

# Fall 2024 Leadership Meetings

## Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15, 2024



All meetings will be held in the Whale Atrium of the MUN Core Science Facility (CSF), room 3201  
45 Arctic Ave, St. John's, NL



## Schedule of Events

(Newfoundland Standard Time)

All meetings will be held in Room 3201 of the Core Science Facility, unless otherwise specified

### Friday, November 14

2:30-3:00 pm	Registration (in person)
3:00-4:30 pm	Annual Members Meeting (live streamed)
4:30-5:00 pm	Reception
5:30-7:00 pm	Session I - Strengthening our Foundation (Institutional Representatives only - Hybrid)
7:30-9:00 pm	Group Dinner: <a href="#">The YellowBelly Brewery &amp; Public House</a>

### Saturday, November 15

9:00-10:30 am	Session II - NSERC Atlantic Chairs for Inclusion in Science and Engineering (CISE): Atlantic Outreach in Tenure and Promotion (Institutional Representatives only - Hybrid)
10:30-11:00 am	Break
11:00-12:00 pm	Session III - Student Presentations (All welcome, live streamed) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MUN Student Panel</li> <li>2. Girls STEM Up</li> </ol>
12:00-12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45-2:15 pm	Session IV - Strengthening our Connections (Institutional Representatives and Division Chairs - Hybrid)
2:15 pm	Wrap up/Closing (IRs and Chairs - Hybrid)
2:45-3:30 pm	Board Debrief (Board only via Google Meet)

## 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.

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## List of Participants

Joe Apaloo (StFX)	Institutional Rep
Robert Bailey (MUN-Grenfell)	Institutional Rep
Rachael Bennett (StFX)	Incoming Board Director, Student Rep
Angela Birt (MSVU)	Division Chair, Psychology
Heather Bruce (DAL-AG)	Institutional Rep
Andrea Burgess (UNB-SJ)	Board Director; Chair of Division Chairs
Malcolm Butler (SMU)	Board Director, Chair Elect
Holly Butt (MUN)	Board Director, Student Rep
Cezar Câmpeanu (UPEI)	Division Chair, Computer Science
Isaac Cook (Dal Innovates)	Board Director; Community-at-Large
Carrie Dawson (MSVU)	Institutional Rep
Darien DeWolf (StFX)	Board Director; Division Chair, Mathematics
Nola Etkin (UPEI)	Institutional Rep
Travis Fridgen (MUN)	Institutional Rep
Mikayla Hanlon (SA)	Conference Support Assistant
Vincent Henault-Brunet (SMU)	Institutional Rep
Jeff Hooper (Acadia)	Institutional Rep
Alain Joseph (NSCC)	Institutional Rep
Charles L.B. Macdonald (DAL)	Outgoing Board Chair
Day MacKay (SA)	Administrative Support Assistant
Stephanie MacQuarrie (CBU)	Institutional Rep
Maria Mannette (SA)	Business Development Assistant
Nick Nickerson (Eosense)	Board Director; Community-at-Large
Nelson O'Driscoll (Acadia)	Division Chair, Environment
Jayne Sabarots (SA)	Administrative Assistant
Sanjeev Seahra (UNB-F)	Institutional Rep
Steven Smith (SMU)	Treasurer
Céline Surette (UdeM)	Institutional Rep
Jennifer Taylor (UPEI)	Division Chair, Nutrition & Foods
Christina Thorpe (MUN)	Institutional Rep
Jennifer Tomes (MtA)	Board Director; Institutional Rep
Jessica Trigo (SA)	Full-Stack Developer
Deanne Van Rooyen (Acadia)	Division Chair, Earth Sciences
Michael van Zyll de Jong (UNB-SJ)	Institutional Rep
Lois Whitehead (SA)	Executive Director

# Annual Members Meeting

**November 15, 2024, 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm NST**

Hosted by Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland  
*in person and online*

## Agenda

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
2. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum
3. Approval of the Agenda (vote) [page 6]
4. Approval of the Annual Members Meeting Minutes, Nov. 24, 2023 (vote) [page 7]
5. Opening Remarks from the Chair of the Board of Directors
6. Report from the Executive Director [page 10]
7. Strategic Planning Report [page 20]
8. Acceptance of 2024 Division Committee Reports [page 28]
9. Financial Report
  - i) Presentation of the 2023-2024 Financial Statement (vote) [\[external link\]](#)
  - ii) Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2025 (vote)
  - iii) Presentation of 2024-2025 Budget [page 13]
10. Governance Report
  - i) Amendments to the By-laws (vote) [page 14]
  - ii) Election of 2024-25 Board of Directors (vote) [page 15]
11. Other Business
  - i) Host for 2025 Annual Meeting

Adjournment

**\*\* Note: There is one vote per Member Institution, exercised by the Institutional Representative or their Proxy\*\***

## 2023 Annual Members Meeting Minutes

(Draft)

Hosted by Université de Moncton  
Friday, November 24, 2023 4:31 PM AST

### 1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Host Pandurang Ashrit (UdeM) presented a land acknowledgement 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** (Steven Smith, SMU/Joe Apaloo, StFX) that the agenda be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

### 4. Approval of the Annual Members Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2022

**Moved** (Pandurang Ashrit, UdeM/Travis Fridgen, MUN) that the minutes of the 2022 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 verbal report.

### 7. Strategic Planning Report

Alain Joseph (NSCC) presented a summary of the results of the activities undertaken over the past year to support the 2023-2028 strategic plan.

### 8. Acceptance of 2023 Division Committee Reports

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

## 9. Financial Report

### i. Presentation of the Financial Statement for Period Ended August 31, 2023

Steven Smith presented Grant Thornton's August 31, 2023, financial statement.

**Moved** (Pandurang Ashrit, UdeM/Nola Etkin, UPEI) that the financial statement for the fiscal period ending August 31, 2023, be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

### ii. Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2024

**Moved** (Sam Veres, SMU/Alain Joseph, NSCC) that Grant Thornton be retained as the financial reviewer for 2023-2024. **Carried.**

### iii. Presentation of 2023-2024 Budget

Steven Smith presented the 2023-2024 budget.

## 10. Governance Report

### i. By-Law Revisions

**Moved** (Joe Apaloo, StFX/Pandurang Ashrit, UdeM) that the Science Atlantic proposed by-law revisions in the file *Science Atlantic proposed by-laws (final draft Oct 3, 2023).pdf* be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

### ii. Election of 2023-2024 Board of Directors

**Moved** (Nola Etkin, UPEI/Joe Apaloo, StFX) that the slate of Board Directors for 2023-2024 be approved as presented. **Carried.**

**Action:** The Division Chairs will discuss the open Director seat and appoint a Division Chair to fill the vacancy.

## 11. Other Business

### i. Host for 2024 Annual Meeting

Travis Fridgen, Institutional Representative for Memorial University, confirmed that he will host the 2024 meetings.

## 12. Adjournment of Business Meeting

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 pm AST.



## Report from the Chair of the Board of Directors

As Science Atlantic begins its seventh decade, there is a greater need than ever for science to help address many of the big problems that we face in Atlantic Canada and in the world more widely. Insightful, high-quality scientific research may give us insight into the cause of problems or potential solutions but the impact of research can only be maximized if it is communicated effectively and disseminated widely.

Science Atlantic has worked effectively for more than 60 years to provide valuable opportunities for undergraduate scientists to gain valuable experience in presenting their research to external audiences often for the first time. Even after almost 30 years, I still remember the excitement and nerves of my first conference presentation at a ChemCon conference and the sense of accomplishment it gave me.

Science Atlantic also provides excellent resources and venues for the faculty, staff, and students at our member institutions to improve the education and experiences for the next generation of scientists. In order to ensure that science provides solutions for all people, we need to make sure that science is accessible to – and done by – individuals with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Science Atlantic is striving to be a resource for the improvement of EDIA in our scientific training and communities.

