QUEER nova scotia conference

OCTOBER 23RD - 25TH, 2026

NSCC - TRURO CAMPUS

PRESENTED BY

COLCHESTER COUNTY PRIDE

FUNDED BY

NOVA SCOTIA

Office of Equity and Anti-Racism

WITH GRADITUDE FOR THEIR SUPPORT

NSCC
Truro Campus

Seahorse Strategies
Tania Cheng

Tailored Consulting Service
Jamie Matthews

The Commune Snack Bar
Jenna Tait and Darrick Pierre

LOVELY ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY

ROZ KENNERY CODY LEWIS

X

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PRESENTERS

Seahorse Strategies
Tania Cheng

MLA Lisa Lachance
Halifax Citadel-Sable Island

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project
Sky Smith

Seahorse Sexual Health
Robin Metcalfe

Transgender/Non-Binary Rights
Advocacy Nova Scotia
Mica Daurie

The Youth Project
Carmel Farahbakhsh

Queer Momentum
Fae Johnstone

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Accomodations

Willow Bend Grand Suites
277 Willow St. Truro, NS

The Inn on Prince
437 Prince St., Truro, NS

For both accommodations:

- Parking provided on-site
- Continental breakfast provided
- Check-in 3pm - Friday Oct. 23rd

Communication was sent out regarding where you will be staying. Due to the large interest in the conference, we had to book additional rooms. If you have any questions, please reach out to **Jess** at **jess@turopride.ca** or **519-217-2376**

Travel Stipend

A travel stipend will be provided. There has been **$50 allotted per organization.** If there are additional funds, we will be providing them to folks who traveled the furthest to attend.

Registration

Registration will happen in the lobby of the **Willow Bend Grand Suites between 3pm and 6pm.** When you arrive in town, please head there first to register, then proceed to where you will be staying.

Conference Location

The conference will be taking place at the **Truro NSCC Campus at 36 Arthur St., Truro, NS.** Most sessions will be in **Forrester Hall, Rm 138 (downstairs).** A map is included in this packet to help you navigate the campus.

Parking

Parking spaces are located around the campus (included in the map) You may park in any of the student parking areas. **Accessible Parking** is located in front of Forrester Hall.

Accessibility

The event space is **accessible by elevator**. Here are some additional steps for accessibility that we have taken based on feedback:

1. This is a SCENT-FREE environment.
2. Fidgets and other sensory items are provided.
3. A separate space at NSCC for breaks.
4. A large air filter in conference spaces.
5. Masks and hand sanitizer are available.
6. Adjusting lighting as needed.

We will try to accommodate all requests, but please note that we can only control so much regarding the rental space's physical operations and the individuals attending.

If you have any questions, please let Jess or one of our volunteers know; they will be happy to help!

Additional Information

The purpose of this conference is to **create connections with other Queer organizations within the province** and to create concrete ideas and plans to move forward in our work.

Sometimes conversations **may get heavy or triggering for folks.** Please **use the space as needed; this means getting up and moving, taking breaks, and listening to your own needs. Please dress for comfort and what you feel best in;** we are happy to welcome you to Truro and **can't wait to have a wonderful weekend of learning and connection!**

Contact

If you have any questions, concerns, or other needs, please contact **Jess Blakely-Smith at jess@turopride.ca or 519-217-2376**

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Maps

Directions: Willow Bend Grand Suites to NSCC

Estimated Time: 12 Minutes

Directions:

1. Exit the hotel parking lot and **turn right** onto **Willow Street**
2. **Stay** on **Willow St.** for approx. **650 m**
3. At the **traffic light**, take a **small right** onto **Arthur St.**
4. **Enter** the **main campus** at the **NSCC sign** - **McCarthy Hall** will be on your **left.**

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Maps

Directions: Inn on Prince to NSCC

Approx. 15 minutes

1. Exit the parking lot toward Prince St/NS-2 N
2. Turn left onto Prince St/NS-2 N for approx. 270m
3. Turn right onto Willow St/NS-2 N for approx. 600m
4. Turn left toward Arthur St
5. Turn left onto Arthur St
6. Turn right

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Maps

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Accessibility note: This is a detailed map of Truro Campus. If you need support navigating the campus, please call Student Services at 902-893-5346.

Welcome to Truro Campus

Forrester Hall

Lobby
1. Security
2. Learning Commons
3. Café

1st Fl
4. Nursing lab
5. Mindfulness Centre
6. Lecture theatre

2nd Fl
7. Student Services and Business Office
8. Academic Chairs' offices
9. Technology Services
10. Bookstore
11. Medical Office Administration lab
12. 2nd Floor "Mezzanine": The Peak

3rd Fl
13. Life drawing studio
14. Pedway access

McCarthy Hall

1st Fl
15. Cultural centre
16. Study and meeting spaces
17. Learning Commons, Computer Lab
18. E-sports lounge

2nd Fl
19. Library and Learning Commons
20. Testing Centre
21. Meeting rooms and study spaces
22. Principal's office

3rd Fl
23. Creative industries studios
24. Pedway access

Centennial Building

1st Fl
25. Trades shop

2nd Fl
26. Centre of Forest Innovation
27. Lounge

Sport and Wellness Centre

1st Fl
28. Strength and conditioning room

2nd Fl
29. Gymnasium

Davis Hall

30. Campus Housing
31. Cafeteria (Soloan Hall)

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Links for addresses and directions

NSCC - Truro Campus
36 Arthur St.

