



Engage Nova Scotia Milestones

2012-2022



2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

Founding Meeting (June 15):

Organizers from local businesses and organizations hosted a gathering of 75 Nova Scotia residents from different regions and with different perspectives to consider how our province could do better. Engage Nova Scotia arose and developed from a vision for our province to be more vibrant, inclusive, and resilient.

Regular Meetings:

Throughout 2012 and 2013 regular meetings were held to confirm the purpose of the organization and undertake strategic planning.

Engage Inverness (Nov 30-Dec 1):

We co-hosted a 2-day conference with local leaders about collectively addressing economic and social challenges.

Share Thanksgiving (Oct 16):

More than 1000 people participated as hosts or guests.

Stepping Up Conference (June 15):

More than 830 people gathered across 12 communities in Nova Scotia and over 800 more tuned in remotely. Our event hashtag trended #1 in Canada. Organizers from 5 locations reconnected on Nov 30 to share what they learned about testing a regional approach to catalyze change.

Share Thanksgiving (Oct 9-10 and Nov 22):

Guests from 40 different countries joined hosts across the province. The number of guest applications outnumbered hosts, so, with Scotiabank's support, we hosted a 440-person dinner at Pier 21 in November.

One Cape Breton-Unama'ki Summit (Nov 23-24):

Over 40 municipal and Mi'kmaw leaders across Cape Breton identified shared priorities for the island at this event we helped facilitate.

Share Thanksgiving (Sept 25):

In partnership with Sobeys, we hosted four community dinners at stores in Antigonish, Clayton Park, Sydney, and New Minas.

Municipalities Engagement Training (Sept 14):

Engage staff led a group of 45 mayors, councillors, and staff through a 1-day workshop.

First Share Thanksgiving (Oct 10):

Share Thanksgiving asked Nova Scotia's residents to share a meal with newcomers. More than 900 people participated as dinner hosts or guests – the second highest number of matched participants in Canada.

Engagement Workshops and Gatherings:

We led a workshop for staff and council of the Municipality of the District of Barrington (Feb 28), and co-hosted events with Cumberland County Life (Mar 25) and the Hubbards Area Business Association (Oct 21).

'A New Partnership: Building relationship through education' (Nov 16):

In partnership with Treaty Education Nova Scotia, Canadians for a New Partnership, and Dalhousie University, we hosted a public conversation about how Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Nova Scotia can build stronger relationships with one another – close to 300 people attended.

Amherst Community Visioning Events (Feb 17 and Apr 27):

Engage and the Town of Amherst co-hosted two events where 200 residents identified 6 priorities for the town, and people identified available resources, hurdles, solutions, and next steps for those priorities.

Speaking Up (June):

In partnership with CBC Mainstreet, we hosted forums in Sydney, Digby, Stellarton, and Halifax to hear peoples' thoughts on the Now or Never report.

Municipal Engagement Clinics:

We hosted 1-day clinics with councillors, staff, and community leaders in Antigonish County (May 10); Kentville, Kings County, West Hants, Windsor, Berwick, and Kingston (Sept 20); County of Lunenburg, Town of Lunenburg, Bridgewater, Chester, and Mahone Bay (Oct 11); District of Digby, Claire, and Town of Digby (Oct 17); Argyle, Barrington, County of Shelburne, Queens County, and Lockeport (Nov 20).

Quality of Life Workshops (Sept 14-15):

Two groups of Nova Scotians from across sectors joined us in Halifax and Memberou to interpret some early results from the NS Quality of Life Index.

Engage Antigonish (Jan 31 and Apr 12):

Town of Antigonish hosted two gatherings designed with us for community members to inform the development of their strategic plan.

Community Engagement (Sept 22):

Over 40 community members in the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's came together to discuss and define their community priorities and review the municipality's strategic plan.

Engagement Clinic (Jan 17):

We hosted a 1-day clinic with municipal councillors and staff from Colchester, Guysborough, New Glasgow, Truro, Stewiacke, Oxford, and Port Hawkesbury.