I truly appreciate the tremendous efforts of the staff and volunteers that made Science Atlantic the successful organization that it is! I encourage each of you to tell others about the positive impact Science Atlantic has had on you and to get others to become involved.

Charles Macdonald  
Chair, Science Atlantic  
Dean of Science, Dalhousie University

## Report from the Executive Director

The last year has been a productive one in addressing the needs of the members and in meeting our [strategic goals](#) of strengthening our foundation, building our leadership, and diversifying our outreach.

### Leadership Development

Following the approval of our overhauled by-laws in 2023, the Board has continued to develop over the last year, with active engagement in a number of areas:

- Our first Student Representative to the Board is finishing her term and has laid the groundwork for future representatives to assist with the Annual Members Meeting and to connect with student societies around the region.
- A new Board Development subcommittee has been at work to increase diversity in our membership and create/update Board Director job descriptions.
- The new Governance and Policy subcommittee is investigating a new category of membership and has been assisting Divisions with Terms of Reference.
- Our Committee of Division Chairs continues to meet and focus on areas of importance for faculty and conferences.
- We are working on launching the “IRs Community of Practice” for Deans and their counterparts to discuss issues unique to their professional roles.
- Our Finance Committee and new Fundraising Committee meet regularly to ensure we are managing our resources effectively as well as seeking new sources of income.

### Fundraising and Diversified Income

To expand the organization’s core income beyond institutional membership fees and student employment grants, we’ve:

- Formed a Fundraising Committee with a first-year target of \$11,500.
- With external funding, hired a student to fill a new part-time position of Business Development Assistant.
- Developed a comprehensive sponsorship package with multiple levels.
- Compiled a list of over 50 potential sponsor companies for future outreach.
- Tested online appeals for increasing personal charitable donations.
- Sent thank yous to all conference sponsors, including a copy of the 2023-2024 Student Awards Yearbook which lists them as supporters

### Communications and Outreach

Communication and outreach are critical for a member-based organization, and we have accomplished a number of activities in this area in 2024:

- Developed a Benefits of Institutional Membership (page 26) document for Institutional Representatives to share with senior leadership.
- Hosted three "[Science Atlantic Sessions for All](#)", with a fourth scheduled in November.
- Conducted a UX study to improve website navigation.
- Begun development of improved Division Hubs to facilitate communication among members. We will continue to explore options as time and staffing permit.
- Launched an [Instagram](#) account and continued posting to our other social media channels.
- Celebrated our student award winners with our slick annual [Student Awards Yearbook](#) published online and distributed by email to approximately 1,000 people.

We are faced with a challenge in maintaining consistent communication and engagement without a dedicated communications staff person. The turnover and lack of certainty in staffing/funding makes consistent communications a challenge. I hope that refocusing our resources on a part-time business development assistant will help in the long term of meeting our staffing needs, including support of the new part-time conference support assistant.

### **Conferences Overview**

Of course, a report on activities would not be complete without discussing our loved and longstanding student conferences. The 2023-2024 conference season saw a successful return to in-person events, with 953 attendees across our nine conferences and a record 438 student presenters. A [summary](#) is posted online, and I encourage you to review the reports of our Division Chairs included in this package for details of the individual events.

### **Feedback from Attendees and Organizers**

This year we continued our post conference surveys of attendees and also completed a comprehensive survey of conference organizers. A report on the findings from both surveys is available upon request, with highlights included below.

While our conferences achieved many successes, survey respondents also identified areas for improvement. Some components of the conference garnered high marks in line with previous years, such as presenting research and other learning opportunities. However, overall attendee satisfaction decreased to 80%, down from 90% in 2020-2021, with catering and conference logistics being the primary areas of dissatisfaction.

In the organizer survey, a majority of respondents indicated challenges at their institutions, particularly in working with financial services and catering. As well, institutional support varied widely across departments and universities, with some respondents saying they had no help from colleagues. Organizers also found fundraising and budget development to be the most

difficult aspects of making the event a success, and that the workload was hard to manage given their other responsibilities.

We are responding to these findings in several ways. At the Member Institution level:

- A Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted to outline host institution responsibilities and Science Atlantic responsibilities. Our Board Chair has been working with Dalhousie's legal office and will be sharing a draft this weekend.
- Over the weekend we will be discussing ways that Institutional Representatives can advocate for greater recognition and support for conference organizers.

Within Science Atlantic's control, we've made substantial improvements to our conference support by focussing on areas that were identified as helpful or needed:

- With external funding, we hired a student to fill a new part-time position of Conference Support Assistant.
- We negotiated a group license for the Fourwaves platform for conference websites, registration, and abstract submission. This cost is built into the 2024-2025 core budget, saving each conference approximately \$800.
- An overhaul of the [Conference-in-a-Box planning guide](#) is in progress, including new sections on EDIA, sustainability, and Fourwaves. Logins available upon request.
- We increased hands-on support with budgeting including updating our budget template.
- We continued our weekly conference organizer online drop-in based on positive feedback from our trial in 2023.
- We developed an [online awards database](#) synced with registration data to streamline award processes for organizers and staff.

These enhancements aim to simplify conference organization and improve the experience for organizers. Addressing issues that organizers face will not only rebuild attendee satisfaction, but will improve faculty perception of volunteering for Science Atlantic.

This year has been one of significant growth and innovation for Science Atlantic. Our achievements reflect the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and Board. We hope that with an increased focus on income diversification, we will be able to continue staffing positions that support conference organizers, members, and communicating with our broader community.

Lois Whitehead  
Executive Director

## 2024-2025 Budget and 2023-2024 Actuals

*Grant Thornton Financial Review for the Year ending August 31, 2024*

	2024-25 Approved Budget	2023-2024 Approved Budget	2023-2024 Actuals
<b>INCOME</b>			
Membership Fees	187,540	182,475	182,080
Employment Grants	17,624	9,500	56,293
Associate Membership Fees	3,000	-	-
Conference Income	-	-	1,200
Strategic Projects (surplus from 2022-23)	10,000	10,500	10,500
Corporate Sponsorships (incl. Awards)	11,900	200	200
Donations	5,000	4,500	4,094
Investment Income	9,000	5,000	16,161
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	418
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>244,064</b>	<b>212,175</b>	<b>270,946</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Division Programs	1,800	4,400	1,457
Insurance	764	800	764
Office and Web	11,686	7,050	7,742
Professional Fees	17,000	15,000	20,904
Student Awards	6,400	6,400	6,400
Travel and Meetings	3,000	2,500	3,592
Volunteer Recognition	250	1000	-
60th Anniversary	-	-	-
Strategic Projects	-	3000	-
Wages and Benefits	201,871	171,688	230,133
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>242,771</b>	<b>211,838</b>	<b>270,992</b>
<b>NET INCOME/LOSS</b>	<b>1,293</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>-46</b>

## List of Motions to Amend the By-laws

Edits are as follows: additions (blue and underlined) and ~~deletions~~ (red and strikethrough)

**Motion 1.** Be it resolved 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.

Subject to the Regulations under the Act, Directors may be nominated for election to the Board as follows:

1. one Chair;
2. one Chair Elect or Past Chair;
3. one Treasurer;
4. up to three Directors from the Institutional Representatives;
5. up to three Directors from the Action and Division Committees;
6. up to three Directors-at-Large from the broader community; and
7. up to two~~one~~ student representatives from a different Member Institutions.

The Board shall consist of a minimum of nine, and up to ~~13~~14, voting Directors.

**Motion 2.** Be it resolved that Section 11.03, Term of Office of Directors, be amended to reflect a change in student representative term length to two years.

