

ATLANTIC AGROLOGY NETWORK NEWSLETTER



COUNCIL UPDATES

NBIA - nbia@nsagrologists.nb.ca

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NLIA

Summer has finally arrived with good crop growth to date.

Since April, the NBIA Council has conducted monthly business meetings by conference call, discussing several initiatives and completing ongoing projects. The Communication and Marketing committee has been continuing to do upgrades to our webpage, improving and populating the information and necessary resources. A consultant has been retained to assist with this work.

The Professional Development Committee has been busy reaching out to members to gauge interest in various topics. They are planning events both virtual and face to face for the fall.

Our AGM, business portion only, was held on May 14th, 2021, by Zoom, with 51 members participating. During this meeting, we honored our 2020 award winners. The Honorary Lifetime Certificate recipients were George Maicher, William P. Lunnie, Ralph E. McQueen and Paul Jensen, P.Ag. The Agricultural Initiative award went to Venessa Allain, P.Ag.; Kevin McCully, P. Ag. and Gerry Chevrier, P.Ag. received the Distinguished Services for N.B. Agriculture; Micheal Carr an organic vegetable farmer received the Agriculture Environmental Stewardship award: and Hanscome Group of Companies received the Agricultural Leadership Award.

A New Council was also elected at the AGM. The NBIA Council for the 2021-2022 year is as follows:

President – Susannah Banks
 Past President – Nicole Williams
 Vice-President – Maureen Flinn
 Registrar – Michel Melanson
 Secretary/Treasurer – Duncan Fraser
 Suzanne Young – Councilor
 Monic Tibault – Councilor
 Nadine Simpson – Councilor
 Gerald Chevrier – Councilor
 Andrew Currie – Independent Layperson
 Rita Rittray – Office Administrator

Membership remains consistent with 181 Professional Agrologists with four pending applications and three Articling Agrologists being scheduled to write their exams very shortly.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a safe and enjoyable summer. Remember to enjoy time with family and friends and support local. What we spend locally has a much greater impact on our economy that what we spend on products from other countries. Every decision that we make is powerful, so let's make thoughtful choices that reflect our values. Enjoy your summer.

Susannah Banks, P.Ag.
 President

Given the challenges and concerns due to the pandemic, the NLIA Executive has taken this as an opportunity to expand the institutes activities, virtually and through social media outlets.

The Council has prioritized public and industry engagement, increasing presence and membership incentivization.

In the spring of 2021, an article highlighting the efforts of a university student caught the attention of NLIA Board. The individual was interviewed due to their interest in enhancing education programs for grade school students on food production. In response, the Executive Council has delivered a letter of support to the student that applauded their effort, indicating that the NLIA is here for their support and also listed current initiatives, organizations and programs that would help further their campaign.

To continue to build on agriculture education in Newfoundland and Labrador, the NLIA has prepared a presentation to be delivered to students in the Agriculture Technician program offered by College of The North Atlantic. This engagement session will provide information on the profession of Agrology and highlight the new Technical Agrologist designation.

To enhance membership experience, the NLIA is exploring opportunities and partnerships with the NL Federation of Agriculture (NLFA). The NLFA represents the interests of commodity groups in the province and also provides a membership package. The NLIA has approached the NLFA to expand on communication networks with the agricultural industry and possibly provide members with enhanced membership benefits.

Another exciting development includes the creation of our Facebook page. The page is currently building a following and has now provided new avenues for public and farmer engagement. Please like and follow at <https://www.facebook.com/NLInstituteofAgrologists> to get updates on the latest council activities.

Richard Tingskou, P.Ag.
President

NSIA had our AGM back in April – just five months after our 2020 AGM which was delayed due to COVID. At the AGM, we presented three members with awards, with recipients being nominated by their peers and fellow Agrologists. Recipients include Elizabeth Crouse (Distinguished Life Member), Misty Croney (Distinguished Agrologist) and Angela Gourd (Outstanding Young Agrologist), *posthumous*.

We also presented our strategic initiatives document to members present at the AGM, which we are now taking action on. Four areas really stood out for Council to direct attention to in the coming year – implementation of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy; increasing the profile of the agrology profession; continuing with delivering programs and increase awareness of opportunities outside of NSIA; and, continuing with our act modernization.