Willow Bend Grand Suites
277 Willow St.

Inn on Prince
437 Prince St.

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Office of Equity and Anti-Racism

Friday, October 23rd

3:00pm to 6:00pm

Queer Nova Scotia Conference
Check-In

Hosted by: Colchester County Pride

Willow Bend Inn & Suites
277 Willow St. Truro, NS

6:30pm to 9:30pm

Queer Nova Scotia Conference
Welcome Event

Hosted by: Colchester County Pride

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138 - Downstairs

6:35pm - Welcome and Introductions - Jess Blakely-Smith
6:40pm - Welcome Address by Special Guest
Minister Scott Armstrong, Office of Equity & Anti-Racism
6:50pm - Eat and Mingle
7:00pm - Roz Kennery
7:30pm to 9:30pm - Eat and Mingle

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Office of Equity and Anti-Racism

Saturday, October 24th

Morning — **Continental Breakfast at Accomodations**

Willow Bend Grand Suites
277 Willow St., Truro, NS
&
Inn on Prince
437 Prince St., Truro, NS

Coffee, Tea, Water and snacks will be provided throughout the day

8:30am — **Settle in for Welcome Session**

Hosted by: Colchester County Pride

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138 - Downstairs

9:00am — **Welcome and Housekeeping**

Hosted by: Colchester County Pride

Welcome to the space, orientation of where to go for what, overview of the weekend agenda.

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138 - Downstairs

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Office of Equity and Anti-Racism

Saturday, October 24th

9:30am

Keynote Speaker

Hosted by: MLA Lisa LaChance Halifax Citadel-Sable Island

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138 - Downstairs

9:50am

BREAK

10:00am

2 Session Options

Session 1A: Building Strong Governance, Communication in Community Groups

Hosted by: Mica Daurie
T.R.A.N.S

NSCC Truro - McCarthy Hall
Room 111 - Downstairs

OR

Session 1B: Exploring Strategies for Building Trust and Community Individuals Traumatozed by Homophobia and Transphobia

Hosted by: Robin Metcalfe
Seahorse Sexual Health Centre and Sheet Harbour Pride

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138

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Saturday, October 24th

11:20am **BREAK**

11:30am **Session 2: Uplifting Queer Lives in Rural Nova Scotia**

Hosted by: Jess Blakely-Smith
Colchester County Pride

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138

12:30pm **LUNCH**

1:30pm **Session 3: Open Space: Queer Knowledge Exchange**

Hosted by: Tania Cheng
Seahorse Strategies Inc & SMB Pride

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138

3:00pm **Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

Hosted by: Jess Blakely-Smith
Colchester County Pride

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138

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Saturday, October 24th

3:15pm

Session 4: Chat and Collabs

Hosted by: Jess Blakely-Smith
Colchester County Pride

NSCC Truro Campus or other spaces.

4:15pm

FREE TIME

6:30pm

Conference Celebration

Hosted by: Colchester County Pride

NSCC Truro - McCarthy Hall
Room 111 - Downstairs

Featuring Drag BINGO hosted by X!

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Sunday, October 25th

Morning

Continental Breakfast at Accomodations

Willow Bend Grand Suites
277 Willow St., Truro, NS
&
Inn on Prince
437 Prince St., Truro, NS

Coffee, Tea, Water and snacks will be provided throughout the day

8:30am

Settle in for Sessions

Hosted by: Colchester County Pride

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138

9:00am

Session 5: Combatting Anti-Queer and Anti-Trans Hate: A Provincial and National Perspective

Hosted by: Carmel Farahbakhsh
The Youth Project

Hosted by: Fae Johnstone
Queer Momentum

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138

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Sunday, October 25th

10:30am

Session 6: From Listening to Connection: Building a Provincial 2SLGBTQIA+ Network.

Hosted by: Sky Smith
Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP)

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138

11:30am

BREAK

11:40am

Session 7: Provincial Funding

Hosted by: Luke Power
Nova Scotia, Office of Equity and Anti-Racism

Hosted by: Meghan Hallett
Nova Scotia, Office of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138

12:10pm

Wrap-Up & Closing

Hosted by: Jess Blakely-Smith
Colchester County Pride

NSCC Truro - Forrester Hall
Room 138

1:00pm

BAGGED LUNCH TO-GO or TO-STAY

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