

Promoting Nova Scotia's culture of geoscience: the past is the key to the future

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The coastal geology of *Canada's Ocean Playground* has played a vital role for sustaining our vibrant culture and developing of our global world view. Since the 1800s, geology has been a focal point of international identity for Nova Scotia. From the importance of Nova Scotia's mineral resources displayed at the international world's fairs (1862–1876), to the contributions of Dawson, Logan and Lyell at Joggins, geology has provided Nova Scotia with international recognition and contributed to our modern world view of the planet. From the 1950s to today, Nova Scotia's culture of geoscience has continued to attract global attention with important fossils and geology of the Fundy rift basin, opening of the Fundy Geological Museum in 1994 and the establishment of the Joggins Fossil Cliffs UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008. Looking toward the future, Nova Scotia released the Culture Action Plan in 2017 as a comprehensive strategy focused on celebrating and sharing our culture, our creative sector, and our diverse communities. The new Culture Innovation Fund has recently been established to support the Culture Action Plan goals. This year, the Nova Scotia Museum is celebrating 150 years as a provincial museum, having been established in 1868 with early collections of minerals and fossils that have shaped Nova Scotia culture. At this exciting time, it is interesting to consider how the geoscience community can further advance Nova Scotia's international identity and diverse culture. Advancing awareness of Mi'kmaq culture and sites in the Cliffs of Fundy Aspiring Geopark and use of new digital media and innovative technology are two examples of how we can continue to support the culture of geoscience that enriches Nova Scotia society. Geology provides a vital perspective for many of the challenges that confront our society, including coastal erosion, global climate change and ecological adaptation. Nova Scotia's geoscience community and historic geology collections continue to provide an important perspective that will continue to enrich our culture and society in the years to come.