



Fall 2022 Leadership Meetings
Friday, November 18
Saturday, November 19, 2022

Hosted by Dalhousie University



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

All meetings held in the Steele Oceans Science Building
1355 Oxford Street, Halifax, NS

Schedule of Events

(Atlantic Standard Time)

Friday, November 18

3:00-4:00 pm	EDIA Panel	Room 344
4:00-5:00 pm	60th Anniversary Reception	Atrium
5:15-6:15 pm	Annual Members Meeting	344
6:30-8:00 pm	Institutional Representative/Division Chair Dinners	344/222
8:00-9:00 pm	Joint IRs and Chairs Session	344
9:00 pm	Social Event	Lord Nelson Hotel

Saturday, November 19

9:30-11:30 am	Strategic Planning Workshop	344/222
11:45-1:15 pm	Science Communication Panel	344
1:15-1:30 pm	Closing	344
1:30-2:00 pm	Board Debrief	344



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.



Table of Contents

Schedule of Events	1
Mission, Vision, Values	2
Table of Contents	3
List of Participants	4
2022 Annual Members Meeting Agenda	5
List of Motions	5
2021 Annual Members Meeting Minutes	7
Report of the Chair of the Board of Directors	10
Executive Director's Report	11
2022-2023 Budget	12
2022 Slate of Board Nominees	13
Final Report on the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan	14
Summary of 2018-2022 Strategic Accomplishments	15
Division Committee Reports	17
Division Committee Chairs Report	17
Aquaculture and Fisheries	17
Biology	18
Chemistry	19
Computer Science	21
Earth Science	22
Environment	23
Mathematics and Statistics	23
Nutrition and Foods	25
Physics and Astronomy	28
Psychology	29
EDIA Panel: Advocacy in STEM Spaces: A Fireside Chat	31
Science Communication Panel: Science Communication as a Core Competency for the Next Generation of Scientists and Change Makers	31



List of Participants

Joe Apaloo (StFX)	Institutional Rep
Lexie Arnott (Dal)	Chair, Earth Science
Pandurang Ashrit (UdeM)	Institutional Rep
Trevor Avery (Acadia)	Chair, Aquaculture & Fisheries
Angie Birt (MSVU)	Rep, Psychology
Camilo Botero (Dal)	Guest
Andrea Burgess (UNBSJ)	Board
Cezar Câmpeanu (UPEI)	Chair, Computer Science
Suzie Currie (Acadia)	Institutional Rep
Carrie Dawson (MSVU)	Institutional Rep
Darien DeWolf (StFX)	Chair, Math & Stats
Suzanne Dufour (MUN)	Institutional Rep
Russell Easy (Acadia)	Chair, Biology
Nola Etkin (UPEI)	Institutional Rep
Stephen Finbow (StFX)	Board
Lori Francis (SMU)	Institutional Rep/Board
Caroline Franklin (Dal)	Rep, Environment
Travis Fridgen (MUN)	Board
David Gray (Dal-Ag)	Institutional Rep/Board
Robert van den Hoogen (StFX)	Board
Al Joseph (NSCC)	Institutional Rep/Board
Charles Macdonald (Dal)	Institutional Rep/Board
Andrew MacDougall (StFX)	Chair, Environment
Shyamchand Mayengbam (MUN)	Co-Chair, Nutrition & Foods
Jon Ohlhauser (Crandall)	Institutional Rep
Rick Pierrynowski (CBU)	Institutional Rep
Jean-Michel Robichaud	Rep, Psychology
Gary Saunders (UNBF)	Institutional Rep
Stevan Springer (UPEI)	Incoming Chair, Biology
Jennifer Stamp (Dal)	Rep, Psychology
Jennifer Taylor (UPEI)	Chair, Nutrition & Foods
Alison Thompson (Dal)	EDIA Action Committee
Danielle Tokarz (SMU)	Chair, Chemistry
Michael van Zyll de Jong (UNBSJ)	Institutional Rep
Lois Whitehead (SA)	Executive Director



2022 Annual Members Meeting Agenda

November 18, 2022, 5:15 pm to 6:15 pm AST

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (5 min)
2. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum (2 min)
3. Approval of the Agenda (2 min)
4. Approval of the Annual Members Meeting Minutes, November 25, 2021 (2 min)
5. Opening Remarks from the Chair of the Board of Directors (5 min)
6. Report from the Executive Director (5 min)
7. Strategic Planning Report (8 min)
8. Acceptance of 2022 Division Committee Reports (5 min)
9. Financial Report (8 min)
 - i) Presentation of Financial Statement for the Fiscal Period ending August 31, 2022
 - ii) Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2022
 - iii) Presentation of 2022-2023 Budget
10. Governance Report (8 min)
 - i) Election of 2022-23 Board of Directors
11. Other Business (5 min)
 - i) Host for 2023 Annual Meeting
12. Adjournment of Business Meeting



List of Motions

Item 3.

Moved that the agenda be approved as (circulated/amended).

Item 4.

Moved that the minutes of the November 25, 2021, Annual Members Meeting be approved as [circulated/amended].

Item 9. i)

Moved that the financial statements for the fiscal period ending August 31, 2022 be accepted as presented.

Item 9. ii)

Moved that Grant Thornton be retained as the financial reviewer for 2022-2023.

Item 10. i)

Moved that the slate of Board Directors for 2022-2023 be approved as presented.

Optional: **Moved** that _____ be accepted for the position of Director-at-Large,
_____.

Notes:

- *Currently, there is only one nominee per position. At the meeting, the motion may be split into more specific motions if there are any additional nominees.*
- *A call for nominations from the floor will be made at the meeting.*
- *If you do not wish to vote for any individual nominees, please let your proxy know.*

Item 12.

Moved that the meeting be adjourned at [time].