1. The Chair of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a two-year term, renewable once only. The Chair Elect position shall be a period of one year. The Past Chair position shall extend from the completion of term as Chair until the election of a Chair Elect. The Treasurer position shall be a term of three years, renewable.
2. Except where an election is held to fill the unexpired portion of a term, all newly elected Directors except the student representatives shall be elected for three-year terms.
3. The student representatives shall be elected to staggered two~~one~~-year terms.
4. An Institutional Representative who is elected as a Director may continue as Director for up to one year after the end of their term as an Institutional Representative.
5. An Action or Division Committee Chair who is elected as a Director may continue as Director for up to one year after the end of their term as an Action or Division Committee Chair.
6. A student representative who is elected as a Director may continue as a Director for up to one year after graduation.

**Note: Other motions may be made from the floor.**

## 2024 Slate of Board Nominees

### Board of Directors Nominations, 2024-2026

The following individuals have been nominated for positions on Science Atlantic's Board of Directors. The vote will be held during the 2024 Annual Members Meeting, Nov. 15, 2024, hosted at Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL.

#### Board Chair

Nominated: Malcolm Butler (Saint Mary's University)



#### About Malcolm

Malcolm Butler is a Professor of Physics at Saint Mary's University, in the Department of Astronomy and Physics. Prior to that, he was Vice-President Academic and Research at Saint Mary's (2017-2022), Dean of Science at Carleton University (2010-2017), and Dean of Science at Saint Mary's University (2006-2010).

Malcolm has a long association with Science Atlantic, from the days when it was called APICS. First, he and his department supported students attending the regional physics conference, including the hosting of the conference at SMU. As Dean at Saint Mary's, he served on the APICS Council and was the Chair of APICS from March 2009 to July 2010. Malcolm has maintained contact with Science Atlantic in the intervening years and is happy to be connecting again with the organization. He has held the position of Chair-Elect for 2023-2024 to prepare for the Chair's position effective November 15, 2024.

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

Nominated: Céline Surette (Université de Moncton)

### **À propos de Céline**



Céline Surette est doyenne de la Faculté des Sciences et professeure titulaire de chimie environnementale au Département de chimie et de biochimie de l'Université de Moncton. Elle détient un doctorat en sciences de l'environnement de l'Université du Québec à Montréal. Comprendre comment sont liés les activités anthropiques, les écosystèmes et la santé représente le thème central de ses activités de recherche. Ainsi, ses recherches portent sur les impacts cumulatifs du développement des ressources, sur les contaminants dans les systèmes aquatiques, et sur l'évaluation de l'exposition humaine aux contaminants. Par la recherche-action, elle tente de valoriser les connaissances et les données issues des communautés. Les approches écosystémiques de la santé sont au cœur de ses pratiques.

### **About Céline**

Céline Surette is dean of the Faculty of Sciences and professor of environmental chemistry with the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Université de Moncton. She holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences from the Université du Québec à Montréal. Understanding how human activities, ecosystems and health are linked is the central theme of her research activities. Thus, her research focuses on the cumulative impacts of resource development, on contaminants in aquatic systems, and on the assessment of human exposure to contaminants. Through action-research, she tries to enhance local knowledges and data held by communities. Ecosystem approaches to health are at the heart of her practices.



**Director, Division Representative (one vacant seat)**

Nominated: Deanne van Rooyen (Acadia University)



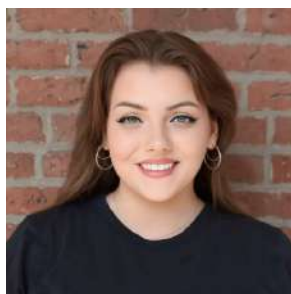
**About Deanne**

Deanne is an Associate Professor of geology at Acadia University and has a Ph.D. in Earth Sciences from Carleton University. Her main research focus is on understanding the interaction between cratonic margins and accreted terranes using a combination of field work, structural geology, petrology, geochronology, and thermobarometry. Her main area of research is the Northern Appalachians in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland. She also works in the New Quebec orogen between the Superior craton and the Archean to Paleoproterozoic Core Zone of Nunavik (Northern Quebec), Nunatsiavut and Labrador, and in the Torngat orogen between the Core Zone and the North Atlantic craton.

Deanne is Chair of the Science Atlantic Earth Science Division, The joint Atlantic Geoscience Society-Science Atlantic Speaker Tour Coordinator, a former speaker, and a faculty advisor for student organizers of the AUGC.

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

Nominated: Rachael Bennett (St. Francis Xavier University)



**About Rachael**

Rachael Bennett is a first-year Bachelor of Education student at St. Francis Xavier University. Previously, she completed her undergraduate studies at Cape Breton University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology (2017-2021) and an undergraduate degree in Biological Research (2021-2024).

Rachael has been actively involved with Science Atlantic since her early university years, playing a significant role in organizing the 2020 and 2021 Science Atlantic Biology, Aquaculture & Fisheries Annual Conferences. She continues to enjoy participating and attending Science Atlantic conferences such as the Science Atlantic Environment Conferences and the Atlantic Universities Geoscience Conference. Rachael greatly values learning with the scientific community and learning about the opportunities they offer.

## Director: Community-at-Large (one vacant seat; two candidates)

Nominated: Svetlana Barkanova (MUN-Grenfell)



### About Svetlana

Home to one of the largest campus-based telescopes in Canada. An internationally known researcher in theoretical subatomic physics, she is on a quest to discover the nature of Dark Matter in our Universe.

A proud new Canadian with wide multicultural experience, she brings a lens of equity, diversity and inclusion to her leadership roles at the regional, national and international level, striving to improve the climate for underrepresented groups in both research and education. Currently, Svetlana is one of three NSERC Chairs for Inclusion in Science and Engineering, Atlantic Region. She is also an award-winning teacher and a dynamic presenter passionate about science promotion and exploring the stunning beauty of the night sky.

Nominated: Michael Steinitz (St. Francis Xavier University, emeritus)



### About Michael

Michael Steinitz is an emeritus professor of physics and a member of [Commission 13 \(Physics for Development\) of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics](#). He is involved in the proposal for an [African Light Source](#) analogous to the Canadian Light Source.

Michael is a past president of the Canadian Association of Physicists and past chair of the board of directors of the Canadian Institute for Photonic Innovation (CIPI – an NSERC network of excellence). Michael was one of the first inductees of the Science Atlantic Hall of Fame and is a recipient of the King Charles Coronation Medal.

## Continuing to November 2025

### Executive

- **Treasurer:** Steven Smith (Saint Mary's University)
- **Past Chair:** Charles Macdonald (Dalhousie University)

### Directors, Institutional Representatives

- Alain Joseph (NS Community College)
- Jennifer Tomes (Mount Allison University)

### Directors, Division Representatives

- Angie Birt (Mount Saint Vincent University)
- Darien DeWolf (St. Francis Xavier University)

### Directors-at-Large

- Isaac Cook (Dal Innovates)
- Nick Nickerson (Eosense)

## 2023-2028 Strategic Plan: Year 2 Summary

Please view the [2023-2028 Strategic Plan](#) online. Highlights of actions towards our goals are listed below.

### 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; fundraising and 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

#### b. Support Sustainable Leadership

Possible activities: establishing sustainable staffing levels; 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

**c. Bolster Policies and Processes**

Possible activities: updating by-laws; reviewing current policies

*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.

**d. Embody Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA)**

Possible activities: developing policies for conferences and speakers; reviewing the organization's 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

**e. Apply Social Responsibility Principles**

Possible activities: developing policies reflecting sound environmental, ethical, social, and economic decision-making; developing guidelines for conference organizers

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

**Year 2 Achievements:** NA

## 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 (both institutions and individuals)

*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)

### b. Increase Member Engagement

Possible activities: enhance current and develop new activities for faculty and IRs; implement member recognition activities

*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.