The EDI work kicked off with a panel of presentations before our AGM. We welcomed Hema Chopra and Rebecca Sooksom from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Lord Abbey and Dr. Raj Lada from Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture, to speak about *International Perspectives on Agriculture as a Profession*. This session drew in more than 50 attendees. More on the EDI work – we will develop an EDI policy and are working towards identifying resources on EDI for members interested in learning more.

In the coming months, we will be looking at governance training. This training will be specific to NSIA, as most of our Council has board governance experience with agriculture or community group organizations. This training is planned to identify the responsibilities of NSIA Council and recommendations for running effective and efficient committee meetings.

Council will meet next in September.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Maxine MacLean, P.Ag.
President

Since our annual general meeting in April, the PEI Institute of Agrologists has settled into the 2021/22 season with the May and June Council meetings held via Zoom. The PEIIA Council is currently focused on refining the steps for reviewing membership applications to streamline the process, and continuing to integrate the new Technical Agrologist designation into the regular operation of the Institute by measures such as revising our membership certificates and updating website material to include the new designation.

The PEIIA's first Lunch & Learn session for the summer season was held on June 23rd at the Lone Oak Brewing Company in Borden, PEI. This in-person event, held with COVID-19 protocols in place, was very well attended and featured presentations by Spencer Gallant, one of the owners and the head brewer at Lone Oak, and Jillian Ferguson and Carleigh MacLeod, creators of the "Ag in the Field" social media account and winners of the 2021 Food & Farming Champion Award. The inspiring stories presented by these young entrepreneurs speaks to the wealth of innovation and opportunity in the Prince Edward Island agri-business scene.

The membership of the PEIIA currently stands at 89, with 4 membership applications being reviewed as of June 30th.

Gwen Corrigan Vessey, P.Ag.
President



JOB POSTINGS

NBIA:

Please frequently check [NB Jobs](#) for updates.

NLIA:

Please keep checking the [Job Board](#) for new employment opportunities.

NSIA:

Please routinely the [Job Postings page](#) on our website. The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) also has an [online Job Board](#) for agriculture related jobs in the province.

PEIIA:

Please frequently check the [Careers page](#) on our website for updates.

Job postings nationwide can also be found on the **Agrologists Agronomes Canada (AAC)** [Employment Opportunities webpage](#).



TRENDING TOPIC

This current, hot topic within the agriculture industry will alternate between the four provinces each edition.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Institute of Agrologists (NLIA) has struggled over the last decade to attract and retain members within the Institute. Successive Councils have tried to find ways of proving the value of membership as an Agrologist and answering the common question of “What’s in it for me?” Being one of two provincial Institutes in Canada, which does not have Right to Practice legislation as part of our Agrologist Act has not made the job any easier. The pandemic has created an opportunity which the NLIA Council feels may provide our Institute with an increased profile among potential members.

Our 2021 AGM identified community engagement as an area which could be enhanced, in terms of becoming a more recognized participant in the local industry. The agricultural community in NL is comprised of farmers, extension specialists and researchers who are associated with provincial and federal governments, along with people from academic institutions. A provincially organized Research Symposium was started in 2014 to bring these industry players together every second year to allow participants to meet and provide updates on current and planned research projects. Because of the pandemic, the Symposium was cancelled in 2020 and no event has been scheduled since.

To help expand the networks and engagement of the NLIA, we are proposing to host a remote session via Zoom to engage researchers in the agricultural and environmental sectors in Newfoundland and Labrador. The goal of this session will be to increase NLIA’s exposure and to renew and build upon the scientific networks found here in the province. Further, we hope to introduce the NLIA to people working in NL on agricultural development and environmental safety, facilitating conversations between professionals, developing other possible professional development sessions, and finding future venues in which to increase NLIA visibility.

Over the next few months, we will be working to identify the participants and developing a format which will encourage exchange of information and collaboration among the invitees. We have been pleased to see several items in local news media this spring from both government and individuals, concerning the potential of agriculture and how it can be used as tool in building a stronger provincial economy. As professionals, we hope that our Institute can play a leadership role in sustaining these ideas.

Gary Bishop, P.Ag.
NLIA Secretary