2021 Annual Members Meeting Minutes

Hosted virtually by Nova Scotia Community College

3:00 to 4:00 pm AST, Friday, November 25, 2021

(Draft)

- 1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**
Alain Joseph (NSCC) presented a land acknowledgement.
- 2. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum**
Robert van den Hoogen (StFX) confirmed that a quorum of members was met.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda**
Moved (Travis Fridgen (MUN)/Nola Etkin (UPEI)) that the agenda be approved as circulated. **Carried.**
- 4. Approval of the Annual Members Meeting Minutes, November 27, 2020**
Moved (Michael van Zyll de Jong (UNB-SJ)/Travis Fridgen (MUN)) that the minutes of the November 27, 2020, Annual Members Meeting be approved as circulated. Ten in favor, nine abstained with one noted abstention (Emir Delic, U. Sainte-Anne). **Carried.**
- 5. Opening Remarks from the Chair of the Board of Directors**
Robert van den Hoogen, Board Chair, provided opening remarks.
- 6. Report from the Executive Director**
Lois Whitehead, Executive Director, provided a summary of her circulated report.
- 7. Acceptance of 2021 Division Committee Reports**
Andrea Burgess (UNB-SJ), Chair of the Mathematics and Statistics Division Committee, provided a brief summary of Division Committee activities. Nola Etkin (UPEI), Chair of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Action Committee, provided a summary of the EDIA Committee's activities.
- 8. 2018-2022 Strategic Plan Update**
Robert outlined the recent progress made on our strategic goals as outlined in the Strategic Planning Committee Report in the Meeting package.
- 9. Financial Report**



Rick Pierrynowski (CBU), Treasurer, presented the following items:

i) Financial Statement for the Fiscal Period ending August 31, 2021

Moved (Rick Pierrynowski (CBU)/David Gray (Dal-Ag)) that the Financial Statement for the fiscal period ending August 31, 2021 be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

ii) Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2022

Moved (Rick Pierrynowski (CBU)/Lori Francis (SMU)) that Grant Thornton be retained as financial reviewer for 2021-2022. **Carried.**

iii) Presentation of 2021-2022 Budget

A Q&A followed the budget presentation.

10. Governance Report

i) Election of 2021-22 Board of Directors

Christian Lacroix (UPEI), Past Chair, presented the proposed slate of Officers and Directors. The name of the nominated or reoffering Directors are listed in **bold**. All positions are for a two-year term unless otherwise noted.

Executive

- Continuing: Chair: Robert van den Hoogen (StFX) (to Nov. 2022)
- **Nominated: Chair Elect:** Michele Piercey-Normore (Grenfell) (to Nov. 2022)
- **Nominated: Treasurer:** David Gray (Dal-Ag) (to Nov. 2023)

Directors-at-Large, Institutional Representatives

- Continuing: Travis Fridgen (MUN) (to Nov. 2022)
- **Reoffering:** Alain Joseph (NSCC) (to Nov. 2023)
- **Nominated:** Lori Francis (SMU) (to Nov. 2023)

Directors-at-Large, Division Committee Representatives

- Continuing: Andrea Burgess (UNB-SJ), Math & Stats Chair (to Nov. 2022)
- **Nominated:** Carole Tranchant (UdeM), Nutrition & Foods Co-Chair (to Nov. 2023)
- **Vacant:**

Directors-at-Large, Community Members

- Continuing: Edward (Eddie) Francis, PEI Bioalliance (to Nov. 2022)
- Continuing: Kelly Schnare, RAH2050 (to Nov. 2022)

A call for nominations from the floor was made to fill the vacant position of Director-at-Large, Division Committees. Charles Macdonald, Institutional Representative for Dalhousie, and Stephen Finbow (StFX), former Chair of the



Math & Stats Committee, volunteered. Since the Board positions for Institutional Representatives were filled, Charles ceded the position to Stephen.

Moved (Christian Lacroix (UPEI)/Gary Saunders (UNB-F)) that the slate of Board of Directors be accepted as presented, including Stephen Finbow as Director-at Large, Division Committee Representative. **Carried.**

Robert thanked outgoing Board Directors: Amanda Cockshutt (MtA), Russell Easy (Acadia), Michelle Gray (UNB-F), Christian Lacroix (UPEI), and Rick Pierrynowski (CBU) for their service.

11. **Other Business**

i) Host for the 2022 Annual Meeting

Chuck Macdonald volunteered to host the 2022 Annual Meeting at Dalhousie. Members accepted his offer, with thanks.

ii) Update on Bylaws

Robert provided an update on the bylaws review project. Members suggested circulating the bylaws and getting feedback via email and a virtual meeting.

12. **Adjournment of Business Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.



Report of the Chair of the Board of Directors

Science Atlantic has been connecting and supporting the post-secondary science community for 60 years. What an achievement: many institutions recognized this achievement by planting a tree on their campus. The tree represents the roots of Science Atlantic and its continued growth into the future.

As we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic era, the activities of Science Atlantic are beginning to transition to a new normal. Even during the pandemic, Science Atlantic has been busy supporting and strengthening our mutual connections across the region. There has been a renewed effort to increase the engagement of our Institutional Representatives by providing pertinent programming to support their needs. I would like to thank David Gray, Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture, for taking on a leadership role in engaging the Institutional Representatives. Further, our Division Chairs have also increased their engagement. They have been meeting regularly over the year to discuss issues and best practices within the various Divisions. I would like to thank Andrea Burgess, UNBSJ, for leading the discussions of this group. We also continue to improve our efforts on EDIA, led by Nola Etkin, UPEI.

Much of our energy these past few months has been on developing a new strategic plan that will guide our actions and decisions for the next five years. While the priorities have been set and approved by the Board of Science Atlantic, actions have not yet been identified to achieve these goals. We will be engaging the Science Atlantic community to help identify actions that can be taken within the resource allocations provided, and if new resources are required, to identify this as well. Our Finance committee has also been busy trying to ascertain a more sustainable and transparent financial model so that Science Atlantic can do all the things we want it to do. This work is ongoing.

One of my goals as the Chair of Science Atlantic was to review the governance structure and to bring to the membership a revised set of Bylaws. This has been a major undertaking, and while a draft is prepared, it is not quite ready for the Membership. With the support of the Governance Committee, I will be looking to complete the project this coming year.

