

**NSIS COUNCIL REPORTS**  
**Reports from the Annual General Meeting**  
**May 6, 2025 - 6:30 pm**

**AGENDA**  
**164th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
*Meeting held in McNally Auditorium,  
Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS, and via Zoom*

1. **Welcome** (Jillian Phillips)
2. **Minutes of Previous AGM: (Jillian Phillips)**  
Minutes of the 163rd AGM on 6 May 2024  
Motion and Vote to accept the Minutes of the 163rd AGM.
3. **NSIS Video:** (Jillian Phillips)
4. **Reports:**  
President (Jillian Phillips)  
Treasurer (Angelica Silva)  
PNSIS Editor (David Richardson for Peter Wells)  
Membership (Jinshan Xu)  
Library (Jillian Phillips for Carol Richardson)  
Publicity (Brent Robicheau)  
Website (Brent Robicheau)  
Lecture Programme for 2025-2026 (Alana Pindar)  
Student Science & Technology Writing Competition for  
2024 (Shannon Ezzat)  
Excursions (Hank Bird)  
Motion and Vote to accept the 10 reports.
5. **Awards:**  
Recognition of new Honorary Member (Jillian Phillips)  
Writing Competition Awards (Shannon Ezzat)  
NSIS Awards & Presentations (Judy MacInnis)
6. **By-Laws & Fees:** (Jillian Phillips)  
Increase in Institutional Membership fee.  
Motion and Vote to accept the new Institutional  
Membership fee.  
Amendment of By-Laws to reassign responsibility for the  
Membership List.  
Motion and Vote to amend the By-Laws about the Membership  
List.

7. **Council for 2025-2026:** (Jillian Phillips)  
Nomination of 2025-2026 Council.  
Motion and **Vote** to approve the new Council.
8. **Other Business:** (Jillian Phillips)  
Any Other Business.
9. **Adjournment:** (Jillan Phillips)

**NOTE:** Following the AGM, at 7:30pm there was a Public Lecture at SMU in-person and via a separate Zoom call. **Dr. Lori Borgal (MSVU)** presented “*Stem Cell Proliferation Gone Wrong: Mechanisms Exploited in Cancer Cell Proliferation*”.

**Council Members & Observers Present:** Jillian Phillips (President), Angelica Silva (Treasurer), Jinshan Xu (Membership Officer), Alana Pindar (Speaker Series Chair), Hank Bird (Secretary and Excursions), Shannon Ezzat (SSTWC), Bruce Hatcher (Councillor), Judy MacInnis (Councillor), Barbara Zielinski (Councillor), Tim Fedak (Observer, NS Museum), Ailish Sullivan (Observer, Discovery Ctr.), Eli LeDrew (Student Rep., MSVU), Courtney Strugnell (Student Rep., Acadia), David Richardson (Associate Editor).

**Members Present:** Judy Bird, Christa Brosseau, Michael Casey, Anne Dalziel, Bruce Fraser, Tanner George, Helga Guderly, Francis Jefferies, John MacNiel, Carol Morrison, Michelle Paon, Crystal Parker, Jona Pedersen, Georgia Pe-Piper, David Piper, Aaliyah Rashid, Patrick Ryall, Jessica Ryuzaki, Connor Smith, Jantina Toxopeus, Sam Veres, John Young,

**Regrets & Absent (Council Members & Observers):** Stephanie MacQuarrie (Past President), Peter Wells (PNSIS Editor), Brent Robicheau (Publicity Officer & Acting Webmanager), Derick Lee (Councillor), Evan McNamara (Observer, Discovery Ctr.), Audrey Salinger (Student Rep., SMU).

## 1. **Welcome:** (Jillian Phillips)

The President welcomed participants and called the 164th Annual General Meeting (AGM) to order at 6:30pm. The President noted that presentations would be kept short and informal and that the reports, excluding the minutes from last year’s AGM, would be approved as a unit at the end of the presentations. The minutes will include the contents of the slides and additional material from the written Annual Reports.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the 163rd Annual General Meeting of 5 May 2024: (Jillian Phillips)**

A draft of the 2024 AGM minutes was e-mailed on 29 April 2025 for perusal by all NSIS Members.

There were no revisions to those Minutes.

