

Agriculture in the Classroom – Nova Scotia Annual Report 2022-23

Ambitious Expansion



**Sustainable Canadian
Agricultural Partnership**
Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

NOVA SCOTIA

Canada

Vision

An agricultural **education** program where **all Nova Scotian students are made aware** of Nova Scotia's agriculture in a **positive, meaningful way** that builds trust in Nova Scotia's **food system.**



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Steering Committee Chair Message

The spring of 2022 began on an optimistic note. COVID-19 restrictions had been lifted and many Canadian Agricultural Literacy Month visits in March and April were able to take place in person. We were preparing to deliver our chick hatch program after two years of interruptions when we came up against two issues – a North America-wide shortage of hatching eggs and an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The Department of Agriculture took a cautious approach to prevent disease spread and asked that classroom chick hatches be paused. We delivered a virtual hatch program instead and were able to reach teachers who had been conducting independent classroom hatches with our resources.

On the heels of that disappointment, we were thrilled to partner with the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus for two events – AgZone for Grade 7 students, and our first ever Grow Where You're Planted overnight event for Grades 10-11 African Nova Scotian students. AgZone was a great success and it was almost as if it had never been interrupted. Information on Grow Where You're Planted is highlighted in this report.

Over the summer, we developed a number of new videos and finished work on several learning experiences. Two team members had the opportunity to travel to Winnipeg in May to participate in the development of an exciting new national initiative – a student competition for Grades 6-8 focused on agricultural sustainability.

We set an ambitious goal in 2019 of reaching every school by the end of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, March 31, 2023. While we did not quite reach this goal, we made tremendous progress towards and despite a global pandemic, we increased the number of student experiences by 500%! We are working under a new strategic plan for the next five years and we look forward to expanding our reach even further.

Rebecca Sooksom
Chair, Steering Committee

Year	Total # of schools	# of classrooms	# of student experiences
2019-20	138	393	9,261
2020-21	147	409	8,091
2021-22	269	1,581	33,807
2022-23	307	2,179	46,906

AITC-NS is a Proud Member of Agriculture in the Classroom Canada!

We are proud to be the Nova Scotia voice of Agriculture in the Classroom. Across the country, member organizations of Agriculture in the Classroom are working together to provide engaging, innovative learning experiences that ignite students' curiosity and teach them the important role agriculture plays in our everyday lives.

As a result of this collaborative, pan-Canadian effort, agriculture comes to life in classrooms through an extensive network of resources, programs and initiatives delivered at both national and provincial levels, providing over two million unique learning experiences for students each year.

Informed, inspired youth are key to developing the workforce we need, and the public trust required, to maintain our competitiveness in the global market. Our programs and resources inspire students to see themselves in agriculture and all the promising career opportunities it brings!

“The foundation of AITC-C is our ten provincial members, and we are thrilled that our national reach continues to show impact through new initiatives and opportunities for educators and students to connect with Canada’s agriculture and food story,” says Sara Shymko, Acting Executive Director of AITC-C. “As we always work towards a collective impact, we are motivated that all students, no matter their background, will journey through P to Grade 12 feeling confident, empowered, excited about the food on their plates and how it got there, and also welcome in the agriculture sector.”



Our Team:

Steering Committee members:

Education & Early Childhood Development

- Natalie Bakody, *Active Healthy Living Consultant*
- Christine Christensen/Wes LeBlanc/Kerry MacPherson, *Science Consultant*
- Tara Cormier, *Math & Science Consultant, French Second Language*
- Helen Desmond-Morris, *African Nova Scotian Corporate Strategist*
- Kim Duncan, *Career Pathways Special Projects Lead*
- Jill Piers, *Manager, Early Childhood Development and Pre-Primary Operations*
- Nick Baskwill, *ICT Consultant*
- Rod Francis, *Director, Mi'kmaq Services Branch*

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

- Caitlyn Clements, *Workforce Development Coordinator*
- Kathryn Tuttle, *Communications Manager*

Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture

- Lauren Peters-Withrow, *Community Education Manager*

Nourish Nova Scotia

- Lisa Roberts, *Executive Director*

Staff

- Rebecca Sooksom, *Manager, Regional Programming*
- Hema Chopra, *Senior Diversity Programming Specialist*
- Dawn Barrington-Hodgson, *Provincial Agricultural Programming Coordinator*
- Jacqueline Hoyt, *Provincial Agricultural Programming Coordinator*
- Moussa Sangaré-Ponce, *Provincial Agricultural Diversity Programming Coordinator*
- Marie Williams, *Administrative Assistant*
- Caitlyn Carroll, *Regional Services Summer Student*
- Alesha Dennis, *Regional Services Summer Student*
- Mourisia Campbell, *Regional Services Summer Student*

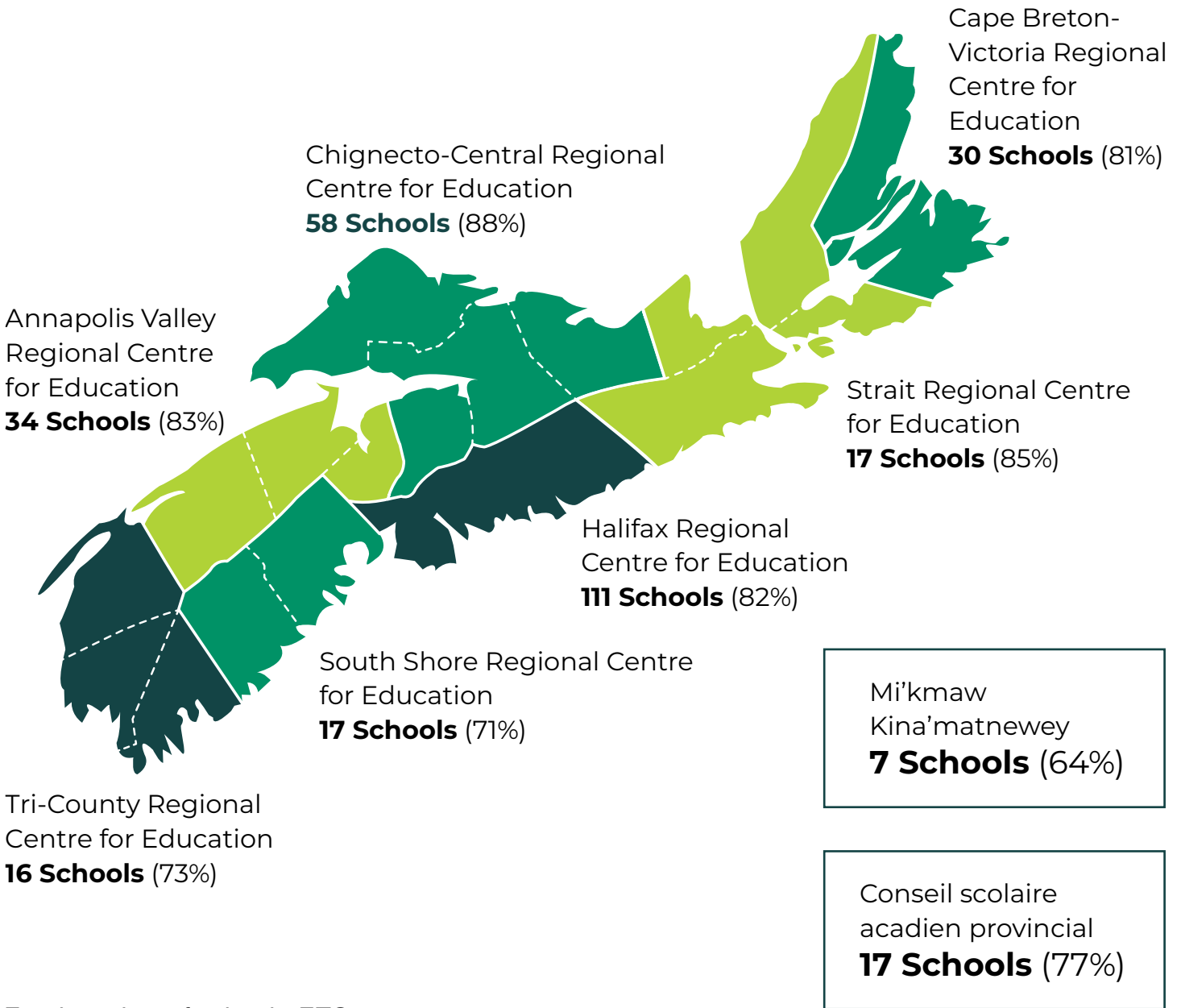
Partners

- Agriculture in the Classroom - Canada
- Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
- Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

