

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter affirms that the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) meets the criteria for an innovation credit for AAS HE STARS 2.2. This report pertains to Accessibility at NSCC and the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification **TM** (RHFAC) Program.

As a designated RHFAC Professional trained by the Rick Hansen Foundation at NSCC, I can confirm that NSCC is committed to providing meaningful access at all our campuses across the province and is paving the way for accessibility and inclusion in Nova Scotia. I personally certified our Ivany campus, which received RHF Accessibility Certified status on June 4th, 2019, and the Institute of Technology campus, which received RHF Accessibility Certified status on August 27th, 2022. While conducting these ratings, I was able to award many innovation points for innovative building features, such as tv monitors for posting information and additional lockdown stations for emergency and medical assistance. I consistently work alongside Senior Management to develop implementation plans to improve campus access. My work involves reviewing construction drawings to ensure compliance with RHFAC Guidelines and National and Provincial accessibility codes and standards. New buildings are underway for RHFAC Pre-Construction Certification through construction drawings, finish schedules and furniture layouts.

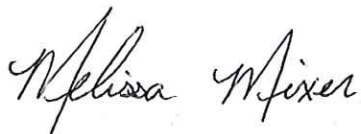
The Nova Scotia Community College is a leader in accessibility, having certified two of only eight RHF Accessibility Certified Sites in the province and is the only institution in Atlantic Canada to offer the RHF Accessibility Assessor training course.

In September 2021, NSCC established an Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) as required under the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act (2017), setting a goal of a barrier-free Nova Scotia by the year 2030. In November 2021, I became Chair of NSCC's Accessibility Advisory Committee. The AAC provides advice on identifying, preventing, and eliminating barriers to full and equitable access to the built environment, education, employment, information and communication, goods and services, and transportation for all members of the College community, including people with disabilities and acknowledgement that disability, Deaf and neuro-divergent communities have many intersections of identity. The AAC plays a pivotal role in helping NSCC become more accessible and meet its obligations under the Act.

Drawing upon lived experience and subject matter expertise, NSCC took a social justice approach to accessibility in developing its Accessibility Plan, and it was publicly available on the website in March 2022. NSCC's Built Environment goal is to achieve RHFAC Gold status for all new builds.

On October 11th, 2022, I was appointed to the Accessibility Advisory Board (AAB) on behalf of the Executive Council of Nova Scotia for three years. I am honoured to serve in this capacity to support our communities by making recommendations to the Minister of Justice on Accessibility. I'm confident that my involvement in developing accessibility standards, policies and practices, and implementation for the province will contribute to the college's capacity building, leading to a barrier-free NSCC and the goal of an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030. Together this work will set the stage for long-term success and promote access for everyone, everywhere.

Sincerely,



Melissa Mixer, RHFAC Professional

Facilities Support Technician