My work as Chair of Science Atlantic would not take place without the dedicated and professional work of the Science Atlantic staff and student interns. In particular, I would like to thank Lois Whitehead for her patience with working with me these past few years.

It has been my honour to lead Science Atlantic, an organization that has been so integral to the post-secondary science community in Atlantic Canada for so many years. I know our new Chair; Charles Macdonald, Dean of Dalhousie University's Faculty of Science, will continue to lead Science Atlantic as it continues its growth.

Robert van den Hoogen, Chair, Science Atlantic



Executive Director's Report

Sixty years. What an achievement!

Science Atlantic (originally the Atlantic Inter-university Council on the Sciences, or APICS) was founded in 1962 by academic leaders who wanted to expand post-secondary science in Atlantic Canada. Today, our membership comprises 18 post-secondary institutions and campuses, with 150 faculty and Deans/Institutional Reps and up to 1000 attendees at our annual conferences. That's tens of thousands of people impacted over the last 60 years! Thank you to all of you and your predecessors for making this milestone possible.

2022 has capped off a period of enormous change around the world, with things still far from settled. Science Atlantic has adapted, including hosting two full years of virtual conferences. (Learn more about our 2021-2022 conference season: <https://sciatl.org/2022ConfReport>.)

Behind the scenes, the Board has been working to strengthen leadership and welcome more Atlantic educators and researchers to the organization. You will see these themes in the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. Thank you in particular to Strategic Planning Committee members who met throughout the summer and fall to prepare the new plan.

As well, our two most important leadership groups, the Institutional Reps/Deans and the Division Chairs, have met over the year, led respectively by Board members David Gray (Institutional Rep and Principal and Dean of Dalhousie Agricultural Campus) and Andrea Burgess (Chair of the Mathematics and Statistics Division and Assistant Professor at UNB, Saint John). I'm grateful to David and Andrea for fulfilling these Board roles with such dedication.

We have been supported by a group of strong staff and volunteers, including several students who have worked for us in various co-op and part-time positions. Their on-the-job learning has benefited the organization as much as it has provided them with work experience. Thank you.

No list of thank yous could be complete without recognizing our Board Chair, Robert van den Hoogen (Professor of Mathematics, StFX). Robert and I have spoken on an almost weekly basis about everything from Science Atlantic's governance, financial, and staffing successes and challenges to the changing roles and expectations of Deans and professors. As well, the somewhat overlooked importance of strong bylaws and policies has been part of his focus in building our organization for the future. Robert's commitment to Science Atlantic is outstanding.

Science Atlantic is a member-driven organization. In conversations and actions across the organization, the consistent thread has been how to bring the value of Science Atlantic to the people we serve and beyond. As we embark on the next 60 years, I believe we are more committed than ever to the region's post-secondary STEM community.

Lois Whitehead, Executive Director



2022-2023 Budget

Comparison to 2021-2022 approved budget and actuals:

	2022-23 Approved Budget	2021-22 Approved Budget	2021-22 Actuals
INCOME			
Membership Fees	176,040	163,000	163,985
Employment Grants	13,260	13,384	65,438
Conference Income	-	5,100	725
Corporate Sponsorships (incl. Awards)	10,100	5,000	11,689
Donations	4,500	1,500	9,203
Investment Income	1,800	5,400	3,936
Miscellaneous Income	-	5,000	11,689
TOTAL INCOME	\$205,700	\$193,384	\$254,976
EXPENSES			
Division Programs	3,400	3,400	1,028
Insurance	800	900	765
Office and Web	10,150	15,550	11,089
Professional Fees	15,000	16,000	19,523
Student Awards	5,900	5,900	5,900
Travel and Meetings	2,500	2,000	1,019
Volunteer Recognition	1,000	1,000	0
60th Anniversary	1,000	1,000	0
Strategic Projects	5,000	2,000	0
Wages and Benefits	161,000	149,000	218,997
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$205,750	\$196,750	\$258,320
NET INCOME/LOSS	-\$50	-\$3,366	-\$3,344



2022 Slate of Board Nominees

* Names in bold are nominated or reoffering Directors

Executive

- **Incoming Chair: Charles Macdonald**, Dal (to Nov. 2024)
- Past Chair: Robert van den Hoogen, StFX (to Nov. 2023)
- Treasurer: David Gray (Dal-Ag) (to Nov. 2023)

Directors-at-Large, Institutional Representatives

- **Reoffering: Travis Fridgen**, Memorial (to Nov. 2024)
- Alain Joseph, NSCC (to Nov. 2023)
- Lori Francis, SMU (to Nov. 2023)

Directors-at-Large, Division Committee Representatives

- **Reoffering: Andrea Burgess**, UNB-SJ, Past Chair, Math & Stats Division (to Nov. 2024)
- Stephen Finbow (to Nov. 2023)
- **Open position**

Directors-at-Large, Community Members

- **Nominated: Sara Klapstein**, Policy Analyst, Natural Resources Canada (to Nov. 2024)
Sara has been in the Science Atlantic community for 15 years: as a student presenter, conference organizer, and faculty representative. She has a BScH in Biogeochemistry (StFX), an MSc in Integrative Biology (University of Guelph), and a PhD in Environmental Sciences (MUN). During and after completing a postdoc Acadia, Sara taught environmental and earth sciences courses at universities Dal, Acadia, StFX, and CBU. She is a Policy Analyst with Natural Resources Canada, currently working in the Office of the Chief Scientist sector.
- **Open position**



Final Report on the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan

The 2018-2022 Strategic Plan had proposed a number of very specific outcomes and actions; classified into three broad categories:

1. Sustainable and Inclusive Governance
2. Partnerships and Community
3. Leadership and Empowerment

The plan was ambitious. Progress has been made in several areas; as well, a number of activities were undertaken that aligned with the broader strategic vision but were not identified in the plan (a summary of accomplishments follows this report). Our biggest deviation from the plan was the termination of AFRED (Atlantic Facilities and Research Equipment Database) due to a lack of adequate resources and increasing competition from companies better aligned to provide a database of research infrastructure.

