

Industry Liaison and Public Outreach Activities at the Geoscience and Mines Branch, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, 2025-2026

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During the 2025–2026 fiscal year, the Industry Liaison Geologist and Outreach Lead delivered the Geoscience and Mines Branch's (GMB) mineral industry liaison and public outreach programs. These activities supported investment attraction, sector growth, public awareness, and education related to Nova Scotia's mineral resources and mining sector.

Mineral Industry Liason

Mineral industry liaison activities focused on encouraging investment and supporting growth in the province's mineral sector. The Industry Liaison Geologist promoted Nova Scotia's mineral potential through intergovernmental business channels and engagement with industry stakeholders. Activities included supporting partnerships and funding agreements, and promoting the province's mineral tenure system and exploration framework at local and national trade shows.

The Geoscience and Mines Branch's third annual Mineral Resource Forum was held at Pier 21 in Halifax, consisting of two full days of presentations, panel discussions, and networking. Nearly 200 industry and government registrants attended the event, which was generously fully sponsored by the Nova Scotian industry. The event included speakers and panels highlighting the revitalization and resilience of the mining industry in Nova Scotia. Topics included critical mineral initiatives, industry project updates, and an update on the new Mining Engineering program at Saint Mary's University.

Two staff members, joined by five prospectors from the Nova Scotia Prospectors Association (NSPA), attended AME Roundup in Vancouver and showcased Nova Scotia's geology and its potential to investors. The contingent fielded a steady stream of enquiries about Nova Scotia and the opportunities available in the province. This event was attended by over 6,500 delegates from around the world, attracting considerable interest from companies working in western Canada and their associated mineral deposits.

Nova Scotia had a large presence at the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) convention in Toronto enabling staff to engage with inquiries about potential new exploration opportunities. The Premier of Nova Scotia attended the

event meeting with industry representatives and staff. The annual Nova Scotia Mining Breakfast hosted 150 people with many of the attendees proceeding to Canada's Atlantic Edge next door, where Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland held a full day of insight and discussion showcasing the mining exploration and investment opportunities in Atlantic Canada. There were over 32,000 participants at PDAC, marking a record attendance.

Two staff attended the Parrsboro Gem and Mineral show, where Nova Scotia's rocks and minerals were showcased and the programs at the Department of Natural Resources were promoted. The show hosted more than 1,000 people at 30 different booths over three days.

In 2025, the annual \$1.5 million Mineral Resources Development Fund (MRDF) expanded to eight streams. By helping move projects through key stages of exploration and development, the fund encourages investment, supports job creation, and contributes to the growth and sustainability of the province's mineral sector. In addition, the MRDF helps build industry capacity by supporting education and mentorship, innovation projects, outreach activities, and community-based initiatives.

The eight streams for the MRDF include:

- Advanced Project Grants
- Prospecting Grants
- Shared Funding Exploration Grants
- Marketing Grants
- Research Grants
- Education, Outreach, and Engagement Grants
- Innovation Grants
- Communities' Grants

Public Outreach and Education

Public outreach initiatives were undertaken to improve understanding of the mining sector, including its economic significance, contribution to sustainability, role in everyday life, and available career pathways. The GMB staff participated in a range of events that strengthened provincial and pan-Atlantic industry connections, supported public health and safety initiatives, and highlighted the alignment between responsible mining practices and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

Staff participated in home shows in Halifax, Sydney, Truro, and Pictou to promote radon awareness, encourage residential testing, and discuss mitigation options, engaging with more than 1,500 families during the 2025–2026 period. Staff responded to questions and concerns about radon by providing information on home testing options and practical steps to reduce associated health risks. To support professional development and stay informed on current practices and research related to radon awareness and mitigation, staff attended the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (CNRPP) conference in Quebec City in April 2025.

In addition, staff co-hosted a community radon test kit giveaway in March 2026 at the Antigonish Town and County Library in partnership with LungNSPEI. The initiative aimed to increase testing in an area identified as having low testing rates and limited data. A total of 100 test kits were distributed, and staff delivered a presentation outlining general radon risks and the importance of testing.

The Outreach Lead participated in a Sustainable Development Goals event at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Tech Campus, engaging students and members of the public on safe mining practices and the role of minerals in renewable energy and green technology.

Outreach staff, in partnership with the Department of Energy, participated in the Skills Canada Career Event at NSCC Ivany Campus, attended by approximately 1,200 students in grades 9 to 12 from across Nova Scotia. This event provided an opportunity to engage students on the range of career opportunities within the mining sector, including roles requiring varying levels of education and training to highlight employment opportunities available within the province (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Outreach Lead Chelsea Renaud hosting a booth at the Skills Canada Career Event at the NSCC Ivany Campus in partnership with the Department of Energy.

Planned Activities (2026-2027)

In the upcoming fiscal year, outreach activities will continue to focus on expanding engagement with students, industry stakeholders, and communities across Nova Scotia. Planned initiatives include further updates to outreach materials and the GMB website, increased participation in public events, and expanded community engagement activities related to geology and mining.