### 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)

# Fundraising Report

**Chair:** Nick Nickerson

## Introduction/Overview

The purpose of the Science Atlantic Fundraising Committee is to supplement core income from membership fees to ensure that the organization can meet its operational needs and grow its initiatives. With the increasing costs of conferences, awards, and student outreach programs, additional funding is vital for achieving Science Atlantic's mission of advancing science education and supporting students and researchers in the Atlantic provinces.

### Key Challenges:

Science Atlantic faces several challenges as it builds its fundraising capacity:

- **Limited Brand Recognition:** As a new area of focus, there is a need to introduce fundraising into Science Atlantic's traditionally academic framework and build recognition among industry sponsors.
- **Resource Limitations:** With a lack of dedicated fundraising and marketing staff, the committee is limited in the scale and scope of its outreach efforts.
- **Outreach and Engagement:** Without a significant social media presence or an extensive list of contacts, expanding Science Atlantic's reach requires concerted efforts from all members and stakeholders.

Members play a crucial role in supporting these efforts, both through their personal networks and through donations. Your involvement directly contributes to Science Atlantic's sustainability and the continued success of its programs.

## Executive Summary

This year, Science Atlantic has made significant strides in establishing a structured fundraising approach:

- **Committee Formation:** A dedicated fundraising committee was created to lead these efforts, ensuring focused and strategic actions.
- **PSE Membership Benefits Document:** The team developed a two-page document outlining the benefits of membership, aimed at communicating the value of the organization to members.

- **Conference Sponsorship Package:** A comprehensive sponsorship package was designed to attract funding for conferences, including a curated list of 50 potential sponsors identified for outreach.

These foundational elements set the stage for achieving this year's fundraising goals, with an emphasis on securing lasting partnerships that will support the organization's mission.

## Fundraising Goals for 2024-2025

**Sponsorship Goal:** \$11,500, ideally from one or more corporate sponsors. This funding will support Science Atlantic's core activities, including conferences and awards.

**Donation Goal:** \$5,000 in personal donations. This goal focuses on encouraging Science Atlantic members and supporters to make a tangible impact through individual contributions, helping to fund conference subsidies and student awards.

## Sponsorship Revenue Potential

The fundraising committee has developed a tiered sponsorship package, each designed to align sponsor involvement with their marketing and corporate responsibility objectives:

- **Presenting Sponsor:** \$50,000 (duration of 2 years) – Highest level, with presenting rights at key events and prime branding opportunities.
- **Research Award Sponsor:** \$20,000 (duration of 2 years) – Naming rights for research awards, supporting excellence in scientific research within the Atlantic provinces.
- **Science Communication Award Sponsor:** \$15,000 (duration of 2 years) – Recognition for contributions in science communication, highlighting sponsors' support for public engagement in science.
- **Discipline-Specific Conference Partner:** \$10,000 (duration of 2 years) – Sponsorship of conferences in specific disciplines, providing visibility at events focused on sponsor-relevant fields.
- **Bespoke Sponsor:** Customizable – Flexible sponsorships tailored to align with sponsor interests and specific project needs within Science Atlantic's mission.

Each sponsorship package offers significant exposure for corporate partners, with benefits including event presence, promotional opportunities, and the chance to connect with emerging scientists and researchers in the Atlantic region.



## Challenges

Throughout this year, the fundraising committee has encountered several key challenges as we work to build a stable foundation for Science Atlantic's fundraising efforts:

- **Limited Social Media/Marketing Presence:** With a relatively small network on social media and relatively few efforts going into marketing generally it has been hard to get the word out to members, past Science Atlantic participants, and other potential fundraising targets.
- **Restricted Network of Contacts:** Establishing connections with potential sponsors has proven to be a significant hurdle. As a relatively new effort, Science Atlantic's current network does not include many corporate or philanthropic contacts, making it difficult to secure initial sponsorships or introductions to high-potential partners.
- **Lack of Dedicated Fundraising and Marketing Staff:** The lack of staff dedicated to communications, fundraising, and marketing has limited the committee's ability to execute a comprehensive outreach strategy. Without personnel focused on building these relationships, tasks are distributed among volunteer committee members, who already have other responsibilities.
- **New Initiative for Science Atlantic:** Fundraising is a new endeavor for Science Atlantic, which has traditionally focused on academic and student-oriented activities. This shift requires time to adapt and establish fundraising as a core function, with buy-in from members and stakeholders who are accustomed to supporting the organization through membership fees alone.

## What you can do to help

To support the fundraising committee's efforts, members are encouraged to:

- **Provide Contacts and Make Introductions:** Personal introductions are instrumental in opening doors to potential sponsors and donors.
- **Make a Personal Donation:** You can make a direct impact by [contributing towards Science Atlantic's donation goal](#), to support conference awards and operational needs.
- **Be Ambassadors for Science Atlantic:** Members are encouraged to promote Science Atlantic's mission within their own networks, helping to increase the organization's visibility and attract more potential sponsors and donors.

Your involvement is essential to the success of these efforts. Together, we can secure the resources needed to continue supporting students, researchers, and educators across the Atlantic provinces.

## 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.

## Division Reports

### Committee of Division Committee Chairs

**Chair:** Andrea Burgess (UNB-SJ)

Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee of Division Chairs held meetings in June and November 2024, and discussed topics including conference organization, engagement, finances and fundraising, and conference timing.</li> <li>• Two divisions (Environment and Mathematics and Statistics) have developed Terms of Reference, which were approved by the Board in September 2024.</li> <li>• The chairs identified faculty engagement as an ongoing issue; overall, faculty seem less willing to add conference organization, committee work or other service to an already heavy workload. Barriers to increased participation include increased administrative tasks, tight deadlines for conference planning and a perceived lack of recognition for service.</li> </ul>
Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion with IRs on constructive ways to increase engagement and better recognize the importance of service to Science Atlantic.</b></li> </ul>

## Applied Aquatic Sciences

**Co-Chairs:** Anne Dalziel (SMU) and Heather Penney (StFX)

### 2023-24 Conference March 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> co-hosted by Dalhousie/Saint Mary's in Halifax

#### Conference co-hosted with Biology.

- **LOC:** Lois Murray and Nicanor Gonzalez (Biology and Medical Sciences; Dalhousie) Anne Dalziel (AAS chair; SMU), Stevan Springer (UPEI; Biology chair)

#### Conference summary:

- 120 attendees total (30 faculty, 81 undergraduate students, 8 graduate students)
- 75 presentations. 49 in Biology (19 talks, 30 posters all undergraduate) and 26 in AAS (17 talks, 9 posters with a 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 speakers for Biology were Dr. Erin Bertrand (Dalhousie Biology) "Molecular windows into ocean productivity" and Dr. Charles Bangley (Dalhousie Biology) "Sharks as Indicators of Ecosystem Change" for AAS.

#### Suggestions for future conferences:

- Fourwaves did a great job with registration, payments and website. Highly recommend using it again in future. If you would like, you can just edit from our 2024 conference page: <https://event.fourwaves.com/2024baas/pages>
- We only allocated 1 hour and 15 min for dedicated poster viewing, as well as the two ½ hour coffee breaks and felt this was not enough time. If we can give 1.5 to 2 hours for poster viewing next time that would be great.
- We had many issues with Dalhousie catering. The students complained about food quality and not enough food was provided for the banquet. We suggest future conferences lower expectations for the banquet; perhaps just call it a 'conference dinner'. Another option is to potentially charge a bit more/use money from our division funds and have dinner at a restaurant or hotel. Students also requested that we have activities during the banquet/conference dinner.
- We recommend hiring a student to act as the volunteer coordinator and help out with plans for Friday night icebreaker/reception event, Saturday banquet/dinner and organizing student volunteers for registration desk, tech help, etc. They can also help compare costs of catering and event locations.