**3. Motion to accept the Minutes of the 163rd AGM:**

**Moved:** by J. Phillips to accept the Minutes of the 163rd AGM

**Seconded:** by A. Dalziel

**All in favour:** Minutes approved.

**Moved:** by J. Phillips to adopt the Agenda for the 164th AGM

**Seconded:** by A. Dalziel

**All in favour:** Minutes approved.

**4. NSIS Video: (Jillian Phillips)**

We are preparing a short and longer videos about the NSIS for the website and social media, and for showing to students and other audiences (such as donors). It is almost complete and the short version was shown to the AGM attendees.

**5. President's Annual Report: (Jillian Phillips)**

The Nova Scotian Institute of Science (NSIS), founded in 1862, is one of Canada's oldest learned societies and continues to thrive with the support of its members and executive council. In the 2024/25 year, NSIS council continued our mission to promote science in Nova Scotia through public engagement, scholarly publishing, student opportunities, and community outreach. Comprised of a dedicated group of volunteers, the Council continues to pursue ambitious goals and actively seeks new members and funding to support our initiatives. The President sincerely thanked everyone serving on this year's council for their dedication. We are a small group that dedicates much of our time, so she is very grateful for the work you have accomplished this year. She invited others with a passion for science to join us, share the responsibilities, and contribute to advancing our mission.

She also recognized our departing Secretary and long-standing NSIS council member and NSIS Life Member, Hank Bird. Hank has been pivotal to NSIS's progress and has served as our voice and main point of communication for the past 5 years as Secretary. While Hank is remaining on the council next season in a

different capacity, She thanked him for everything he has contributed to the organization to date and for making her transition to President as smooth as possible with a willingness to support and share his long-term institutional knowledge of the NSIS. With Hank departing from the Secretary role, we have lost a vital role that supports our mission, and she urged current and past members and the council to consider reaching out about the role or sharing with colleagues who may be interested in supporting. With Hank intending to serve as a councillor in 2025-2026, he will serve as an excellent mentor to any incoming secretary.

During the 2024-2025 year, NSIS maintained its commitment to public science communication by hosting monthly hybrid public lectures from October to May. These lectures, held at Saint Mary's University, Cape Breton University, St. Francis Xavier University, and accessible via Zoom, marked a milestone for increasing NSIS reach and speaker diversity, providing the option for speakers across NS (and beyond) to present at their institution of choice, reaching their local audience in person and a wider provincial audience online, something not possible in earlier years with the lecture venue rooted in-person in Halifax. The lectures featured a diverse range of topics, including marine science, climate change, health research, and a fascinating talk from Nobel laureate Art MacDonald. Recordings of these talks are available on the NSIS YouTube channel, extending their reach beyond the events themselves.

The *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science (PNSIS)*, the institute's peer-reviewed journal, published Volume 53, Part 2 in October 2024, is an excellent read including editorials, commentaries, and scientific articles covering topics such as urban planning, oceanography, and marine biology. The journal is a platform for disseminating regional scientific research and advocacy. A new issue is underway with anticipated publication at the end of September and the editorial board continues to solicit submissions. We encourage this year's Student Science and Technology Writing Competition winners to consider submitting to the PNSIS.

This year, NSIS launched the new **Spring 2025 NSIS Conference Travel Awards** program to support NS-based trainees (postdocs, research assistants, graduate students, and under-

graduates) who are members of the NSIS with the presentation of research that took place in NS. In its inaugural year, the initiative drastically increased our student membership, two students received awards of \$500 each to help offset travel and presentation expenses, and three additional students received partial, runner-up funding of \$100 each. This initiative reflects NSIS's ongoing commitment to fostering early-career scientific development, ensuring students have access to opportunities for professional growth and research dissemination.

The NSIS continued to encourage science communication among students through its **Annual Science and Technology Writing Competition**. This year, we opted to bring back the option for a research paper with the hope of increasing the number of graduate student submissions over the previous year, while also keeping the essay option so the competition remained accessible to undergraduate and college students not completing research, and to high school students. This initiative provides post-secondary and high school students with an opportunity to develop and showcase their ability to communicate complex scientific concepts to a general audience. The competition not only enhances students' writing through meaningful feedback prepared by our panel of judges but also promotes the importance of science literacy to students.