A more positive activity that was not part of the plan was due to the cancellation of conferences in the first months of the pandemic. This allowed staff to pivot towards servicing the broader STEM community through a series of in-depth interviews with faculty not involved in Science Atlantic. We asked questions regarding role satisfaction, professional needs and gaps, and reasons for joining associations and volunteering. The resulting report, "[Broadening Horizons](#)," has had a distinct impact on the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.

We also surveyed Institutional Reps (IRs) on topics of interest and hosted two closed sessions for them to share best practices regarding EDIA and indigenization. Providing a community of practice for IRs to connect is an important activity that strengthens the post-secondary science community in Atlantic Canada. We plan to expand this activity as part of the 2023-2028 plan.

Regarding the goal of developing an MOU between the member institutions, once we began, the conversation shifted to examining our purpose and value. Do we design and manage software for equipment inventory and conference registration? Are we here to support the Institutional Reps? Faculty? Students? Should we focus only on conferences? We worked with a student researcher on a change analysis project to examine these questions; that work has also influenced the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.

The new strategic plan for the next five years focuses on supporting and connecting the post-secondary science communities in Atlantic Canada through enhanced membership development and capacity building. Our efforts and learning over the past five years have prepared us to hit the ground running with the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.

Respectfully submitted, Robert van den Hoogen, Board Chair; Lois Whitehead, Executive Director



Summary of 2018-2022 Strategic Accomplishments

1. Sustainable and Inclusive Governance

1.1. Secure staffing: Job descriptions and salary evaluations completed for two positions; however, staffing has not been secured to support desired activities.

1.2. Strengthen AFRED to become an integral part of the organization: AFRED was closed.

1.3. Ensure we have a clear understanding of who we are: Mission and values defined; value proposition discussion ongoing.

1.4. Increase operating budget through diversified funding streams: Finance Committee established; research into new funding sources initiated; additional revenue streams have not been developed, although pandemic-related employment grants increased income by 35% in 2020-2022.

Finance activities not included in the plan: Established a Finance Committee; created and implemented a process for groups to apply for special project funding; moved to online banking and bookkeeping

1.5. Renew Science Atlantic's relationship with our members at an institutional level: interviews and surveys of Institutional Reps (IRs); online gatherings held on topics of interest; developed Members Code of Conduct; MOU not completed.

Governance activities not included in the plan: evaluated Board effectiveness; updated Board of Directors positions and responsibilities; established Director portfolios and Board committees; reviewed and updated policies with a focus on EDIA principles; comprehensive Bylaws update (in progress).

2. Partnerships and Community

2.1. By the end of 2022, AFRED will be expanded to include more non-member and non-academic institutions and/or organizations: Did not occur.

2.2. Expand partnerships and broaden community: NSCC and Université Sainte-Anne joined as new Institutional Members; relationships begun with ASRJ and QAtCanSTEM; EDIA Committee established including people outside core membership; professional development webinars held. "Friends of Science Atlantic" not developed.

Community expansion activities not included in the plan: Interviews with faculty not involved with Science Atlantic resulting in "[Broadening Horizons](#)" report.

2.3. Strengthen our internal community: Welcome meetings held with incoming IRs; Interviews held with IRs; Division Chairs meetings established; web information hubs



developed for Board, Division Chairs, and IRs; Division member orientation process developed; celebrated 60th anniversary with tree dedication ceremonies across member campuses.

3. Leadership and Empowerment

3.1. Evolve conferences to become a national standard: Conference reports, surveys, and metrics developed and implemented; Conferences Scorecard circulated monthly to IRs; annual conference report prepared by staff. Conference-in-a-Box overhaul incomplete; expanded awards system not developed.

Conference activities not included in the plan: Developed Student Support Philosophy and Conference Code of Conduct; hosted two full years of virtual conferences.

3.2. Advance AFRED as the go-to source for research infrastructure in the region: Did not occur.

3.3. Enhance visibility of the organization and promote the brand: Improved social media presence through grant-paid employees; other promotions outlined in plan not completed.

Communications activities not included in the plan: redesigned Science Atlantic website with increased accessibility and neutral language; refreshed branding.

3.4. Coordinate advocacy campaigns responding to regional science issues: policy for addressing issues was not developed and no campaigns were completed;

Advocacy activities not included in the plan: EDIA Action Committee established.



Division Committee Reports

Division Committee Chairs Report

The Division Chairs Committee is intended to facilitate regular meetings of the group of Division Committee Chairs. This Committee acts as a venue for the Chairs to discuss common issues, and also provides a conduit between the Division Committee Chairs and the Board.

Since the last AMM, the group has met twice, in March and October 2022. The Executive Director participated in the March meeting to provide Chairs with an overview of finance policies and the Division Holding Accounts. Discussion at this meeting led to an application to the Special Projects Fund to hire a student to explore revitalizing Conference-in-a-Box.

At the October meeting, Chairs discussed a number of topics, including sharing what sources of funding are leveraged by each Division to send students to the respective conferences. In addition, Chairs discussed procedures for determining locations of conferences; the importance of clear planning processes and sharing of plans between Divisions was emphasized. Initial discussion was undertaken regarding consistency of guidelines/policies for conference awards; this topic will be raised again in a future meeting. Other topics for discussion at future meetings include areas in alignment with the strategic plan, such as engagement, EDIA, and sustainability in Division operations.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Burgess
Director-at-Large, Division Committee Representative

Aquaculture and Fisheries

Conference

A report on the March 2022 AFB Conference hosted at UPEI is included in the Biology report.

Division Business

Engagement in this Division has been low and a revitalization is required. The Chair, Trevor Avery, and the Executive Director have discussed how to increase participation. Trevor has been Chair for more than ten years and would like to step down.

Submitted on behalf of
Trevor Avery
Division Committee Chair, Aquaculture & Fisheries



Biology

Conference

The 2022 Aquaculture & Fisheries and Biology Conference was hosted Mar. 10 to 12, 2022, by UPEI, coordinated by Stevan Springer, Assistant Professor of Biology. Although this is a joint conference, the UPEI Science Atlantic Aquaculture & Fisheries representative position was vacant, resulting in a heavy workload for the sole organizer.