- We had local plenary speakers to reduce the cost of this part of the conference and hope to allocate more money to student travel in the future.

**Financial Information:** Total income: \$34,566.; Total expenses \$29,153 = surplus \$5,413

**Sponsors:** Brazil Rock Lobster Association, Dalhousie Science, SMU Science, Ocean tracking network, Huntsman Marine Sciences Center, Atlantic Aqua Farms, Wisent Bioproducts, Nikon, Canadian Botanical Association, Ocean Frontier institute, Skretting.

**Upcoming Conference March 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, co-hosted with Biology**

- We will co-host our conference with Biology again this year
- LOC at Acadia: Russell Easy (Biology) and Trevor Avery (AAS)

**Activities and Projects**

**Broader mandate:** In 2024, we changed our name to Applied Aquatic Sciences (AAS) from Fisheries and Aquaculture to include a more diverse group of scientists (e.g., oceanographers, who previously didn't have a Science Atlantic group). We continue working to increase engagement with these groups.

**Fall workshop:** We will host a fall workshop in collaboration with Biology on Nov 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> at Acadia (2<sup>nd</sup> annual combined AAS and Biology workshop). The goal of this workshop is to plan for the conference and provide professional development and networking opportunities to our members and any other early career researchers that would like to attend and can get funding from their departments to do so.

**The workshop topic is "How to do publishable science with undergraduate researchers"** and we will have Dr. Don Stewart (Acadia) 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 \$12,413.48, so it needs to be spent. 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 suggested by Science Atlantic), due to rising travel costs.
- 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. I feel that making this a paid job is critical for increasing the participation of historically under-represented scientists; many cash-strapped students cannot take time off from paid work to volunteer for events that require more than a few hours of their time. We do still hope that students will have time to volunteer for shorter shifts (a few hours) during the conference weekend.

iii) provide additional student awards and increase the value of some student awards.

#### Other

**Member engagement continues to be a major issue in AAS. We do not have representatives for many member universities and no volunteers to take over the chairing of this group.** Note that Dr. Dalziel would like to step down as Chair, Dr. Penney is on personal leave this year, and Dr. Avery had to stay on as chair for over eight years prior to finding a new chair. 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 weekend 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. This person would help with all aspects of conference organization (e.g., setting up financial accounts at host universities, book caterers and venues, do the tasks assigned by Science Atlantic regarding social media, organize volunteers on the weekend of the event, etc.) for all divisions and ensure continuity. The conference is the main contribution of Science Atlantic to our students, so should be the focus of a 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)

<b>2023-24 Conference March 08- 10, Dalhousie University, Halifax NS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attendance details 80 attendees, 19 student talks, 30 student posters, 8 awards</li> <li>● Themes: Ocean Productivity and Ecosystem Change, Keynote Speakers: Erin Bertrand &amp; Chuck Bangley.</li> <li>● Financial: This is currently being settled between AAS and Biology as we would like to keep our finances separate. The BAAS conference generated a surplus (total joint holdings \$12,413.48 at the end of the conference). \$7,000 will be forwarded to Acadia as an advance for the upcoming conference. \$800 will be used to supplement travel from MUN to Acadia. The remaining \$5,413.48 will be divided among AAS and Biology. <b>Currently, the Biology holding account is expected to contain \$2,950.51.</b></li> <li>● Key issues – Catering through Dalhousie was a disappointment. Poor food quality and insufficient food provided for the number of attendees. Room access was difficult and Dalhousie security was not helpful.</li> <li>● Highlights – Judges noted that student talks and posters were very high quality.</li> <li>● Recommendations –The financial aspects of hosting this conference are burdensome, Dalhousie finance was particularly difficult to navigate, compounding the problem.</li> </ul>
<b>Upcoming Conference March 07-09, Acadia University, Wolfville NS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Organizers aim to recruit a student to help with the organization. Organizing the conferences now falls increasingly to faculty members. Our divisions would like to return to a student organized model and use surplus funds to hire a student organizer.</li> </ul>
<b>Activities and Projects</b>
<p><b>Special projects: Use of the fall meeting as a faculty development opportunity, as a means of providing additional incentive to be a Science Atlantic member.</b></p> <p><b>Annual Faculty Meeting:</b> for Biology and Applied Aquatic Sciences is held each November. This year’s event will be held at Acadia University. Topics for 2024 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Publishing with undergraduate students.</b> Thank you to our guest Don Stewart from Acadia. Don has a long record of successfully helping undergraduates through the whole process. (Some of whom went on to be Science Atlantic AAS chairs!)</li> <li>● <b>Science Atlantic Field Courses.</b> We hope to highlight and inventory the regional field courses and other student</li> </ul>



exchange opportunities that exist at our institutions and affiliated research stations.

- **The challenges and opportunities of AI.**

In particular we'd like to discuss strategies for developing activities that are AI-proof, in the sense that they require students to work through the logic themselves.

**Holding Account Funds:** The Biology and AAS Divisions are attempting to separate their funds. We want to commit funds every year to help MUN join our conference. We also want to use any surpluses to increase the number or value of student awards.

## Chemistry

**Chair:** Brian MacLean (StFX)

### 2023-24 CHEMCON May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, Sydney, NS

- Cape Breton University
- Attendance details: 154 participants registered (84 undergrads, 31 grad students)
- Conference theme: **Journey Through Chemistry**
- Keynote speakers:

Dr. Nicoletta Faraone (Acadia University, "A Journey Through Chemistry: from Natural Products to Chemical Ecology")

Dr. Stephania Impellizzeri (Toronto Metropolitan University, "A Journey from Classics to Compounds")

- Ten workshops hosted, centered on Industry (4), Research (4) and Business (2) themes
- Ten graduate schools represented
- Conference budget: \$43,885 raised; \$43,821.76 spent
- \$3,000 dedicated to student awards

### Upcoming Conference

- University of Prince Edward Island, May 2025
- Student organizers: J. Larkin and T. Taylor
- Faculty advisor: Dr. Marya Ahmed

<b>Speaker Tour</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour coordinator: Dr. Glen Briand (Mount Allison)</li> <li>• 2022-23 tour speakers and seminar dates/locations: Dr. Erwan Bertin (StFX) – Nov. 9 at MUN (virtual), Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> at SMU, March 6<sup>th</sup> at UPEI, Apr. 27 at MUN; Dr. Christina Botarro (MUN): March 1<sup>st</sup> at SMU, date to be determined for CBU.</li> <li>• 2023-24 tour speakers: Dr. Marissa Clapson (University of Prince Edward Island) and Dr. Huck Grover (Memorial University of Newfoundland)</li> </ul>
<b>Activities and Projects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Holding Account balance: \$6,856. Will work with Science Atlantic to spend funds on projects that align with SA guidelines.</li> </ul>

## Computer Science

**Chair:** Cezar Câmpeanu (UPEI)

<b>MSCS 2023 Conference, Oct. 4-5th, 2024</b>
<p>MSCS 2024 was held October 4-5, 2024 in person at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. The event was sponsored by Acadia University, AARMS, Science Atlantic, The Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute (CANSSI), Maple Soft, and Wiley.</p> <p>Conference Organizers: Caroline Cochrane, Nathan Grieve, Hugh Chipman, Danielle Quinn, Iain Beaton, Sazia Mahfuz, Lydia Bouzar-Benlabiod, Amir Eaman, Sharon Watson, Danny Silver, Sharon Watson, Richard Karsten, Darcy Benoit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergraduate registrations - 131 total 74 CS only</li> <li>• Graduate Registrations - 10 total 2 CS only</li> <li>• Faculty Registrations - 40 total 11 CS only</li> <li>• Plenary Speakers - 3 total 1 CS only</li> <li>• Total registrations - 187 total 86 CS only</li> <li>• Abstracts Accepted 50 total</li> <li>• CS Teams - 22 60 Competitors</li> </ul> <p><b>Awards:</b> The following CS awards were given out at conference:  <a href="https://scienceatlantic.ca/news/cs-2024-award-winners/">https://scienceatlantic.ca/news/cs-2024-award-winners/</a></p>

