

2024-25

Annual Report



Hike Nova Scotia Annual Report 2024-25

Here are some of the highlights of progress in the five areas of Hike Nova Scotia's Strategic Plan, covering activities between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025. Equity, diversity, inclusion and access are lenses applied to all five strategic directions, which include.

1. **Advocacy:** Be a recognized and respected voice for walking, hiking, and snowshoeing
2. **Capacity Building:** Increase walking/hiking/snowshoeing and outdoor skills and knowledge
3. **Leadership:** Be a strong leader in the walking, hiking and snowshoeing movement with sound organizational practices
4. **Places and Spaces:** Support partners in the creation and development of places and spaces for walking, hiking and snowshoeing
5. **Promotion:** Promote and encourage more responsible walking, hiking and snowshoeing



Advocacy

- Ran the #LoveOurTrailsNS campaign in February, engaging MLAs with our trails
- Provided letters of support for various trail groups for trail funding applications
- Supported other groups and coalitions in wilderness protection



Capacity Building

- Offered 10 Outdoor Council of Canada courses for 88 participants
- Offered 4 Re-Connecting with Nature workshops for 59 participants
- Created 5 Guided Nature Play how to videos



There was a full house at Escape Outdoors in North Sydney for the Winter Camping clinic run by Lee Fraser of Live Life in Tents.

Capacity Building



Participants take part in the Field Leader Winter Leadership module in Parrsboro

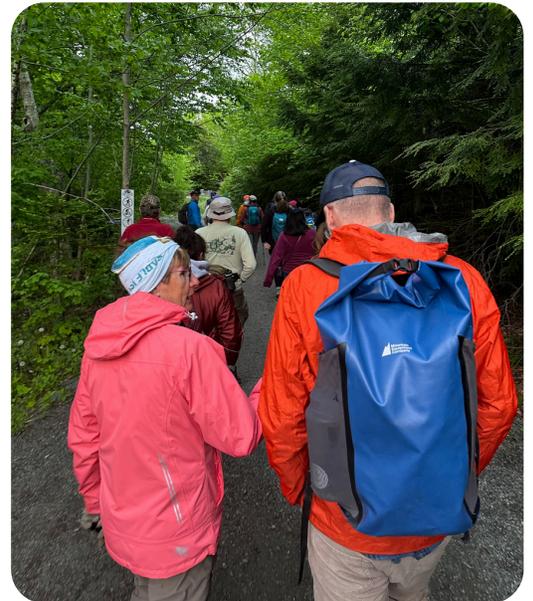
- Offered 8 in-person clinics on hiking-related topics for 210 participants
- Offered 8 webinars on hiking-related topics for 135 participants
- Offered NS Walks walk leader training sessions for 100 new leaders
- Offered 2 webinars for trail builders across the province for 26 participants

- Began the Move to Learn Outdoors project involving 18 P-3 teachers in outdoor learning seminars and resource creation
- Trained 29 young people from St. FX to be hike leaders, many of whom went on to lead hikes at Keppoch in the fall of 2024



Leadership

- New membership fees took effect on August 1 with a new business membership added
- A membership survey conducted in winter 2025 indicated a high level of satisfaction among members
- Added two more member benefit partners
- Held the Hiking Summit in Antigonish in June 2024 for 125 people
- Presented Positive Action for the Keppoch Society with the Summit Award
- Partnered with 64 groups on events or initiatives across the province



Places and Spaces

- Offered 2 webinars for trail builders across the province for 26 participants: Accessible Trails and Stronger Boards: Board Leadership
- Began the Trail Sector Capacity Building project offering a series of webinars on creating stronger boards, building accessible trails, recruiting volunteers and promoting trails for mental health
- Kept trail managers up-to-date on the latest latest news, funding and resources
- Provided advice and support to several trail managers



Accessible Trails Webinar
Part of Hike NS's Trail Builders Network

Promotion

- Held the Fall 2024 and Winter 2025 Guided Hike & Walk Series across NS including 86 events for 1,060 people organized by 42 partners with 2 equity-seeking groups hosting 5 events



The Pride Hike in July 2024 in Halifax brought out an enthusiastic crowd. Co-hosts, MEC Halifax, used camp gear to dish up tasty affogatos lakeside.