NSIS proudly welcomed two new Honorary Members, Dr. John C.O. Young and Dr. Zoe Lucas, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to science and its communication. I encourage all members and interested parties to read more about Dr. Young's exceptional contributions to chemistry research and education and Dr. Lucas's outstanding contributions to the study and protection of Sable Island ecosystems in their profiles featured on the **Honorary Members Section** of the NSIS Website.

Beyond its formal programs, NSIS created a promotional video to gain awareness and drive new membership, engaged in community outreach activities, including excursions, supported school science fairs financially, and a few council members and observers generously volunteered their time as science fair judges. These initiatives are designed to recognize and engage our members, inspire the next generation of scientists, and promote a broader understanding of science's role in society and

how NSIS can support that. Seeing the ingenuity of students at Armbrae Academy's grade 7 science fair and their project topics during science fair judging gives us hope for future generations of Scientists.

While we are supportive and hopeful for future generations of Nova Scotian Scientists, we acknowledge that there is a growing threat to scientific literacy, freedom of speech, and human rights to our fellow scientists and neighbours south of our borders. As an institute dedicated to the free exchange of scientific ideas, NSIS expresses deep concern over the recent restrictions placed on research funding and academic freedom in the United States under the new federal administration. We stand in solidarity with our American colleagues and affirm the importance of protecting scientists' freedom of inquiry, expression, and evidence-based communication. NSIS will continue to advocate for these values, both locally and globally, and calls on our members and affiliates to remain vigilant and vocal in defense of scientific integrity. The President encouraged all general members and council alike to read the timely and thoughtful draft prepared by PNSIS Editor Peter Wells on the matter and to take action. Early copies of the draft, to be revised and later featured in the PNSIS, will be circulated during the AGM.

### **Looking Ahead**

As we move into our 2025/26 year, NSIS remains dedicated to its mission of promoting science in Nova Scotia. With ongoing support for students, continued public engagement, and a commitment to scholarly publishing, NSIS is poised to contribute further to the scientific community and the public understanding of science in the province. We look forward to seeing how the new promo video, and student and member awards, raise awareness of our mission and bring in new members. We are eager to connect with new student representatives to learn how NSIS can best increase our impact and reach among Nova Scotian Students and make new connections with early career scientists. We aim to work with our new and departing Membership Officers and our recently formed financial planning/ fundraising committee to find innovative sponsorship and fundraising opportunities to continue supporting our mission and expand our reach.

For more information on NSIS's activities and how to get involved, visit [nsis1862.ca](https://nsis1862.ca).

The President called on other members of Council to present their reports.

**6. Treasurer's Annual Report (Angelica Silva):**

\$1,000.00 in donations to the NSIS, \$154.00 in *ProcNSIS* sales, and a \$29.34 refund from PayPal. Last year, as of **March 31st, 2024, the net worth of the NSIS** was \$29,348.69, held in our BMO bank account. Of this, \$14,348.69 was in cash, and \$15,000.00 was in an 18-month GIC which matured in Oct. 2024.

This year, as of **March 31st, 2024, the net worth of the NSIS** is \$28,661.52 in our BMO bank account. \$13,661.52 is in cash, and \$15,000.00 is in a 12-month GIC maturing in Oct. 2026.

Revenue from all sources were \$6,634.12. \$4,300.00 was individual memberships and \$180.00 in Institutional Memberships. We received \$970.71 in interest from the GIC that matured in Oct. 2024. There were Expenditures amounted to \$7,321.29. This includes \$3,592.46 of for layout and printing of the *ProcNSIS*. Other expenditures included \$137.03 in postage, \$2,000.00 in Prizes for the SSTWC, \$600 to support school Regional Science Fairs, \$720.00 to support the Sable Island conference, the Fishermen & Scientists Research conference, and student conferences, \$100.00 for guides on an excursion, \$20.00 in PayPal charges, and \$151.80 for a framed certificate for a new Honorary Member.

The Treasurer noted that, as of March 31st, 2025, the NSIS had a total of 151 active members and 9 institutional members. By the date of this AGM, the number of active members has climbed to 189. (See item #7.) Most, but not all of the increase from last year is due to the enrolment of 58 students in the NSIS Travel Awards Competition.

She thanked Carol Richardson (Dalhousie Killam Library) for her continuing contribution with NSIS mail at Dalhousie University, and for library services. Many thanks to all NSIS Council Members for reviewing monthly reports and suggestions as well as to our Membership Officer J. Xu. Many thanks to NSIS Secretary Hank Bird for multiple roles and contributions with mail and banking.

