

May 25, 2023

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education 2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to confirm Nova Scotia Community College's (NSCC) submission to AASHE's STARS certification for 2023 with executive support.

At NSCC, we are committed to creating a welcoming learning and work environment that fosters sustainability, a core value of the College, as well as safety, diversity and inclusion. These principles are integrated into our everyday work, which ultimately supports student success. Since the College's prior submission in 2019, NSCC has made big strides in embedding sustainability into our operations. In 2021, NSCC joined the SDG Accord to reiterate our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The College has also recognized sustainability as a key strategic priority in our 2022 strategic plan, *Our Time is Now*. This positioning of sustainability as a core element of what we do will continue to drive forward progress as we strive to embed sustainability into all departments of NSCC.

The information collected for this submission was a collaborative effort from across all 13 Campuses and functional units. Several of our campuses offer facilities that serve as living labs for students, faculty, industry and government partners to access real-time building performance data for the advancement of learning, research and knowledge of sustainable practices. Progress is also being made to integrate sustainability into all areas of our operations including in curriculum, co-curricular activities and administration.

Since our last submission, NSCC has faced unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Though our staff and students show resilience when adapting to operations that complied with public health guidelines, this impacted the College's ability to implement some sustainability programming. For instance, increased use of single-use items impacted waste management practices and virtual programming limited campus engagement. Despite these challenges, I am pleased with the College's continual improvement in sustainability and look forward to the future of sustainability at NSCC.

Sincerely,

Don Bureaux President

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