### Invited Talks

- The Sedgwick Lecture (CS) was by Dr. Alexis Morris (Adaptive Context Environments (ACE) Lab, Toronto) “ Toward Immersive Smart Spaces that Care: Computer Science and Creativity for a Science Fiction World”.
- The Blundon Lecture (Math) was given by Dr. Louigi Addario-Berry (McGill University, Montreal) “Random graphs and random trees”.
- The Fields Lecture (Statistics) was given by Dr. Tessema Astatkie (Dalhousie University, Halifax) “Design and analysis of experiments for value addition of agricultural products: interdisciplinary collaborative research on essential oils from herbal plants with USA researchers”.

### Division Business

- At the Joint CS/Math/Stat joint committee meeting session, Cape Breton University accepted being the host for the 2025 conference. The following conferences will be held at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John in 2026. The conference dates will be similar to the 2024 dates, i.e., the weekend after Thanksgiving.
- The Computer Science Committee also met on October 4, 2024.
- The Chair, Cezar Câmpeanu(UPEI), chaired the meeting. One of the items on the agenda was the discussion on approving the terms of references for CS division and it was approved in unanimity. A preliminary version was previously presented to the committee at the spring meeting and the final version was distributed in advance of the meeting.
- Regarding the holding account it was approved a motion pertaining to sponsorship of CS events within Atlantic Canada, mainly for students, e.g., hackathons.
- In the programming competition, held as part of MSCS, there were 22 teams and 60 competitors, where two teams from MUN participated remotely at Memorial University. The MSCS - contest provides an excellent opportunity to practice and prepare our teams for the first round of the ICPC NENA competition. The sites that were considered this year are Dalhousie University, Université de Moncton, and Memorial University.

## Earth Science

**Chair:** Deanne van Rooyen (Acadia)

<b>2023 Conference hosted by Memorial University</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 90 Attendees</li> <li>● 6 Award winners</li> <li>● 6 student presentations, 10 student posters</li> <li>● Field trips:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trip #1 explored the Cambrian fossils of Manuel’s CBS and the famous Upper Island Cove Ediacaran fossil site.</li> <li>○ Trip #2 explored Neoproterozoic epithermal alteration and gold-related mineralization on the Avalon. SEG Challenge Bowl (2 winners)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Guest Presentations: Two guest speakers from Newfoundland Industry, keynote speaker for dinner Steve Denyszyn MUN</li> <li>● Budget ca. \$38,000, fundraising successful, did not use holding account funds. Surplus of ca. \$1,600, remained with Murry Club for use to next year’s conference</li> <li>● Key issues: Financial challenges, no help from the university finance office, students had to open private accounts, it was very difficult to book rooms, get catering.</li> </ul>
<b>2024 Conference hosted by Dalhousie University</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AUGC was hosted at Dalhousie University 24-26 October 2024.</li> <li>● Successful despite challenges with finances.</li> <li>● Biggest issue is getting the university finance departments to open accounts for conferences.</li> </ul>
<b>2023-20243 Speaker Tour Summary</b>
<p>Coordinator: Deanne van Rooyen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sian Kou-Giesbrecht (Dalhousie University) visited MUN (January 22 2024), St.FX (January 30 2024) and SMU (February 16 2024) <i>Fuelling Forests: Nitrogen Cycling and Projecting Climate Change</i></li> <li>● Ted Matheson (CBU) visited Acadia University (January 17 2024), UNB (January 16 2024), Dalhousie University (January 18 2024) and gave his talk at CBU. <i>The Sedimentary Record of Oxygen and the Evolution of Animals: Revising the Phanerozoic</i></li> </ul>

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**2024-25 available details**

- Celeste Cunningham (St. FX University) visiting MUN (November 26), Acadia University (January 20) and SMU (November 22). *Making Waves: Using the Sedimentary Record to Unravel Mysteries of the Deep Ocean.*
- Michael Parsons (NRCAN) visiting Dalhousie University (November 14), UNB (November 4), St.FX (November 20) and CBU (January 2025). *Critical Minerals in Canada: Mitigating Mining Impacts in the Quest for a Low-Carbon and Digital Economy.*

**Activities and Projects**

**Special projects**

- Will be updating the AUGC constitution to clarify some wording regarding conference finances and support for attendees from different institutions.

**Committee meetings**

- Meeting at AUGC at MUN Fall 2023, meeting at Atlantic Geoscience Society Colloquium February 2024, meeting with students from all the institutions involved at UGC Dalhousie in October 2024
- Upcoming committee meeting with new institutional representatives in November 2024

**Use of Holding Account funds:** Used as conference funding for Dalhousie AUGC

## Environment

**Chair:** Nelson O'Driscoll

<b>2023-24 Conference March 22-24, 2024; University of PEI in Charlottetown</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attendance details (78 attendees, 49 student presenters (BSc 29; MSc 23), 6 award winners and 2 honourable mentions)</li> <li>● 2 keynote speakers: Dr. Josh MacFadyen (Associate Professor and CRC in Geospatial Humanities at UPEI) and Dr. Judith Nyiraneza (Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada) Themes, keynote speakers, panels, etc.</li> <li>● Financial from financial report (Total Income = \$12,391.40; Total Expenses = \$13,543.44, final deficit = -\$1152)</li> <li>● Key issues/highlights/recommendations: (i) plan at least a year in advance (ii) Conference in a box and Fourwaves was helpful (cloned previous website) (iii) registration numbers were largest source of budget uncertainty (iv) food was a large cost (v) unexpected food issues with overlap with Ramadan (vi) no university A/V support provided on weekend.</li> </ul>
<b>Upcoming Conference March 21-23, 2025; Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Budget has been submitted based on 100 attendees</li> <li>● Projected expenses = \$12954</li> <li>● Float of \$2000 requested from SA</li> <li>● \$1000 requested from SA for MUN support of student travel</li> <li>● Seeking clarification on awards funds and Fourwaves HST</li> </ul>
<b>Division Business</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The annual conference is the sole focus of this committee.</li> <li>● The committee meets twice a year to prepare and review conference planning</li> </ul>

## Mathematics and Statistics

**Chair:** Darien DeWolf (StFX)

### 2024 MSCS Conference: October 4-5, 2024, hosted at Acadia University

- The 2024 MSCS conference was generously sponsored by AARMS, Science Atlantic, CANSSI, CANSSI Atlantic, Acadia University, Maplesoft, and Wiley.
- The membership of the organizing committee at Acadia University included Iain Beaton, Nathan Grieve, Caroline Cochrane, Danielle Quinn, Hugh Chipman, Sazia Mahfuz, Lydia Bouzar-Benlabiod, Amir Eaman, Sharon Watson, and Danny Silver.
- There were 131 undergraduate registrations and 41 undergraduate research presentations (15 in CS and 26 in Math/Stat). There were 10 graduate registrations and 9 graduate research presentations (1 in CS and 8 in Math/Stat). There were 43 faculty registrations and 3 plenary speakers. In total, there were 187 registrations and 50 research presentations.
- 53 students competed in the mathematics competition. This included 26 teams of two, and 1 team of one.
- There were three plenary lectures by invited speakers:
  - The Sedgewick Lecture, (CS) delivered by Dr. Alexis Morris (OCAD University), was entitled “Toward Immersive Smart Spaces that Care: Computer Science and Creativity for a Science Fiction World”.
  - The Blundon Lecture (Math), delivered by Dr. Louigi Addario-Berry (McGill University), was entitled “Random graphs and random trees”.
  - The Fields Lectures (Stats), delivered by Dr. Tessema Astatkie (Dalhousie University), was entitled “Design and analysis of experiments for value addition of agricultural products: interdisciplinary collaborative research on essential oils from herbal plants with USA researchers”.