7. **Editor's Annual Report (Peter Wells & David Richardson):** **PNSIS Vol. 53, Part 2, 2024** was published and made available via the website. 50 copies were printed and most were distributed by hand and by post to members who requested them and to several institutions and libraries. The remainder were sold. We should print more (perhaps 100) of the next issue.

Work on **PNSIS Vol. 54, Part 1, 2025**, is well underway. The draft Editorial, on the topic of support for science, especially in the USA, is circulating for comments and will be completed soon. A copy of the draft is provided as an Addendum at the end of these minutes, and printed copies were available at the AGM. Members are encouraged to read it and take action.

Two Commentaries are completed, as is one Research Paper. A third Commentary is under review, one is promised, and two new Research papers are at different stages of preparation and review. Six book reviews are completed and ready for copy editing.

We still need more research papers. Our editorial board is engaged with looking for them, and the Council can help, especially if they know of graduate students finishing their research on scientific topics of Nova Scotia interest and looking for a place to publish.

We are working on a deadline for submissions for Vol. 54-1 of June 30th, 2025, and publication of the Issue by end of September.

We wish to thank the Acting Webmanager, Brent Robicheau, for greatly improving the "Publications" section on the website.

Two questions have been posed; they are: 1) The inclusion of DOIs for each published paper (this is now standard for most scientific publications), and the authors ownership or not of copyright, both of which can be addressed and resolved by us with the help of the Killam Library; and 2) The potential influence of AI (artificial intelligence), e.g., Chat GPT, on the content and credibility of submissions to the PNSIS. P. Wells and D. Richardson will address these questions with the Editorial Board, and then with the Council.



**8. Membership Annual Report (H. Bird for Jinshan Xu):**

To date, there are currently 189 active members of the NSIS, plus 6 institutional members. This is much higher than a year ago.

<b>Type of Membership</b>	<b>AGM 2023</b>	<b>AGM 2024</b>	<b>AGM 2025</b>
Honorary	2	3	5
Life	26	29	35
Regular	76	60	64
Student	6	6	65
Complimentary (Lecturers, SSTCC)	<u>17</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>20</u>
	127	120	<b>189</b>
Institutional	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
	137	123	<b>198</b>

There were modest gains in Honorary, Life, and Regular memberships. But most impressive is the surge in student memberships, which jumped from 6 last year to 65 this year. This sharp increase is largely attributed to proactive efforts such as the introduction of travel awards that have made membership more attractive to students.

Several strategic changes have contributed to this revitalization, including the shift of monthly meetings and public lectures from fully in-person formats to online and then hybrid (online and in-person) models, making events more accessible to a wider audience. The adoption of gift memberships and the transition from PayPal to bank direct transfer for membership payments have also played supportive roles in facilitating member engagement and retention.

A key aspect of NSIS's community presence is the regular hosting of free monthly public lectures and a student writing competition, which engage both members and the wider public. Highlights such as Nobel laureate lectures have attracted especially large audiences and enhanced NSIS's reputation. These signature activities enrich scientific dialogue in Nova Scotia and inspire the next generation, supporting the society's ongoing growth and impact.

## 9. Librarian's Annual Report (Carol Richardson):

- **Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science:** During April 2024-March 2025, there were no sales of the Proceedings from the Killam Library's Reference & Research Services office.
- **Access Copyright:** Any payments received from Access Copyright were sent directly to the NSIS Treasurer.
- **Institutional Members and Exchange Partners:** NSIS recently sent invoices to its Institutional Members (a bit later than usual this year). One institutional member has renewed ahead of the mailing. There are currently 6 Institutional members (an increase from 2023/2024) and 81 Exchange partners (no change from 2023/24).
- **NSIS Exchange Journal Collection:** NSIS receives journal issues from exchange partners around the world. As an example, from April 2024 to March 2025, NSIS received 22 journal issues and society publications from the Institute's exchange partners. These items were delivered to the Dalhousie Libraries (Killam Memorial Library location), where they were processed and added to the NSIS collection in the library.
- **NSIS Physical Records:** In July 2024 the remaining hard-copy records of the NSIS were physically transferred from the Killam Library to the Public Archives of Nova Scotia under a Deed of Gift. They included financial ledgers, minutes of meetings, etc., and join records previously transferred to the NS Archives. They will be catalogued, stored, available to the public, and some of them may become digitized.