2022-23 Goals and Progress

Commitment	Delivery
20 farmer and agricultural professional volunteers recruited and trained (total 80)	This goal had been discontinued. However, self-directed training on classroom presentations was provided to Canadian Agricultural Literacy Month volunteers and a session was organized at the Minister's Agriculture Conference in November 2022 to share tips on giving classroom presentations and also navigating conversations with teachers who may be presenting biased or inaccurate perspectives on agriculture to their students.
Two new resources developed and two existing resources updated.	<p>New resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Math on the Farm ▪ Look for Local ▪ The Science of Cheesemaking ▪ Working with the Sea <p>Updated resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nova Scotia School Garden Guide - updated and translated into French ▪ Digging Deeper - instructional video for teachers
Delivery of programs to all public school (378)	Total - 307 schools, many used more than one resource

Reach by Regional Centre for Education



Total number of schools: **378**
 Total number of schools involved: **307**
 Total percentage of schools involved: **81%**

———— RCE Boundaries
 - - - - - County Boundaries

Reach by resource

Resource	# of schools	# of classrooms	# of students
Hope Blooms Garden Kits	-	-	50
AgZone	16	59	1397
Grow Where You're Planted	1	-	5
Awiket	1	-	2
All Kinds of Apples	113	311	6796
Little Green Sprouts	94	206	4738
Chick Hatch	116	218	4775
CALM	122	198	4452
genAG	4	4	79
The Quest for the Perfect Strawberry	27	74	1692
Digging Deeper	26	96	2458
Pkwiman	26	99	2458
Weather on the Farm	34	77	1875
Renewable Energy	29	80	1930
Care storybook	139	292	4772
Pre-Primary Activities	114	187	3427
Printed Resources	37	107	2108
Agriculture 11	3	4	95
Soil Your Undies	3	4	97
Look for Local	9	18	431
Math on the Farm	18	39	920
Career Case	34	91	1984
Other	9	17	362
Total	307*	2179**	46,906**

*Schools may have participated in more than one program but were only counted once.

**Classrooms and students may have participated in more than one program.

Look for Local

A magical, rainbow-glowing radioactive meteor has struck the Earth. The radioactivity in the meteor has caused all the world's dead to turn into zombies. Billions of people do not survive, and international travel, including food imports and exports grind to a halt. The entire world is now in ruins, except for one tiny peninsula on the East Coast of Canada. Miraculously, Nova Scotia is the only surviving civilization. The people were able to build an impenetrable wall on the Isthmus of Chignecto between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Zombies cannot swim, so all its citizens are safe from the outside.

In this scenario, what would Nova Scotians eat? This is the thought experiment presented to Grade 8 Food and Nutrition students in the Look for Local learning experience. Students also consider local and global food security, and indigenous food sovereignty.

The learning experience includes a fun video showing a young man grocery shopping for the first time and doing his best to choose local products.

<https://youtu.be/1GmWDESbMSU>

“The students really enjoyed the scenario based on the zombies. It was interesting to walk around the class and listen to them chat about how they could survive.”