One Cape Breton – Unama'ki Leadership Summit (Apr 4-5):

In collaboration with Membertou First Nation and Cape Breton Partnership, we coordinated the second summit. Municipal leaders, Chiefs and councils, business leaders, researchers, and youth discussed the future of the island and strategized new ways for municipalities and Mi'kmaq communities to work together more closely.

NS Quality of Life Survey Launches (Apr 25):

1/5 households in Nova Scotia received an invitation to fill out the survey. With the support of NSCC and the Province, we organized regional local leadership teams. They and many partner organizations helped spread the word about the importance of people responding to the survey.

Highland Summit (Feb 21):

We hosted a 1-day clinic with municipal councillors and staff from Colchester, Guysborough, New Glasgow, Truro, Stewiacke, Oxford, and Port Hawkesbury.

Release of NS Quality of Life Survey Results (Mar 11):

In partnership with the CIW, we released the survey summary results. Almost 13,000 people responded to the 230-question survey, making it the single largest quality of life dataset in North America.

Local Leadership Team (LLT) Network Gatherings (June 16 and Oct 20):

These represented the first LLT Network Gatherings – one created space for processing the prior few months. The other involved a presentation and breakout conversations.

Snapshots of the NS Quality of Life Initiative (Feb 16 – 20):

NS Residents were invited to bring their coffee and curiosity to one of five 30-minute online presentations that provided an overview of what's happened so far and what's next.

From Me to You launches :

Community members were invited to write or draw a notecard to someone as part of this provincewide note-writing initiative. We received requests for thousands of notecards across the province, and they were available in English, Mi'kmaq, and French.

Do a ___ thing launches:

This initiative is a collection of ideas to make connections in community. Close to 7000 children and youth took part in the classroom version. The workplace version continues.

Sustainable Development Goals Program:

The infographic report, Survey Snapshots, was released, the crowd-sourced SDG Map created, SDG Network established, and a partnership opportunity launched to springboard community projects.

Wellbeing Mapping Tool (May 31):

In partnership with researchers at Dalhousie University's Department of Computer Science, we launched the tool for users to map and graph the NS Quality of Life Survey results in an interactive way.

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

Release of NS Quality of Life Index:

In partnership with the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, we released the Index that assembled 21 years of data for 60 wellbeing indicators.

Last Share Thanksgiving (Oct 8):

In partnership with EduNova, the fifth and final event, involved international students as guests.

Measuring What Matters Panel Discussions:

Over 200 attendees heard from panelists at events in Halifax (Apr 30) and Dartmouth (May 1) as part of the kick off to the NS Quality of Life survey.

Beyond GDP Conference (May 23-24):

People from across sectors exchanged information and ideas about measuring wellbeing in Canada at this co-hosted event with Dalhousie University's Centre for the Study of Security and Development and Department of Political Sciences.

Recognition and Commemoration Task Force (Oct 28-29):

Engage designed and supported the facilitation of the public engagement sessions hosted by the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History.

Fall presentations:

We hosted a series of online interactive sessions for various sectors about findings from the NS Quality of Life Survey and steps participants can take to use the results.

Launch of opportunity to request analysis or data:

We began offering two possibilities for additional analysis of the NS Quality of Life Survey results. One way is for us to undertake analysis and the other way is through a data-sharing agreement.

Release of A Closer Look: The Nova Scotia Quality of Life Survey:

Released in partnership with the CIW, this analysis shares high-level information about demographic groups, insights about wellbeing, and analysis related to social isolation, poverty, health, sense of community, trust, and experiences of discrimination.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Initiative (June):

Engage is funded for a 3-year SDG project and begins work to bring its proposed activities to life.

The Meet-Up (Mar – May):

We hosted a 6-week series of online events about quality of life and wellbeing. Each week focused on a different theme, and there were two opportunities to tune in and take part: 1) Blue Chair Chats, and 2) Whiteboard Jam Sessions.

Engage turns 10! (June 15):

Full circle moments abounded as team members undertook work to fulfill the vision of a more vibrant, inclusive, equitable, and resilient Nova Scotia. They presented to municipal leaders, co-facilitated an event to build relationships between newcomers and long-time Nova Scotia residents, were interviewed by CBC Mainstreet, fielded questions about NS Quality of Life Survey results, and deepened our knowledge about creating spaces that foster a sense of belonging.