## 10. Publicity Annual Report (Brent Robichaud):

### Highlights:

- The Publicity Officer generated annual promotional material for the lecture series including monthly printable posters, monthly social media banners, and our annual NSIS brochure (contains full list of seminars for the year and other NSIS information (e.g.: how to become a member).
- He generated monthly Facebook events for each lecture. He also advertised monthly about the lecture series on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (about 1–2 weeks before each lecture). Other content was posted to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as requested (for e.g., posts about the writing competition).

- He emailed university science administrators about upcoming lectures each month.
- B. Robichaud also worked with Councilor J. MacInnis and Past-President S. MacQuarrie to edit terms of reference for new suite of NSIS Awards. These were voted on and approved by Council.
- The Publicity Officer assisted in judging and chairing the first round of NSIS Travel Awards. We had two main winners and three runner-up awardees.

**Facebook (2024-2025):** Assessment: In the previous year at the AGM we had 841 followers. In the current year we now have 940, a net gain of 99 followers. In comparison in all of the previous year we gained only 58 followers.

**Twitter (2024-2025):** Assessment: Based on the number of followers, we had 229 followers in May 2024 and in May 2025 we have 215 followers. Hence, a net loss of 14 Twitter followers this past year. We should likely move to BlueSky in the coming year.

**Instagram (2024-2025):** Assessment: Last May we had 104 followers on Instagram, we now have 113 followers, therefore a net gain of 9 followers. We should aim to put more items on our Instagram page in the next year as we have only been advertising the lecture series once a month.

## 11. Webmanager's Annual Report (Brent Robicheau):

**NSIS Website:** As acting Webmanager, B. Robicheau worked to update the NSIS website as requests came in or as circumstances required. This included:

- Made the NSIS website easier to navigate, more organized and with outdated info removed.
- Largely overhauled the following pages:
  - News and Events
  - Publications
- Performed ongoing updates to public lectures page.
- Provided updates for Student writing competition.
- Created the page for 2025 AGM.
- Added profiles of the new Honorary Members.

**Wikipedia Entry:** (Note added in proof.) This is not a website issue, but one that affects our online presence. We discovered that the Wikipedia entry for the NSIS was 12 or more years old, so we updated it with better and up-to-date information.

## **12. Lecture Series Annual Report (Alana Pindar):**

This was a very successful seminar year. A. Pindar noted that the YouTube channel with our past Lectures has much-increased traffic – between 75 and 426 viewers per lecture. We also saw CBU hosting three seminars outside of HRM, and St.F.X. hosted another. The other three were at SMU. Topics covered climate change, fisheries, brain health and physics.

As we continue into the 2025-2026 year, we encourage all other Institutes to host an NSIS seminar in the future.

This year we hosted our second student career event which saw participants from across Nova Scotia and experts from different career paths. As before, the event focused on careers in science, and what to expect after graduation.

For logistical and other reasons, we were unable to hold a student symposium, where students make brief presentations of their work. In 2026 we will hold the symposium as a featured event as part of the speaker series of lectures, but separately from the normal lecture schedule.

We wish to thank all of the 2024-2025 Seminar Speakers, student career event guests, and of course all of our viewers!

Planning for the student events will begin in **September 2025**, we encourage Councillors to consider joining the student career, and/or the student symposium organizing committees to help organize both events that will be held in 2026.

### **2025-2026 Confirmed Seminar Series:**

- October 2025: Dr. Jennifer Perry (St. F.X) –  
Hosted by St. F.X
- November 2025: Dr. Matthias Bierenstiel (CBU) –  
Hosted by CBU
- December 2025: Dr. Svenja Huntemann (MSVU) –  
Hosted by SMU
- January 2026: Dr. Saurabh Chitnis (Dal) –  
Virtual Presentation

- February 2026: Dr. Janita Toxopeus (St. F.X.) – Hosted by St. F.X.
- March 2026: Dr. Chloe Schmidt (Dal) – Hosted by Dal
- April 2026: Dr. Malama Chisanga (Dal) – Hosted by Dal
- May 2026: Dr. Karyn McLellan (MSVU) – *Hosted by SMU*

The topics include math, chemistry, biology, environmental science, and indigenous medicine.