- Participated in the Ulnooweg Summer Solstice Run/Walk
- Co-hosted the book launch of Hiking Trails of Mainland NS, 10th ed. with Michael Haynes
- Partnered with the Pemisk Conservation Mosaic (Mi'kmaq project) on Full Moon Hikes
- Offered a Pride Hike in July in Halifax with 30 participants

- Distributed 491 Hiker Challenge badges and launched the new Yarmouth Town & Municipality badge
- Began the Footnotes Book Club, focusing on books by or about “unlikely hikers”

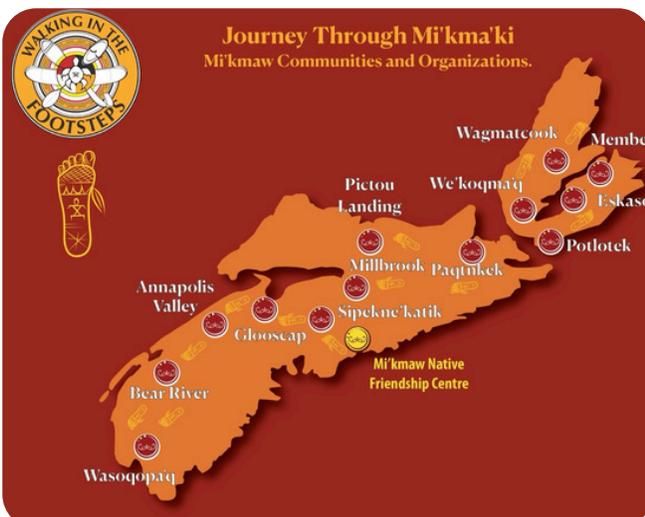


NSWalks



- Over 70 weekly walking groups with 1,175 participants
- Developed a Train the Trainer model and trained 6 individuals
- Developed and piloted an NS Walks at Work program with 24 leaders in workplaces

- Trained over 100 new walk leaders
- Nova Scotia Walk Day 2024 had 106 walk events with 1,656 participants
- Developed a walking audit tool kit and worked with 11 communities (2 of them African NS communities) to conduct 15 walking audits



- Walking in the Footsteps, the Mi'kmaq walking program, has engaged contacts in most Mi'kmaq communities and set up walking challenges in 3 communities and with two organizations

NSWalks

KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2024-25

Walking in the Footsteps - Mi'kmaw Walking Program



- Programs in Bear River, Wagmatcook, Wasoqopa'q
- Involved Richmond Academy (public school)
- Focus on children & youth
- Walking audits completed in Wasoqopa'h

Reaching Equity Seeking Communities



- Stronger ties with African Nova Scotian
- 2 walking audits completed
- Groups active in East Preston, Cherry Brook, Greenville

Train the Trainer



- Developed "Train the Trainer" model
- 6 individuals trained, 3 leading training in their communities

Leader Network Growth



- 100+ new leaders in 2024
- 600+ leaders total
- 30 MPALS trained
- 73 walking groups + special "walking series" events

Walking Audits



- Toolkit developed
- 15 audits in 11 communities
- Empowered locals & MPALS to support walkable communities

NS Walks at Work



- Workplace program piloted and active
- 24 leaders trained
- NS Health leading expansion province-wide

Volunteer



- 7000+ volunteer hours from walk leaders

NS Walk Day 2025



- Held on May 14, 2025
- 113 walks
 - 72 community walks
 - 32 workplace walks
 - 8 schools
- 1500+ participants



Funding and Partners

Financials

Hike NS had a good financial year. See our full financials online.



Partners and Supporters

Hike NS recognizes the support of the Province of Nova Scotia. We are pleased to work in partnership with the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to develop and promote our cultural resources for all Nova Scotians.





Funders and Sponsors

Nova Scotia Departments of: Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage; Education and Early Childhood Development; Seniors; Labour, Skills and Immigration

Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program

Clean Foundation

Canadian Parks and Recreation Association

Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia

AtlanTick Repellent Products

NSLC For the Good of the Community

ParticipAction

Uplifted - Halifax Airport Fund

Walkabout Show (Whalesong Productions)

The Trail Shop

Goose Lane Editions

Mountain Equipment Company

Never Moor

AllTrails.com

TruEarth

Google Ads Grant Program

Significant Partnerships

Outdoor Council of Canada

International Appalachian Trail

Leave No Trace Canada

Hike Canada

Recreation Nova Scotia