- Teacher

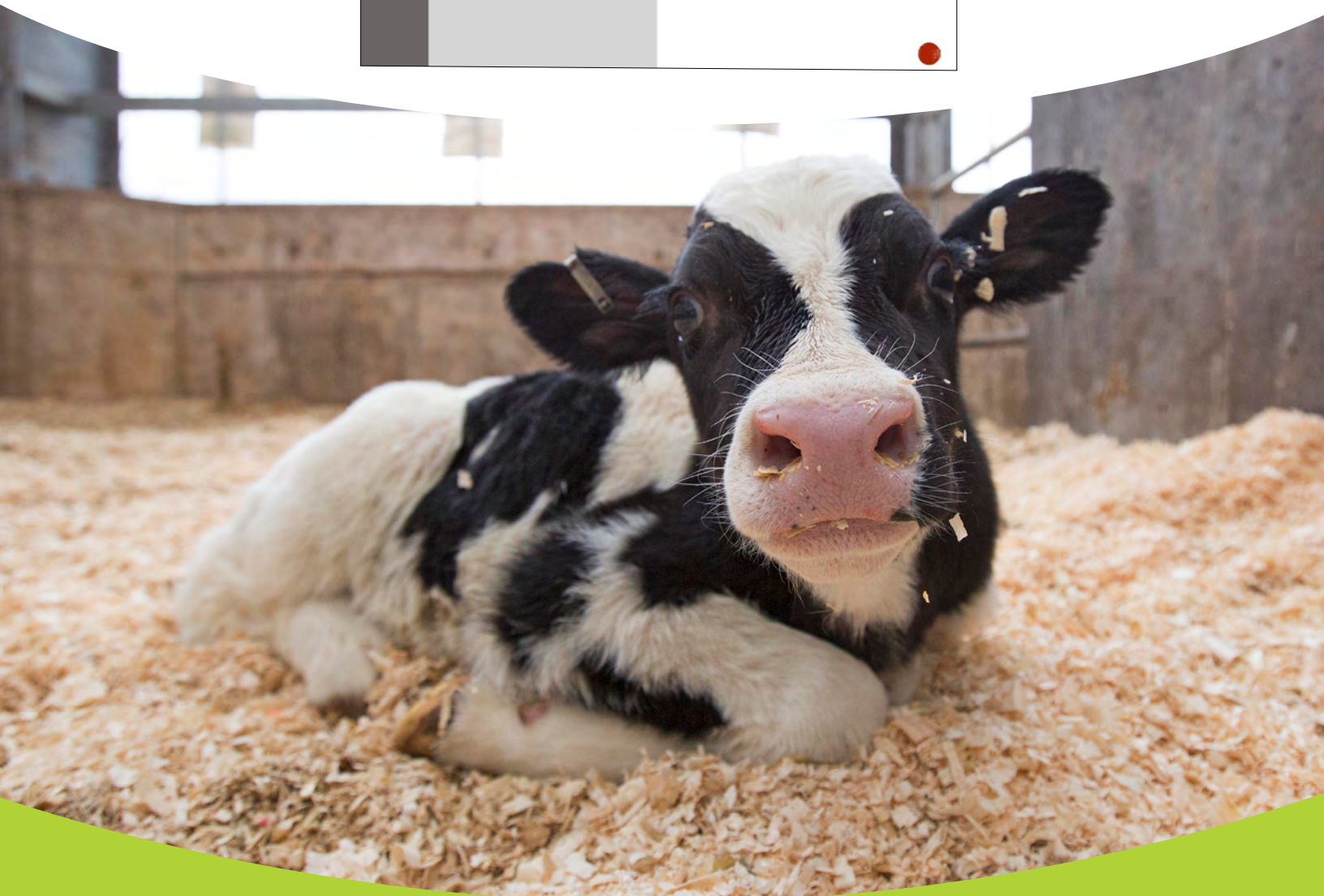


Math on the Farm

Any math student who has questioned whether or not their classroom exercises have any practical use will have their eyes opened by Math on the Farm. This learning experience walks students through some examples of every day percentage and ratio calculations done on the farm, such as tank mixing pesticides, calculating a target soybean yield, and monitoring milk yield percentages for individual dairy cows.

TASK NO.1

- ▶ Each calf drinks 3 L, and there are 8 calves. How many litres will the calves drink in total?
- ▶ Milk replacer is made at a ratio of 1.5 kg milk replacer to make 9 L of liquid formula.
- ▶ How much milk replacer powder will Sam need?



Working with the Sea

A learning experience focused on the Dykelands Upgrade Project was developed for Global Geography 12, Acadian Studies 11, and Global Sustainable Solutions 12. A video was developed that featured perspectives from seven different people – a Department of Agriculture engineer, a university researcher, a farmer, a landowner, a municipal engineer, an Acadian historian, and a Mi'kmaw advisor.

Students learn how to evaluate different perspectives and how there are sometimes competing interests when we address the impacts of climate change on agriculture in our province.

**[https://youtu.be/
x8kNNjSb1Fw](https://youtu.be/x8kNNjSb1Fw)**

Grow Where You're Planted

After COVID interruptions and much planning, we were pleased to join the Dalhousie Agriculture Campus and African Canadian Services Branch, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in welcoming five African Nova Scotian high school students to Grow Where You're Planted. This overnight event was designed to inspire students with the latest in agricultural research and technology development by the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture and showcase postsecondary pathways to agricultural careers using an Africentric approach.