We request that suggestions for the 2026-2027 Series be sent to her as soon as possible.

### **13. Student Science & Technology Communication Competition Annual Report (Shannon Ezzat):**

This year's competition remained similar in format to previous years with an open call for essays focussed on a science, technology, math, or social science topic.

The overall goals of the competition are as follows:

- Promote communication of science and technology in NS.
- Encourage students to engage with the NSIS and become new members.
- Provide an opportunity to practice STEM communication skills and receive meaningful feedback on their writing.
- Generate interest and submission for publication within the Proceedings of the NSIS.

Student Stats:

- 58 students registered for the competition.
  - High-school registrations were from 8 schools: Shelburne, DEVI, Halifax Grammar, C.P. Allen, Halifax West, Maritime Muslim Academy, Citadel, Armbrae.
  - University registrations were from 7 universities: CBU, STFX, Dal, Kings, SMU, MSVU, Acadia.
- 36 papers were submitted at the close of the competition.
  - 27 high-school essays were submitted.
  - 7 Undergraduate and 2 Postgraduate Essays were submitted from the Universities.

Three Winners and four Honorable Mentions (see Item 17. below) were selected based on scoring and judges' feedback. It was suggested that these students be featured on the NSIS website, possibly with a copy (or the abstract) of their papers.

The coordinators would like to thank all the students who participated and all those who made the competition possible. A special thank you goes to our generous donors: Cape Breton University and Saint Mary's University. Many thanks to Jinshan Xu for his support during the early phase of setting up the competition to and Hank Bird, for creating comprehensive score sheets to capture judges' feedback and guide our decision making. Thank you to our 14 judges, who were: Hank Bird, Sheryl Bourgaize, Shannon Ezzat, James Kho, Eli LeDrew, Stephanie MacQuarrie, Jillian Phillips, Alana Pindar, Megan Roberts, Audrey Salinger, Angelica Silva, Ailish Sullivan, Peter Porskamp, and Barbara Zielinski.

#### **14. Excursions Annual Report (Hank Bird):**

We did 18 excursions between 2016 and 2025, with a break from 2020-2022 due to Covid-19.

With the able assistance of Bruce Hatcher, we organized an excursion to Scatarie Island in July of 2024. We had a full complement of 20 members and guests. In these times Scatarie is uninhabited and a protected area. It was a perfect day, and the party explored parts of the island on foot and of the coastline by Zodiac. We saw much about the landscape, geology, and botany, and we observed much marine life and birds. There is a description with photos of this excursion in the latest copy of the *Proceedings of the NSIS*.

In 2024 we canvassed the NSIS Membership about 10 possible excursions that we have been considering. Based on the respondents' votes, the top five in terms of interest were:

1. Legacy NS Gold Mines and Remediation
2. Halifax Field Naturalists (joint outing)
3. Bon Portage Island
4. Kejimikujik Peroglyphs and Nature Walk (repeat)
5. Canadian Geological Association (joint outing)

The respondents also contributed 12 other suggestions for outings, so we have 22 possibilities for the next several years.

We are working with Dr. Linda Campbell of SMU to do an outing to a historical gold mine in the Halifax region later in the summer. The objective is to learn about historical gold mining in NS and the resulting remediation efforts required.

We and the Halifax Field Naturalists have begun to exchange and share each other's events and activities on our websites. Later this year we will explore the possibility of a joint excursion.

We are also working with Acadia University on an outing to Bon Portage Island in early July. Acadia owns the island and operates a research station there. The island is off the SE corner of Nova Scotia and has a large number of features of ecological, marine, botanical, zoological, and historical interest.

We welcome additional suggestions.

**15. Motion to Accept the Annual Reports:**

**Moved:** by J. Phillips to accept the annual reports.

**Seconded:** by A. Silva

**All in favour:** Reports accepted.

**16. Awards – Recognition of New Honorary Members:**

**(Jillian Phillips)**

Per the by-laws, a Nova Scotian person distinguished in some branch of science or who has rendered conspicuous service to the advancement of science can be elected an Honorary Member.