### Upcoming Conference: 2025 MSCS Conference hosted by Cape Breton University, tentatively scheduled for October 17-18, 2025.

### Activities and Projects

The Joint Math/Stat/CS committee met on October 4, 2024.

- No motions were made.

- There was extensive discussion on the timing of the conference, programming choices, sponsorship details, uses and allocation of surpluses, and the importance of reducing holding account balances.

The Mathematics and Statistics Division Committee met on October 4, 2023:

- The digitization of Blundon’s problem-solving book is complete and is undergoing final proofreading before publication on the Science Atlantic website.
- Division Terms of Reference were approved by the Division and have been since approved by the Board.
- A Policy on Mathematics Competitions was approved. A French version has been drafted and will be published after proofreading.
- The committee discussed the planning of a speakers tour and is in discussion with potential speakers and host institutions. There are now leads on speakers with the topic “EDI in Mathematics and Statistics” or “EDI in Science”.

**Motion.** To acknowledge that there are students at both MUN campuses that are unable to attend due to financial reasons, and this is a unique issue compared to other Atlantic universities, move that up to six travel subsidies of up to \$500 each be issued to MUN students (normally four St. John’s and two Grenfell) to attend the 2025 MSCS conference in-person, subject to funds available.

- Darien DeWolf was acclaimed as Chair for a second two-year term.

## Nutrition and Foods

**Chair:** Jennifer Taylor (UPEI)

### 2023-25 Conference April 24-25, 2024 St. John’s NL

- Hybrid format
- 51 attendees (10 Faculty in-person, 3 Faculty online, 12 Students online, 26 Student in-person)
- 33 student posters, 10 student oral presentations; 3 Science Atlantic award winners; 7 MUN Dept. of Biochemistry Awards
- Keynote: “*Looking at Food Through an Indigenous Lens: Re-Wilding our Food System & Ourselves*”; Chief Byron Alexander and Jasmine Jesso from Indian Head First Nation were invited as the opening keynote speakers for the conference. They were given the space to share their knowledge on traditional plant medicines, food security, and



Indigenous perspectives in nutrition science

- Invited Speakers: “*Bridging Product Development and Metabolic Control: an Example of Dairy Foods*”, Dr. Bohdan Luhovyy (MSVU); “*Cracking the (Cola) Case: Understanding Canada’s First Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax*”, Dr. Rachel Prowse (MUN)
- Financial: Total income: \$14,156.56; Total expenses \$10, 710.86 (less \$2000 float) = surplus \$1445.70
- Key issues: Sponsorships were difficult due to changes in policies for many industries approached; largely funded by internal opportunities within MUN; travel to NL can be challenging, though we were able to support student travel through travel awards.
- Highlights: Keynote speakers were well received; great student involvement in organization of conference
- Sponsors: Memorial University Dept. of Biochemistry, Grenfell Campus Office of Engagement, and Conference Fund; Agilent Technologies; Fisher Scientific Canada; Thermo Fisher Scientific; Resource Innovations; Science Atlantic

**Upcoming Conference: March 28, 29 2025; co-hosted by Mount Saint Vincent University, Dalhousie University (Agriculture)**

- The SANF division decided that the conference will be fully online. Organizing will be shared by Shannan Grant (MSVU) and Vasantha Rupasinghe (Dal-Ag).

**Activities and Projects**

- Committee meetings and activities highlights: Leading up to the March 2024 conference, the Division chair met multiple times with conference organizers and the executive director. Conference wrap up meeting June 24 2024 discussed the challenge of faculty workload and viability of continuing conferences. A follow up meeting was held Friday August 30 to make a final decision re: 2025 conference. It was agreed that holding a virtual conference and sharing between two universities was the only way a conference could be offered this year. Division chair followed up with an Oct 07 meeting to make decisions re: division of responsibilities for the conference.
- Use of Holding Account funds: holding account funds were used to fund student travel. Since the conference was hybrid, there were two students who were provided with \$750 each. Current balance is \$2812.59

## Physics and Astronomy

Not Available

## Psychology

**Chair:** Angie Birt (MSVU)

### 2023-24 Conference May 9-10, 2024, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS

- Successful in-person conference
- 194 attendees, 119 student presentations, and 30 faculty participants
- 49 oral presentations and 70 poster presentations
- 5 award winners: 2 Science Atlantic Undergraduate Research Awards (1 oral, 1 poster), 2 Science Atlantic Science Communication Awards (1 oral, 1 poster), and 1 Karen Nicholson Award in Neuropsychology
- Keynote Speaker: Judge Laurie Halfpenny MacQuarrie spoke about the development and accomplishments of the Indigenous Healing to Wellness and Gladue Court in Wagmatcook, Cape Breton.
- Panel discussion: Careers in Psychology. Featured Dr. Etta Brodersen, who is a registered psychologist who works primarily within the Youth Court assessment unit at the IWK hospital, Jennaecia Lewis, who is a middle school science teacher, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator, and Kathleen Hyland, who is a research and statistical officer with the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, and a member of the board of directors for the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia.
  - Moderated by SMU Psychology students Rebecca Bartley, Ethan Kavanagh-Day, & Mikayla Hanlon
- Financial: Total income: \$22,220.00; Total Expenses: \$18,338.58, minus float \$1,000.00 = \$2,881.42 surplus.
- Key issues included the host institution not providing as much funding as expected; not applying for external grants (e.g., SSHRC) early enough to revise/resubmit for next funding round; the conference organizers were new to SA (had only attended one conference before); and, although Fourwaves was excellent for many things, it was of only limited usefulness when generating a physical/PDF conference program.
- Key recommendations include encouraging future organizers to start conference planning early, and establish a good organizing committee. In addition, it is recommended that the organizers develop and launch the conference website earlier

to provide basic information about dates and location, as well as generate any advertising materials several months before the conference.

**Upcoming Conferences**

2025: St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB

Dates/locations confirmed for the following years:

- 2026: University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, PE
- 2027: University of New Brunswick: Fredericton, NB
- 2028: Acadia University, Wolfville, NS

**Activities and Projects**

- Annual meeting was held in person on May 9, 2024
- Virtual meeting was held on Oct. 10, 2024. Discussed conference-related issues, including updating judging criteria for student awards, registration fees, timing of the conference (e.g., start earlier on the first day), and conference activities. Also discussed including a faculty professional development session during the conference. Decided to have an event centered around the structure, strengths, and challenges of our different honours programs.
- In preparation for the event, several members are working on a survey about honours programs that will be administered to all faculty reps within the Psychology Division. Other potential dissemination options were discussed.
- \$1,200 from the Psychology Division holding account was transferred to the Science Atlantic Special Projects fund to support student positions for conference support.