Guest speakers came from Placemaker 4G, Saint Mary's University athletics, Imhotep's Legacy Academy, and Hope Blooms.

The event started small, and we are looking forward to growing it in the coming years.



Program Budget

Revenue

Funding Source	\$ Amount
Canadian Agricultural Partnership	139,313.83
Agriculture in the Classroom - Canada	38,250.00
Regional Services Operating Budget	24,915.17
Total	\$202,485.00

Expenses

Category	\$ Amount
Career Promotion	\$18,531.77
Ag Zone - in-person and virtual delivery	2,086.33
Social media videos	9,900.02
genAG	5,549.00
Career fair booths	996.42
Canadian Centre for Food Integrity Annual Research - increased sample size in NS	\$0
School Programs	\$133,464.10
Video projects	62,813.09
Canadian Agricultural Literacy Month	19,550.06
Little Green Sprouts Kits, including Learning Centre kits	9,757.62
All Kinds of Apples	9,837.51
The Quest for the Perfect Strawberry Supplies	4,702.80
Care Book Printing and Shipping	4,505.57
Digging Deeper Resource Development and Supplies	1,243.81
Science of Cheesemaking Resource Development	2,532.81
Buy Local Video - Concept Development and Script Writing	8,807.76
Agriculture 11 Resource Development	128.26
Working with the Sea resource development	1,254.54
Pre-Primary Resources (Root Viewers and Story Blocks)	5,409.23
Tower Garden pilot with Truro Middle School	1,591.00

Category	\$ Amount
Nova Scotia School Garden Guide Updates	1,330.00
Work with Equity-Deserving Communities	\$22,607.81
French Translation	2,603.82
Hope Blooms Garden Kits	15,000.00
Grow Where You're Planted	5,003.99
Awtiket Sponsorship	5,000
Communications and Program Supports	\$6,881.40
Annual Report	2,105.40
Program Promotion	75.00
Software	101.00
STEPS on Arthur, including storage, inventory and packing of supplies	600.00
Travel to national meetings	4,000.00
Operations Management System Development Contribution	16,000
Total	\$202,485.00

To our 2023 Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month volunteers:

You've helped us share the story of farming and food in
Nova Scotia with 4503 students in 123 schools.

So, from all of us at *Agriculture in the Classroom—Nova Scotia*...



Hon. Greg Morrow
Maureen Murphy
Janette MacDonald
Kamryn Findlay
Jill MacDonald
Kayla Graham
Betty Lou Scott
Rhonda MacDougall
Matthew Roy
Shannon Peters
Ruth Anne Greenough
Samantha Haley
Colin Hirtle
Angela Masters
Maria Duynisveld
Chris Hamilton
Jennifer Thompson
Heather Hughes
Leonard Vassallo

Brittany Frenette
Lauren Peters
Geneve Newcombe
David Newcombe
Hugh Lyu
Gilberte Doelle
Jenna Lee Mombourquette
Rebecca Sooksom
Jay Woodworth
Haley Fulton
Tyrell Giffin
Larissa Giffin
Daniel DaCosta
Jessica MacDonald
Amy Hill
Andrew Greene
Heather Luten
Jeanette VanderLinden-DeWolfe
Andrew Lowles
Kelly McInnis

Margaret Ells
Katie Campbell
Michelle Morrison
Barton Cullen
Katherine Adams
Anagha Pradeep Kumar
Liam Young
Krista Tobin
Danny Bruce
Lianne Rogers
Angela Connolly
Laura Buckland
Elizabeth Crowe
Tamara Sealy
Jason Sproule
Jennifer Spencer
Jacy McInnis
Philip Keddy
Katie Keddy
Jenna Bekkers

Sarah Schaefer
Rebecca Archibald
Beau Blois
Estelle Levangie
Dan Mosley
Josh Oulton
Kelly Clarke
Hema Chopra
Heather King
Jennifer Haverstock
Cathy Munro
Katherine Rutherford
Marina Gillis
Diane Sokolowki
Rick Hoeg
Harrison Wright
Catherine Pal
Lindsey Vermeulen
Kevin Morin
Nicole Burkhard



Is *your* name on the list? We need your help to reach every school.
Contact us to find out how to share your story.

Agriculture in the Classroom – Nova Scotia

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