The conference was hosted virtually using Wonder.me, a platform that encourages organic interactions of virtual participants as well as providing structured “rooms” for presentations.

Forty-one students and 78 faculty registered from 13 institutions. Biology students gave 25 oral and 16 poster presentations, with a total of six prizes awarded to outstanding student presenters.

The conference hosted one keynote speaker. Dr. Christine Parent from the University of Idaho gave a talk entitled *Adaptive Radiation of Galapagos Island Land Snails*.

The next conference will be hosted by UNB, Saint John, Mar. 3 to 5, 2023, coordinated by Kim Davies (Biology) and Thierry Chopin (A&F). The intention is to host the event in person, with a virtual/hybrid option as a backup if required.

Locations for future conferences were confirmed at the Nov. 4, 2022, business meeting:

- 2024, Dalhousie University
- 2025, UNB, Fredericton
- 2026, Saint Mary's University

Division Committee Business

Biology hosts an annual fall faculty workshop, hosted this year at UNB-SJ on Nov. 4 and 5, 2022. The group of 13 (ten members participating in person, and three joining virtually) discussed the following topics:

1. Science Atlantic's role in preparing students for conferences: The group reached consensus to broaden participation to students in any range and to emphasize science communication rather than publication.
2. Strategies used to teach during a pandemic as well as strategies for reengaging students after two years of online learning.
3. Comparison of honours programs across Atlantic Canada: There is a significant disparity in program content across institutions, resulting in students being responsible for a wide range of activities and requirements to complete their Honours.
4. Data literacy and when to introduce these concepts to university students: This topic was discussed in depth at the 2021 faculty workshop (for more details please see the



2021 Science Atlantic Biology report). It was generally agreed that these important topics should be introduced beginning in first year.

Membership

Chair, Russell Easy (Acadia) is completing his fourth year in the position. Stevan Springer (UPEI) agreed to take the Chair in 2023. The Committee shares the responsibility of Secretary. There has been significant turnover in membership over the past year and several new members were welcomed at the November meeting: David Filice (Mount Allison), Gilles Morin (Université de Moncton), David Chaisson (SMU) and Shawn Craik (Université Sainte-Anne). Currently, there is one vacancy: UNB, Fredericton.

Respectfully submitted,
Russel Easy
Division Committee Chair, Biology

Chemistry

Conference

ChemCon 2022 at Saint Francis Xavier University proceeded virtually due to COVID-19.

- Theme: Chemistry at the Nexus
- Two student co-presidents: Jenna MacPhee and Jordan Stuart
- Three faculty advisors: Geniece Hallett-Tapley, Gerrard Marangoni, and Brian MacLean
- StFX initially planned and prepared for an in-person conference, but after a rise in COVID infections at StFX, ChemCon was switched to a virtual event through the software platform, Whova
- Registration went out late, but attendance was on track with last year's successful virtual ChemCon
- Three keynote lectures in line with the theme were presented by Mark Stradiotto, Vicki Meli, and Francesca Kerton
- A total of 130 people attended, consisting of undergraduate student presenters (25 oral + 14 poster), graduate student presenters (14 oral + nine poster), two postdoctoral fellows, 18 faculty members, and 48 others
- Those in attendance were affiliated with: Acadia (5), CBU (7), Crandall (1), Dal (19), MUN (15), MtA (22), MSVU (1), SMU (17), StFX (8), UdM (1), UNB (8), UPEI (5), Other (21)
- More poster prizes were given than in past years in the inorganic, organic, and physical chemistry sections to reflect the higher number of students in the poster categories
- Sponsor contributions were \$6,700, while total expenses came out to \$5,843.80 and more awards were given to make this difference as small as possible
- Dal has agreed to host ChemCon 2023 in-person May 25-27
- CBU has agreed to host ChemCon 2024 in-person



Speaker Tour

The Science Atlantic Chemistry Division co-hosts an annual speaker tour with the Chemical Institute of Canada.

2021-22 Speakers (virtual):

- Dr. Cherif Matta (MSVU) presented at seven universities
- Dr. Christina Bottaro (MUN) agreed to be a speaker, but she got very busy when tour details were being worked out and did not do the tour

2022-23 Speakers:

- Dr. Jenny Wong (MtA)
- Dr. Yang Qu (UNB, Fredericton)

Division Committee Business

The executive of the Chemistry Committee consists of Dr. Danielle Tokarz (SMU, currently second year in position) as Chair, Dr. Brian J. MacLean (StFX, currently second year in position) as Vice-Chair, and Dr. Glen Briand (MtA, currently second year in position) as Tour Coordinator. We thank Dr. Mel Schriver (Crandall University) for the continued support of the Chemistry Committee.

The Committee has an annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Science Atlantic Chemistry Conference (ChemCon) typically held in the late spring with an optional autumn meeting held at the request of the Committee. This year the annual meeting was held May 26, 2021 via Zoom with representatives of 12 Member Institutions attending. The Committee meeting was dominated by discussions regarding a host institution rotation for ChemCon. A consensus seemed to be reached that the Chemistry Committee should discuss who's turn it is to host ChemCon each year rather than what has been done in conferences previously (a decision based on the loudest applause from students of the proposed host institution). In doing so, consideration should be made to the students that need to travel the farthest e.g., consider hosting ChemCon at MUN more often and travel support could be provided to the students who travel the furthest. Further, when providing travel reimbursements for student cost to travel, we could develop a model where students that pay more to travel to ChemCon receive more funding. Therefore, as a committee, we could decide to implement a proportional travel expense to those traveling to ChemCon; however, it is unclear how much money should be set aside for this.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Tokarz
Division Committee Chair, Chemistry



Computer Science

Conference

MSCS 2022 was held October 14 to 15, 2022 in person – after two years (2020, 2021) of on-line conferences – at Mount Allison University. The event was sponsored by MtA, AARMS, and Science Atlantic.

