

Students Nova Scotia Vision, Values, Mission, and Principles

VISION

Students Nova Scotia envisions a Nova Scotia post secondary education system that is accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality, and includes students in decision-making.

VALUES

The foundation upon which Students Nova Scotia is built is the belief that post-secondary education can play a fundamental role in allowing both the individual and society to realize their full potential. Students Nova Scotia's values are pillars built on this foundation, and the organization shapes its decision-making around these values.

ACCESSIBILITY: Every qualified Nova Scotia resident who wishes to pursue post-secondary education should be able to do so, irrespective of their financial situation, socioeconomic or ethnic background, physical, psychological or mental disability, age, sexual orientation, geographic location, or any other factor exogenous to qualification.

AFFORDABILITY: The cost of post-secondary education in Nova Scotia should not cause undue hardship upon any student, restrict their ability to pursue the career path they choose, or make them financially unable to live in the community that they choose.

QUALITY: Policies, programs, and services in post-secondary education should meet student expectations to help prepare them for lifelong success, including in their citizenship, careers, and personal wellbeing.

STUDENT VOICE: Nova Scotia students must be empowered to actively participate in setting their post-secondary system's direction via engagement through their representative student bodies, within the post-secondary institutions themselves, and through the broader democratic process.

MISSION

It is the mission of Students Nova Scotia to represent the collective interests and priorities of post-secondary students in Nova Scotia. In pursuit of this Mission, StudentsNS will:

- conduct research to identify issues affecting the accessibility, affordability, accountability and quality of post-secondary education in Nova Scotia;
- develop credible and constructive policy to address these challenges;
- communicate research and policy to both educate and affect the opinions of stakeholders, Nova Scotians and government;

- lobby the government to affect their post-secondary education policy;
- organize campaigns to effectively articulate the needs and interests of our members; and
- build partnerships to accomplish our vision.

Principles

Students Nova Scotia is guided by a number of principles, including:

Accountability and Transparency – Students Nova Scotia strives to be transparent at all times with respect to its decision-making and finances, reporting publicly on meeting minutes, budgets, planning and activities to the greatest extent possible and upholding norms of financial management.

Balanced Representation – To ensure balanced representation of our students, each member student-body has one vote weighted by enrolment, but which cannot exceed 20% of total voting weight. Additionally, each member may bring two primary delegates to the Students Nova Scotia Board of Directors, in addition to two other representatives with sponsored speaking rights. All members are valued equally, irrespective of their institution’s enrolment or any other factor.

Consistency – In its own activities, Students Nova Scotia strives to uphold the values that it espouses to other entities including political officials, government agencies and post-secondary institutions, such as honesty, integrity, openness, cooperation, democracy, responsible financial management, long-term vision, and humility.

Decision-Making by Consensus – While the Students Nova Scotia Board of Directors employs Robert’s Rules of Order, we strive to make decisions by consensus to the greatest degree possible.

Evidence-Driven – Students Nova Scotia will strive to ensure its policy positions and activities work towards achieving the organization’s Vision based on the best evidence available.

Member-Driven – Students decide on the organisation’s direction, priorities and policy positions.

Non-partisan – Students Nova Scotia has no particular affiliation with any political party or individual politician.

Respect for the Autonomy of Individual Student Associations – Members retain autonomy over their own internal affairs, including priorities, policy and public messaging. Members are allowed to join and leave the organisation with the greatest ease possible based on their own processes of democratic decision-making.

Results-Oriented – Students Nova Scotia strives to measure its success by its results.

Solution-Oriented – Students Nova Scotia strives at all time to not only identify issues with the achievement of its vision, but also to propose concrete steps to address these issues.