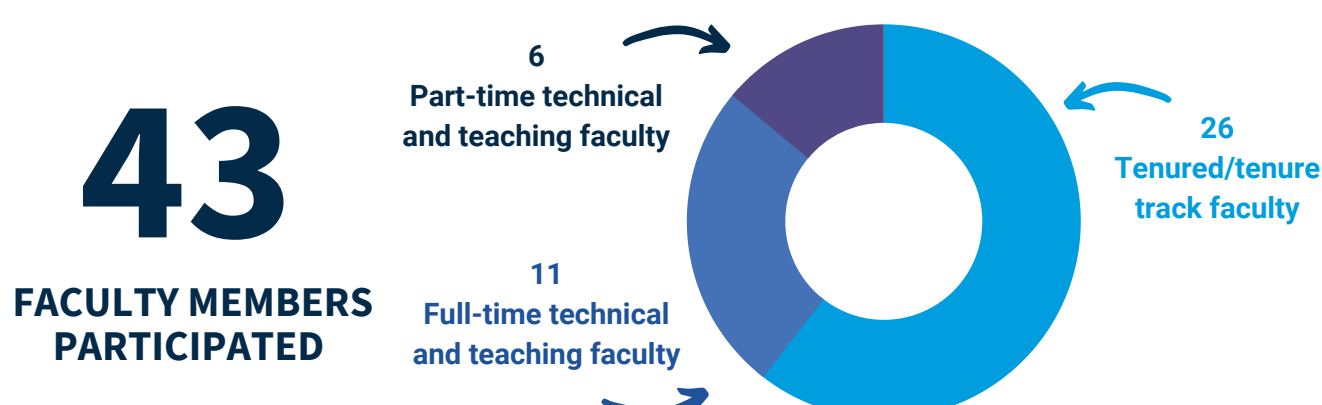
**Communications Hub:** Improve collaboration and knowledge sharing within and among member institutions across Atlantic Canada. Focus on science, technology, education, and research.

**Professional Development:** Enhance faculty development and retention through access to growth opportunities and a collaborative network.



## BROADENING HORIZONS: UNDERSTANDING FACULTY EXPERIENCES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

In summer 2020, we spoke with Atlantic Canadian faculty about their experiences in the post-secondary STEM community with the goal of learning how Science Atlantic might be able to both broaden and enhance community engagement.



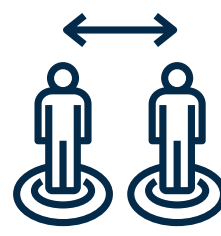
### FACULTY REPRESENTATION:



12 MEMBER INSTITUTIONS



13 DISCIPLINES



A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERIENCE (1-50 YEARS)

## WHAT WE HEARD

### ROLE SATISFACTION

Faculty in the Atlantic region have a great passion for their profession, especially as it relates to teaching and mentoring students.

This devotion to teaching and mentoring not only provides satisfaction among faculty members but also positively impacts the student experience.



### COMMON CHALLENGES AMONG FACULTY

#### ADMINISTRATIVE RED TAPE

"The thing that I dislike the most is the excessive reporting that you have to do on everything."

#### WORKLOAD

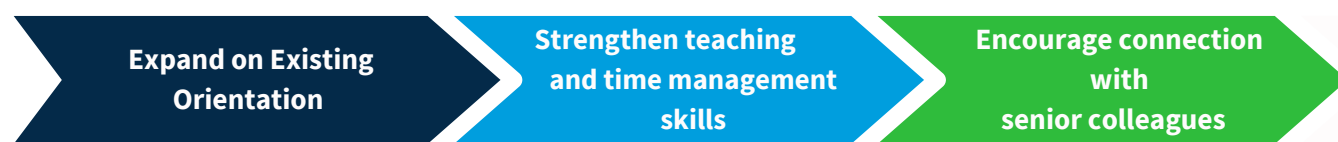
"Serving our students population and really achieving the objectives of the institution can be overwhelming."

#### COVID-19

"It has been far more stressful and just generally more anxious since COVID has happened. We've been trying to adjust to this seemingly on the fly."

### WAYS TO SUPPORT NEW FACULTY

We asked participants to think in retrospect about what they would have benefited from as new faculty. From their responses, we've developed three key areas to focus supports for new faculty.



### HOW TO BROADENING ENGAGEMENT

We heard six reoccurring factors that motivate faculty to get involved in associations and volunteer. Leveraging these motivators may encourage more faculty to engage with Science Atlantic.



## WHAT'S NEXT

We are looking for your help to brainstorm ways to act on the results and expand our ability to advance post-secondary science education and research in Atlantic Canada.

Check out our [Broadening Horizons Hub](#) for the full report and for a list of upcoming opportunities to get involved.

GET INVOLVED!