The organizing committee was:

- Geoffrey Cruttwell (Chair)
- Margaret-Ellen Messinger
- Nathaniel Johnston
- Liam Keliher, Programming Competition supervisor

Undergraduate Registrations	75
Graduate Registrations	7
Faculty Registrations	39
Plenary Speakers	3
Total Registrations	121
Abstracts Accepted	21
CS Programming Teams	16 (40 competitors)

Invited Talks

- The Sedgwick Lecture (CS) was by Dr. Amber Simpson, “Solving Fundamental Cancer Problems with AI”
- The Blundon Lecture (Math) was given by Dr. Peter Selinger, “Hex as a combinatorial game”
- The Fields Lecture (Statistics) was given by Dr. Jude Kong, “Harnessing the power of mathematical models to inform disease outbreak policies”

Division Committee Business

At the Joint CS/Math/Stats joint committee meeting session, UPEI accepted being the host for the 2023 conference. The conference date will be similar to the 2022 dates, i.e., during the Fall reading week.

One of the items on the agenda was the discussion on the funding for students attending the MSCS conference. It was noted that in the past, some students had difficulties in obtaining the



funds for traveling to Science Atlantic. It was noted that there is considerable variation in sources and availability of travel support for students across the various institutions.

As future conferences would be in-person events, the committees passed a motion to strongly encourage the deans to ensure that funding sources be available for students from their institutions to attend Science Atlantic conferences. The Computer Science Committee also met on October 14, 2022.

The programming competition, held as part of MSCS, is no longer part of the ICPC programming competition. The MSCS contest provides an excellent opportunity to practice and prepare our teams for the first round of the ICPC NENA competition. We updated the eligibility for Science Atlantic so that for a team to take home a Science Atlantic plaque, they must be either undergraduate students or ICPC-approved (but not necessarily both).

Respectfully submitted,
Cezar Câmpeanu
Division Committee Chair, Computer Science

Earth Science

Conference

The 2022 Atlantic University Geoscience Conference (AUGC) was hosted by the Fletcher Geology Club at Acadia University, Oct. 27 to 29, 2022. Approximately 100 registrants attended.

Field trips are an essential part of AUGC, and three were held as part of the return to in-person events:

- The Story Beneath the Scenery - Going Back in Time in the Wolfville Area
- Geology of the South Shore of Nova Scotia
- Surficial Features and Geohazards Around the Annapolis Valley

Two guest talks were given during the event:

- Geologist John Waldron and artist Sydney Lancaster explored relationships between Art and Time
- Carla Skinner, an Indigenous geoscientist, spoke on the topics of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in the earth sciences

More details of the conference can be found on the [Acadia website](#).

The 2023 AUGC will be hosted by Memorial University.

Speaker Tour

The annual speaker tour is held jointly with Atlantic Geoscience Society.



The 2022 Speaker Tour was not held due to the pandemic.

Upcoming speakers for 2022-2023 are:

- Shawna White, SMU (presenting at Dalhousie, MUN, StFX)
- Steven Edwards, COGS (locations TBD)
- Mo Snyder, Acadia (presenting at MUN)

Division Committee Business

Executive membership: Deanne van Rooyen will take over as Division Chair in December 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Lexie Arnott

Division Committee Chair, Earth Science

Environment

Conference

2022 Science Atlantic Environment Conference was virtually hosted by Dalhousie University on March 12, 2022, with 66 attendees from 14 Atlantic institutions.

Dr. Stephen Heard (UNB Biology) delivered the keynote talk entitled “Charles Darwin’s barnacle and David Bowie’s spider: What can the names of species tell us about science, and scientists?”

2022-2023 conference: TBD

Division Committee Business

Andrew MacDougall (StFX) is the incoming Chair.

SAEC focusses on the annual conference as its main activity.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Gray

Division Committee Chair, Environment

Mathematics and Statistics

Conference

The MSCS conference was held at Mount Allison University, October 14-15, 2022. The organizing team included Geoffrey Cruttwell, Margaret-Ellen Messinger and Nathaniel Johnston. Sponsors included Mount Allison, AARMS and Science Atlantic. This year’s MSCS marks the first time the conference has been held in person since 2019.



The conference featured three excellent plenary talks:

- Blundon Lecture: Dr. Peter Selinger (Dalhousie University), Hex as a combinatorial game.
- Sedgwick Lecture: Dr. Amber Simpson (Queens University), Solving fundamental cancer problems with AI.
- Fields Lecture: Dr. Jude Kong (York University), Harnessing the power of mathematical models to inform disease outbreak policies.

Registration numbers were lower than the 2021 conference, which is to be expected with a return to the in-person model. There were in total 121 registered participants, comprising 75 undergraduate students, seven graduate students and 39 faculty (including the invited speakers). The student talks were of high quality. There were 21 contributed student talks, including talks in mathematics, statistics, and computer science. As usual, in addition to research presentations, the conference featured problem-solving (mathematics) and programming (computer science) competitions.

Award winners in mathematics and statistics were as follows:

Science Atlantic Communication Award

- Lauren Farrell (MtA), A pair formation model with recovery of monkeypox

Research Talks

- First Place Research Talk: Logan Pipes (MtA), Bounding real tensor optimizations via the numerical range
- Second place Research Talk: Dylan Pearson (MtA), Slow localization

Problem-Solving Competition

- First Place: Xiaoyu Jia (Dal)
- Second place: Eric Goulding and Daniel Gosse (MUN)
- Third place: James Peterson and Hayden Lees (UNB, Fredericton)

The 2023 MSCS conference will be hosted at UPEI in October 2023.

Division Committee Business

Executive Membership

- Chair: Darien Dewolf (St. Francis Xavier University)
- Vice-chair: Caroline Cochran (Acadia University)
- Secretary: Scott Rodney (Cape Breton University)



The Mathematics and Statistics and Computer Science Committees held a joint meeting on October 14, 2022. Among the points of discussion at the meeting was funding for students attending the MSCS conference. It was noted that there is considerable variation in sources and availability of travel support for students across the various institutions. The committees passed a motion to strongly encourage the deans to ensure that funding sources be available for students from their institutions to attend Science Atlantic conferences.