## Session Agendas

### Institutional Representatives Strengthening our Foundation

Friday, November 15, 2024, 5:30-7:00 pm NST  
Discussion Topics

1. The PSE Environment and Science Atlantic
2. How can the members leverage impact through Science Atlantic?
  - Membership Benefits (Membership Benefits) [page 26]
  - MOU (circulated separately)
3. What is an Institutional Rep's role in Science Atlantic?
  - Owners
  - Ambassadors
  - Faculty supporters
  - [Institutional Reps Terms of Reference](#)
4. How can Science Atlantic engage more effectively with Institutional Reps?
  - Communication methods/practices
  - IRs Community of Practice
  - Joint Deans of Arts and Science Meeting
  - Connecting with the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) and Atlantic Colleges Atlantique (ACA)

## Institutional Representatives and Division Chairs Joint Meeting Strengthening Our Connections

Saturday, November 16, 2024, 12:45-2:15 pm NST

### Discussion Topics

1. Navigating Conference Organizing in the Institution
  - MOU
2. Conference Fundraising and Hidden Costs
  - Sponsorships/Partnerships
3. Faculty Engagement
  - Recognition of service
  - Professional development
4. How can Science Atlantic better engage the broader community?
  - Communication methods/practices
  - Student Engagement in Science Atlantic
  - [Associate Memberships](#) [page 46]

## Discussion on Associate Membership

The goal of this conversation is to seek member input, thoughts, and direction on a new category of membership in Science Atlantic, namely Associate Membership.

### Background

Organizations and individuals whose interests align with the mission of Science Atlantic have inquired about membership in Science Atlantic. Currently, the only members of Science Atlantic are post-secondary education organizations. However, in the past, membership has included government labs and other organizations, all of whom had voting rights as members. The cost of membership may be prohibitive for smaller labs or individuals.

### Discussion

1. The rights of Associate Members
  - a. Voting at Members' Meetings
  - b. Attendance at Members' Meetings
  - c. Board Committee Participation
  - d. Election to the Board
  - e. Eligibility for Senior Board Positions
2. Associate Membership fee schedules
3. The difference between individuals, organizations, and institutions

## Chairs for Inclusion in Science and Engineering (CISE): Atlantic Outreach in Tenure and Promotion

Saturday, November 16, 2024, 9:00 - 10:30 am NST (hybrid)

This session is for Institutional Representatives only.

Building on Dalhousie University's Academic Leadership Certificate report and its Faculty of Science Tenure and Promotion Taskforce, CISE-Atlantic is working towards an expansive call to action to transform the Tenure and Promotion process so that what has previously been undervalued is duly recognized. In this session, the Chairs will speak about the recommendations put forward by Dalhousie's Task Force aimed at refining the evaluation criteria for tenure and promotion within the Faculty of Science. These recommendations prioritize equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) considerations and are structured into three key categories: research, teaching, and service. The taskforce aims to establish a robust and inclusive framework for evaluating faculty members' contributions. To expand this work across institutions, CISE-Atlantic will develop partnerships and relationships to collect best practices for accounting for faculty contributions in service to EDI in Tenure and Promotion processes.



### About Dr. Svetlana Barkanova

Dr. Svetlana Barkanova is a professor at Grenfell Campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland, home to one of the largest campus-based telescopes in Canada. An internationally known researcher in theoretical subatomic physics, she is on a quest to discover the nature of Dark Matter in our Universe.

A proud new Canadian with wide multicultural experience, she brings a lens of equity, diversity and inclusion to her leadership roles at the regional, national and international level, striving to improve the climate for underrepresented groups in both research and education. She is also an award-winning teacher and a dynamic presenter passionate about science promotion and exploring the stunning beauty of the night sky.



### **About Dr. Kevin Hewitt**

Dr. Kevin Hewitt is a full Professor in the Department of Physics & Atmospheric Science, Associate Dean, Equity and Inclusion, Faculty of Science, and former Chair of Senate at Dalhousie University. In his Molecular imaging lab, he has developed novel nanoparticle probes for cancer imaging and treatment, new optical imaging approaches and a prototype medical diagnostic tool. He completed his B. Sc., Physics & Biology at the University of Toronto (1992).

At Dalhousie he unified his deep and abiding interests in science and community engagement by co-founding (in 2003) the award-winning Imhotep's Legacy Academy, a STEM outreach program for Black students from junior high to university. He continues to promote and champion success in STEM for equity-deserving groups through a variety of regional and national initiatives.



### **About Dr. Stephanie MacQuarrie**

Dr. Stephanie MacQuarrie earned her PhD at Virginia Tech University and completed her Post doctoral research at Queen's University before starting her independent academic career at Cape Breton University in 2009. She is celebrated for her pioneering work in biomass conversion and innovative biochar applications. Her dedication to mentorship bridges research, teaching, and outreach. She's a leading advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Chemistry in Canada and champions policies benefiting marginalized and under-represented groups.

She is a Science Champion; her outreach programs are impressive and far reaching.



## MUN Student Panel

Saturday, November 16, 2024, 11:00 am 12:00 pm (hybrid and live streamed)

Join Memorial University of Newfoundland science students Sathya Amarasena, Amy Stephenson, and Asha De Silva for a panel discussion about their experiences with Science Atlantic, facilitated by Science Atlantic Board of Directors Student Representative Holly Butt. In addition to prepared discussion topics, there will be a Q&A session, time permitting.

This session will be livestreamed on Facebook.



### About Sathya

Sathya Amarasena is a third-year PhD candidate at the Department of Biochemistry, Memorial University. Her research is focused on dietary micronutrients and gut-brain interaction. She has presented her research at multiple local and international conferences, including the Canadian Nutrition Society conference (2024), the American Society for Nutrition-annual conference (2024), and the Science Atlantic Nutrition and Food Conference (SANFC) in 2023 (winner of the best PhD oral presentation) and 2024.



### About Amy

Amy is currently in her fourth year as a Chemistry Honours student at MUN. Over the past two years, Amy has had the privilege of attending ChemCon (at DAL and CBU), which has been an invaluable opportunity for her academic growth. These conferences have allowed Amy to engage with researchers, expand her knowledge of developments in the field of chemistry, and network with peers like herself. Each experience has deepened her passion for chemistry and enriched her educational journey.



### About Asha

Asha De Silva, a registered veterinarian from Sri Lanka, is currently pursuing a PhD at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, where her research focuses on amino acid metabolism in neonatal pediatrics, specifically studying TPN-fed piglets in Dr Brunton/Bertolo's lab. With experience as a government veterinary surgeon and a master's in Public Administration from the University of Colombo, she brings a distinct interdisciplinary perspective to her work. Recently, she presented her study, Creatine Absorption Across the Small Intestine in the Presence of Guanidinoacetic Acid in Pigs, at the Science Atlantic Nutrition & Foods 2024 conference, hosted by Memorial University.

## Girls STEM UP: Virtual Presentation

Co-chairs Ally and Nazila will share a brief overview of Girls STEM UP (GSU), a student association based at the University of New Brunswick. Founded in 2019, GSU's mission is to leave a meaningful imprint on girls choosing to pursue STEM fields while increasing engagement and fostering greater respect for women in STEM domains.

Now with over 300 members, they are seeking to continue expanding across the Atlantic region. This session will be live streamed on Facebook.



### About Allyson

Allyson is going into her 4th year at UNB, majoring in Biochemistry. Apart from being this year's GSU Co-Chair, she is Science Councilor on the Student Union as well as a Best Buddies participant. Ally is also involved in electro-chemistry research on campus.

Ally is passionate about the Girls in STEM cause and ensuring everyone knows their worth, while living up to their fullest potential.



### About Nazila

Nazila is entering her 4th year at UNB, where she majors in Biology. Alongside her role as this year Girls STEM Up Co-Chair, she is the co-president of UNB S.P.R.I.N.G. Program and serves as the Vice-President of the UNB Pre-Dental Club. This summer, Nazila gained hands-on experience as a Conservation Biology Research Assistant in Croatia and is currently doing her independent studies on it. She advocates for women in

STEM and is committed to challenging the gender stereotypes that are present in science and technology fields, particularly in regions where cultural norms discourage women from pursuing careers in these areas.