**Dr. John Young** of Saint Mary's University is recognized for his outstanding contributions to science in Nova Scotia and beyond for more than 50 years. His academic contributions in mathematics and chemistry extend over 75 years! One of his many notable impacts was pioneering a computer-linked chemistry teaching laboratory at Saint Mary's University and at the National Teacher Training Institute in The Gambia, West Africa in 1997. In addition to many years of successful and well recognized teaching, John has been a prolific researcher and publisher. In recent years his research has focused on improving standard chemical assessments and analytical tests; the results of which have been published in *Chemistry Educator* and widely read. He published three papers in his 95th year (2023)! During his time at Saint Mary's University John has held a wide spectrum of administrative roles, including acting Academic Vice President and as a member of the Executive and Finance Committees of SMU's Board of Governors. He is a member of the NSIS and was a member of the NSIS Council from 2011 to 2017.

Regarding his education and employment, John taught Mathematics during military service the British Army's Royal

Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1949-50. He received a BSc in Chemical Engineering (First Class Honours) in 1953 from the Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, England; a PhD in 1956, also from Imperial College, and an MBA (with Distinction) in 1965 from New York University's Graduate School of Business Administration.

**Dr. Zoe Lucas** of the Sable Island Institute is recognized for her lifelong outstanding contributions to the study and protection of Sable Island ecosystems. She has spent over 50 years dedicated to the study and protection of Sable Island, a unique ecosystem in the Northwest Atlantic. Through experiential learning and immersive, hands-on engagement, she transitioned from a background in goldsmithing and art to become a leading natural historian. Her extensive research spans topics such as the island's iconic horses, marine litter, biodiversity, and ecological monitoring, resulting in numerous scientific publications and impactful outreach. Lucas has collaborated with dozens of scientists and students. She founded both the Friends of the Green Horse Society and the Sable Island Institute to support education, research, and conservation. Recognized with honors including an honorary doctorate and the Order of Canada, she is widely regarded as the foremost expert and unofficial steward of Sable Island. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Dr. Lucas has been elected by Council as an Honorary Member of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science.

## **17. Awards – 2025 Student Science and Technology Writing Competition Winners: (Shannon Ezzat)**

### **High School Winner (\$300):**

- **Satya Rimbart**, DEVI International Boarding School, *Microplastics: The effect of microplastics on the human lungs*

### **High School Honourable Mentions (3 x \$150):**

- **Francis Jefferies**, Hydrostone Academy, *An Odorous Opponent: Garlic vs. Bacteria and Fungi*
- **Aaliyah Rashid**, Maritime Muslim Academy, *Mouth-Brain Connection: Exploring How Oral Bacteria Affect Brain Health*
- **Annabelle Kamp**, Armbrae Academy, *The Pathways of Plastic: Investigating the contamination and transfer of microplastics into food products*



**Undergraduate Winner (\$600):**

- **Jessica Ryuzaki**, Mount Saint Vincent University, *Revolutionizing Mobility: Brain-Computer Interfaces in Robotic Arms*
- Undergraduate Honourable Mention (\$300):
- **Aniqa Jalal**, University of Kings College and Dalhousie University, *Science Through the Sense of Self: Investigating Science Self-Efficacy and Science Anxiety amongst undergraduate psychology and neuroscience students*

**Postgraduate Winner (\$800):**

- **Jona Pedersen**, Saint Francis Xavier University, *Diapause: How overwintering insects adapt to seasonal challenges in a changing climate*

**Postgraduate Honourable Mention (\$0): None.****18. Awards – New NSIS Awards & Presentations:**

**(Jillian Phillips for Judy MacInnis, Stephanie MacQuarrie, Brent Robicheau)**

Last year we established new NSIS awards, and the Council has adopted them. They comprise:

- Service Awards: Dedicated Service (regular + trainee), Exceptional Service
- Travel Award
- Early Career Award
- Editor's Choice Award
- Best Talk Award
- STEAM Award (junior and senior)

This spring we conducted a competition for the 2025 Travel Award:

- Intent - to support presentation of research taking place in NS by NS-based researchers.
- Eligibility - NSIS member trainees (Postdocs, research assistants, graduate and undergraduate students).

Applicants were evaluated on items such as:

- Description of research and strong connection to NS.
- Provision of budget & demonstration of financial need.
- Rationale for conference choice.