The Mathematics and Statistics Committee also met on October 14, 2022. During this meeting a new chair was appointed. The committee also discussed use of funds in the W.J. Blundon fund. The fund arose from sales of a mathematical problem-solving book dedicated to Blundon; we plan to use some of these funds to digitize the book; the remaining balance may be used to subsidize travel costs for students from Newfoundland to attend MSCS.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Burgess
Past Division Committee Chair, Mathematics and Statistics

Nutrition and Foods

Conference

The SANFC was held at Acadia University, April 28 and 29, 2022 virtually. This is the second year that the SANFC was hosted virtually via Zoom, and the event was well received with high student engagement from most of the participating institutions. The conference website was set up using the platform Fourwaves, which allowed for a smooth registration and abstract submission process.

Total number of attendees: 63.

Faculty Chair: Matthew McSweeney

Student Co-Chairs: Sophie Barker, Mackenzie Gorman, Sophie Knowles, and Kaelyn Schindell

Student Volunteers:

- Niousha Alizadeh Saravi, Dalhousie University
- Tanisha Furlong and Khadkar Shaharina Hossain, Memorial University
- Anisa Belkaid and Louis-Espérance Bene, Université de Moncton
- Julia Freeburn, Abigail Sentner and Kali Sproul, University of Prince Edward Island

Division Committee Business

Executive membership 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, except where indicated:

- Edward Barre, Cape Breton University
- Sukhinder Cheema, Memorial University
- Marcia English, Saint Francis Xavier University
- Sarah Finch, University of Prince Edward Island (2022-2023)



- Shannan Grant, Mount Saint Vincent University (2021-2022)
- Matthew McSweeney, Acadia University
- Shyamchand Mayengbam, Memorial University
- Vasantha Rupasinghe, Dalhousie University
- Jennifer Taylor, University of Prince Edward Island
- Carole C. Tranchant, Université de Moncton
- Kyly Whitfield, Mount Saint Vincent University (2022-2023)

2022-2023 Chair: Jennifer Taylor, UPEI

2021-2022 Co-Chairs: Carole C. Tranchant and Shyamchand Mayengbam

2023 Conference Chair: Jennifer Taylor, UPEI

We have successfully achieved the goals set by the committee when conference planning commenced.

Goal 1: To Actively Engage in Truth and Reconciliation

- ✓ Continued efforts from the 2019 Inaugural Conference at Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU), where Patrick Small Leggs Nagge, Special Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs and Program Director of the Aboriginal Student Centre welcomed delegates with an opening ceremony (including a smudge and prayer).
- ✓ 2020 UPEI Pre-Conference Workshop: Dr. Shannan Grant, PDt, MSc, PhD, and Chelsey Purdy, BSc-IEP candidate “With two eyes and hearts open: Using person-focused science education to inspire creativity, co-learning and reconciliation”.
- ✓ The 2019, 2020 and 2021 conferences spotlighted science projects completed by Indigenous students and scholars.
- ✓ At the 2021 Conference, hosted virtually by StFX under the leadership of Dr. Marcia English, three keynote speakers, Dr. Ann Fox, Kara Pictou, B.Sc.N., and Renée Bujold, P.Dt., M.A. candidate, presented the Land2Lab Project, “Can traditional knowledge and technology come together to engage Mi’kmaq youth in land-based learning?”
- ✓ The 2023 Conference will build on our previous accomplishments.

Goal 2: To Offer a Bilingual Conference

- ✓ Work towards offering a completely bilingual conference/program:

Year 1 – 2019 MSVU: Marketing materials created in English and French; Student representatives from all Atlantic universities, including Université de Moncton (francophone university); Bilingual logo for the Nutrition and Foods Division created by students.

Year 2 – 2020 UPEI: Marketing materials, including conference website, available in both official languages; Student representatives from all Atlantic universities, including



Université de Moncton; Abstracts accepted in English and French; Francophone keynote speaker.

Year 3 – 2021 StFX: Marketing materials, including conference website, available in both official languages; Student representatives from all Atlantic universities, including Université de Moncton; Abstracts accepted in English and French; Presentations in both English and French; Francophone keynote speaker; Moderation package developed in English and French; Bilingual logo for the SANF Conference created with the assistance of Lois Whitehead, representing Science Atlantic.

Year 4 – 2022 Acadia University: Marketing materials, including conference website, available in both official languages; Student representatives from all Atlantic universities, including Université de Moncton; Abstracts accepted in English and French; Presentations in both English and French; Moderation package in English and French.

Year 5 – 2023 UPEI: Build on our previous accomplishments.

Goal 3: To Have Balanced Representation of Nutrition and Foods Research

- ✓ Invite abstracts/applications from students representing the spectrum of research in our field(s), both in food sciences and nutritional sciences.
- ✓ Ensure abstract and presentation review committee has balanced representation of the spectrum of research in our field(s).
- ✓ Ensure the committee has a balance of Registered Dietitians and Non-Registered Dietitians (Food and/or Nutrition Specialists).
- ✓ Seize opportunities to showcase our field(s) diversity, potential for inter-departmental collaboration, passionate trainees, and excellence in research within and beyond Science Atlantic.

Goal 4: To Create Course-based Opportunities for Students

- ✓ Year 1 – 2019: Directed Study, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the federal research funding agency that promotes and supports postsecondary-based research and training in the humanities and social sciences.
- ✓ Year 2 – 2020: Experiential learning capstone project, FN 4340 Community Nutrition at UPEI: under the direction of Dr. J Taylor, students were appointed co-chairs, met weekly and planned, implemented, and evaluated the conference.
- ✓ Year 2023: Will repeat capstone experiential learning project through FN 4340 Community Nutrition at UPEI. The committee will continue to explore possibilities of creating course-based opportunities for students.

Goal 5: To Actively Support and Promote Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access (EDIA) Through Our Activities, Including the Student Conference



- ✓ Since our inaugural conference in 2019, the SANF division has fared quite well in terms of equity, diversity, inclusion and access. We will build on our past accomplishments to advance the EDI vision of Science Atlantic, emphasizing the importance of EDIA in the planning and implementation of the conference, including diverse student researchers and presenters.

Committee Meetings in 2021-2022 and Fall 2022, excluding the Conference: November 2021 | December 2021 | January 2022 | March 2022 | April 2022 | October 2022 | November 2022 tentative.

Science Atlantic meetings attended by a representative of the SANF committee: March 2022, October 2022 Science Atlantic Division Committee Chairs.

Uses of Holding Account Funds

The Science Atlantic Nutrition and Foods Committee account has finished budget year end with reserve funds (Table 1). A total of **4,521.36\$** will be in the Holding Account for the 2023 SANF Conference. Sponsors will be acknowledged on all 2023 marketing materials and conference materials.

Table 1. Nutrition and Foods account balance updated November, 2022

Date	Transaction	Transaction amount
Nov-22	Acadia (SANFC 2022)	Total expenses: \$2,318.85
		Total income: \$3,448.48
		Difference: \$1,129.63

Other Activities and Projects

Since the 2022 Conference, there has been one remote meeting of the Science Atlantic Nutrition and Foods Committee.

A meeting has been set for November 2022 to firm up details regarding the 2023 Conference. Student representatives have not yet been secured. This will be discussed at our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Tranchant
Division Committee Co-Chair, Nutrition and Foods

Physics and Astronomy

No report available.



Psychology

Conference

The 2022 Science Atlantic Psychology Undergraduate Conference was hosted by St. Francis Xavier University hosted virtually using MS Teams. Registrations were processed using Eventbrite.

There were approximately 110 conference attendees, including five undergraduates who gave research talks, 38 who presented research posters and 36 who presented research snapshots.

We hosted a pre-conference Hackathon the day before the conference. Using MS Teams, we hosted a Hackathon Wiki to provide an overview and instructions for the event. The focus of the hackathon was hacking an open educational resource (OER) used as an introductory psychology textbook at Dalhousie.

Suggested themes for the hackathon included:

- Decentering whiteness
- Representing disability
- Incorporating hands-on activities
- Exploring careers
- Adding local content

Suggestions for changes to the OER text were recorded using Hypothes.is and will be considered by the editors over time.

Dr. Erin Mazerolle (StFX Psychology) delivered a keynote address on incisionless brain surgery. We hosted a Psychology career panel during the conference including faculty, industry researchers, and graduate students.

Conference sponsors include the **Canadian Psychological Association** (funds used for engagement prizes and for honorariums for career panelists), and **Atlantic OER** (funds supported the pre-conference hackathon, funds to implement OER changes suggested, and engagement prizes for student participants in the hackathon).

Internal IT support for the conference fell through just before the conference started. Luckily, Science Atlantic was able to help secure IT Support for us.

Mount Saint Vincent University will host the 2022-23 conference.



Division Committee Business

Executive membership

- Chair, position currently vacant
- Vice-Chair, N/A
- Secretary, Shared role within Committee
- 2023 Conference Organizers, Angie Birt and Donna Thompson (MSVU)

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Austen, 2022 conference organizer

On behalf of former Division Committee Chair, Pierre Cormier



EDIA Panel: Advocacy in STEM Spaces: A Fireside Chat

To recognize LGBTSTEM Day, Science Atlantic is excited to present our Advocacy in STEM Spaces event as part of our Annual Leadership Meeting schedule.

This panel chat will discuss advocacy and organizing in STEM spaces. We aim to raise awareness to the energy invested by the members of under-represented groups to make STEM more accessible. Our panelists anticipate this talk kick-starting a thought process as regards alternative approaches to STEM.

Speakers:

- Veronica Merryfield, LGBTQ+ educator, advocator, and activist
- Dr. Landon J. Getz, The Maxwell Lab, Department of Biochemistry, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto)

Moderators:

- Dr. Nola Etkin, Dean of Science, University of Prince Edward Island
- Dr. Alison Thompson, Professor, Dalhousie University

Science Communication Panel: Science Communication as a Core Competency for the Next Generation of Scientists and Change Makers

Recent studies suggest that the “gap” between scientific research, its findings, and the public’s understanding of science is widening. Post-secondary institutions rarely cover how a scientist or science student might educate the public regarding their research and research results. It is estimated that 30% of the public is disconnected from the science community or is considered science illiterate. This is due in part to those with a vested interest and private motives for obfuscating legitimate science and confusing the public, as well as to inaccurate media coverage.

Scientists and science students must be provided tools to effectively and clearly communicate their research to other scientists and to the public. This panel will discuss ways to bridge that gap between research and public understanding. It is important that students and researchers in all faculties of science realize that communicating science clearly is essential to learning a science.

Our panel of students and professors will discuss this increasingly relevant and necessary topic in the area of science research and communication.



Panelists:

Dr. Mike Bowen is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. His research and teaching interests include the sociology/ethnography of science, gender issues in science education, science teacher education, and science in the media.

Anastasia Forbes is an international student from the Bahamas, recently graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Actuarial Science from Dalhousie University. She has been afforded many opportunities such as the Faculty of Science John Dingle's Science Communication Internship. She has enjoyed working with the Physics and Atmospheric Science department to create more EDI opportunities and events for people in equity deserving groups.

Alanna Kaser is a third year BSc Psychology undergraduate student minoring in Health Studies at Dalhousie. She received one of four John Dingle Science Communication Internship's in 2022 and was placed with the Mood, Anxiety, and Addiction Co-morbidity Lab working on the UniVenture Project. Alanna believes science communication is the key to effective science outreach and fostering inclusivity.

Tina Simpkin is the morning meteorologist for CBC in the Maritimes. Tina's career in meteorology includes seven years in the federal department Environment and Climate Change (Edmonton), and former broadcast experience with CTV and various American news outlets.

Moderator:

Dr. Richard Zurawski, BSc physics, MA (Research) education, has taught at Saint Mary's University (Faculty of Engineering) and Mount Saint Vincent University (Faculty of Education and Faculty of Communications and Public Relations) in a variety subjects including writing, the sciences, mathematics, meteorology, physics, communications and PR, and education. Dr. Zurawski has dedicated his life to science and science communication, to using the most powerful lens in human existence to shape and mould how we think and live, in order to make the world a better place.