The winners were:

- **Ava Sergio** (\$500) – Dalhousie U. – MSc – Biology
- **Karen Tang** (\$500) – Dalhousie U. – PhD – Psychology & Neuroscience
- **Julie Campbell** (\$100) – Dalhousie U Dal – PhD – Health
- **Sam Hawkins** (\$100) – Dalhousie U – BScH – Psychology & Neuroscience
- **Alexandros Noussis** (\$100) – Dalhousie U – MSc Applied Sci – Engineering

## 19. Increase in Institutional Membership Fee: (Jillian Phillipa)

A notice of this item was e-mailed on 21 April 2025 for perusal by all NSIS Members.

Last year we increased the dues for Regular Members from \$30 to \$40 per year, but we did not do the same for Institutional Members. We would like to do it at this time. Any change in membership fees requires approval by the NSIS members at an AGM. Council recommends that you approve this change.

The new rates would be:

Student Member	\$10 per year
Regular Member	\$40 per year
Institutional Member	\$40 per year
Life member	\$300 one-time

## 20. Motion to Approve the New Institutional Membership Fee:

**Moved:** by J. Phillips to raise the dues for Institutional Members from \$30 to \$40 per year.

**Seconded:** by J. Xu

**All in favour:** New dues schedule approved.

## 21. Amendment of By-Laws to Reassign Responsibility for the Membership List.

A notice of this item was e-mailed on 21 April 2025 for perusal by all NSIS Members.

Due do the migration of practices from being paper based to being digitally based, and the resulting changes in flow of information, we wish to move the responsibility for creating and maintaining the Membership List from the Treasurer to the Membership Officer. Council concurs, but such a change requires changes in a few of the By-laws – which must be approved by the

NSIS members at an AGM. Specifically, Council recommends the following three changes (red text indicates a deletion, green text represents an addition):

**Change Treasurer bylaw 26.e from:** “maintain a list of members and their status such that members may be billed each year for the fee owing.”

**To read:** “obtain a list of members and their status from the Membership Officer such that members may be billed each year for the fee owing.”

**Change Membership Officer bylaw 28.a from:** “in conjunction with the Treasurer and the Secretary maintain a list of members and their addresses”

**To read:** “with information from bank transfers, and input from the Treasurer and the Secretary, maintain a list of members and their email and postal addresses”

**Change Secretary bylaw 25.b from:** “deal with the correspondence of the Institute, including maintaining a duplicate list of members, as provided by the Treasurer and issuing notices of meetings of members and of Council.”

**To read:** “deal with the correspondence of the Institute, including maintaining a duplicate list of members, as provided by the Membership Officer, and issuing notices of meetings of members and of Council.”

## **22. Motion to Approve the new By-laws:**

**Moved:** by J. Phillips to approve amending the By-laws concerning Membership Lists.

**Seconded:** by H. Bird

**All in favour:** By-law amendments approved.

**23. Nomination of 2025-2026 Council: (J. Phillips)**

The President thanked the outgoing Council. The AGM was asked to elect the following to NSIS Council for 2025-2026:

**Officers:**

President	Jillian Phillips
Past President	Stephanie MacQuarrie
Vice-President	Brent Robicheau
Treasurer	Angelica Silva
Editor	Peter Wells
Library Liaison	(open) C. Richardson will support
Membership	Barbara Zielinski
Webmanager	Ailish Sullivan
Publicity Officer	Eli LeDrew
Secretary	(open)
Speaker Series Chair	Alana Pindar

**Councillors:**

Councillor (Excursions)	Hank Bird
Councillor (SSTWC)	(open)
Councillor	Shannon Ezzat
Councillor	Helga Guderly
Councillor	Bruce Hatcher
Councillor	Derrick Lee
Councillor	Judy MacInnis
Councillor	Jinshan Xu

**Observers:**

Nova Scotia Museum	Tim Fedak
Discovery Centre	(open)
Schools	(open)
CBU	(open)
Associate Editor:	David Richardson

**24. Motion to Approve the Nominations:**

**Moved:** by J. Phillips to approve the nominations for the 2025-2026 NSIS Council.

**Seconded:** by P. Ryall

**All in favour:** Nominations approved.

**25. Any Other Business:**

There was no other business to conduct.

**26. Adjournment:**

Moved by J. Phillips to adjourn the 164th Annual General Meeting of the NSIS at 7:41 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Hank Bird, Secretary*