



Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council

Application Guide 2026-27

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About the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council

The [Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council](#) was established in 2023 and is comprised of young Nova Scotians ages 14-24. The Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council is an advisory committee to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and they provide advice to the Minister on the Government of Nova Scotia's priority climate policies. The Council also engages youth across Nova Scotia in climate initiatives through programs, events and opportunities.

The Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council is funded by the province of Nova Scotia through the Department of Environment and Climate Change. The Council and its initiatives are administered by Clean Foundation, a non-profit organization that works to address climate change challenges and opportunities in Nova Scotia, PEI and the Atlantic region.

Being a Council Member

Each year, up to 15 Nova Scotian youth are selected to join the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council. Council members serve a 7-month term from September to March.

Members should expect to commit about five hours per month to their work with the Council, which includes attending a two-hour Council meeting once per month and sitting on at least one committee. Committees work more closely on specific initiatives of the Council, such as supporting micro-grant opportunities in the form of the Creative Climate Showcase.

Serving on the Council is a volunteer role. Members are provided with an honorarium of \$50 per month (**\$350 per 7-month term**) in recognition of their time and commitment to the Council. Expenses incurred through Council activities (such as travel costs, meals and hotel accommodations for in-person events) will be covered.

Council Member Responsibilities:

Council members are expected to:

- Attend monthly council meetings and actively participate in discussions and council-related decision-making processes.
- Attend briefings with government staff and other subject matter experts to learn about climate change policies and initiatives in Nova Scotia.
- Sit on at least one committee to work more closely on specific projects of the Council.
- Provide input on the Council’s initiatives to ensure that these programs are engaging and relevant for NS youth.
- Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Council.
- Meet with the Minister to provide advice on specific climate-related policies and initiatives that the government is working on.

Council Member Eligibility

To become a member of the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council, you must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- You are **between 14 and 24 years old** throughout the Council term.
 - Your birthdate must be between June 30, 2002, and September 1, 2012.
- You are **currently living in Nova Scotia** and will be a resident of Nova Scotia throughout the Council term.
 - The term runs from September 2026 to March 2027.
- You are a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, refugee or international student with a valid Canadian study permit.
- You are not an employee of Clean Foundation or the Government of Nova Scotia.

- You can commit at least three hours per month to Council activities, including from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on the last Tuesday of each month for monthly Council meetings.
- You are passionate about addressing climate change in Nova Scotia!

Application Process

Applying to become a member of the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council includes two components:

1. Online application form – The first step is to complete an online application form. The form includes multiple choice, short-answer and long-answer questions about:

- your basic personal and contact information;
- your interest and knowledge of climate initiatives and climate policy;
- your previous work, volunteer and leadership experiences; and,
- self-identification for equity categories.

For the long-answer questions, you can respond either in writing or in a recorded video response.

Written responses should be typed directly in the form.

Video responses should be pre-recorded, uploaded to Google Drive (or a similar web-based storage site) and a link to the video should be submitted in the form.

2. Interview – Shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in a 30-minute online interview. In the interview, you will be asked additional questions about:

- your interest in joining the Council;
- your knowledge of climate initiatives and climate policy in Nova Scotia;
- your past experiences that have prepared you to join the Council; and,
- your ability to meet the time commitment that the Council requires.

The interview will also serve as an opportunity to assess your verbal communication skills.

Application Timeline

Applications to join the 2026-27 Council will open on **April 10, 2026**, and will close at 11:59 p.m. on **May 13, 2026**.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in an online interview in June 2026. Successful Council members will be notified before the end of August.

Application Questions

This section gives an overview of the long-answer questions asked in the online application form.

In the online form, your answers cannot be saved to return to later, and your application cannot be edited after submission. So, it is a good idea to prepare your written or video responses before beginning the online application form.

Please note that you will be asked to disclose any use of AI in your application. Your responses should reflect your own ideas and experiences. Heavy reliance on AI without modification in any part of your application may negatively impact our assessment of your application. Applicants' unique perspectives and experiences are an important part of their applications.

When you are ready, your official application must be submitted [through the online application form](#).

Long-Answer Questions

1. Why would you like to be a member of the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council?

(Choice of written or video response format)

- a. Written response: Maximum 200 words
- b. Video response: Maximum one and a half minutes (90 seconds) video length

2. Choose one question to respond to:

Option 1 - In 2022, the Nova Scotia government released the provincial climate plan [Our Climate, Our Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth](#) with a commitment to renew the plan within 5 years (by the end of 2027). Imagine that you have been asked to update one of the actions for a renewed climate plan. Which action would you

pick from the 2022 climate plan, and how would you update it for a renewed climate plan? Explain your reasoning.

Option 2 - Describe a climate change impact that you are passionate about (for example, coastline erosion or biodiversity loss). What is the province of Nova Scotia already doing to address this impact? What more could be done, in your opinion?

(Choice of written or video response format)

- a. Written response: Maximum 300 words
 - b. Video response: Maximum two minutes video length
3. The organization [Apathy is Boring](#) suggests that there are three types of youth leaders:
- a. **Shakers** are youth who draw attention to problems, often through protesting or organizing climate fairs. They are movement leaders.
 - b. **Makers** are youth who focus on coming up with creative solutions. They might found an organization or start an initiative.
 - c. **Uptakers** are youth who work within existing systems to make change. They often have positions of leadership within existing structures, such as their school council.

What type(s) of leader are you, or do you want to be? Why?

(Choice of written or video response format)

- a. Written response: Maximum 300 words
- b. Video response: Maximum two minutes (120 seconds) video length

Activity Profile

Describe a minimum of two (and up to five) experiences or activities you've participated in that would make you a good candidate for the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council. These can include:

- work experience (including but not limited to work in the climate and environmental sectors and/or work related to Government's climate priorities);
- volunteering;
- community leadership; and,
- personal projects or hobbies (such as art, sports, music, outdoor activities, etc.).

For each activity listed you will be asked to:

- provide a description of the activity (maximum **50 words**), including the organization, your position, and what you did; and,
- select the category that best describes the activity (work experience, volunteering, leadership or personal project/ hobby).

If you would prefer to upload your resume instead of completing the Activity Profile, you may do so. Please ensure that your resume is submitted as a PDF and is a maximum of two pages long. Reviewers will not look at additional pages of your resume.

Sharing any known conflicts of interest

As a member of the NSYCC, your role will be to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister that benefit all youth across Nova Scotia. To help keep things fair and transparent, please tell us if you—or someone close to you—have any connections to the Government of Nova Scotia. This could include a parent/guardian who works there, a job application you've submitted, or your involvement with an organization that works with the

government. Sharing this information will help us better understand if there are any potential conflicts of interests that need to be considered.

Alternative Application Options

Accessibility and inclusivity are important to us. If the standard application process presents any barriers for you, please **email us** and we would be happy to offer support or work with you to find an alternative application format that is more accessible: YCC@cleanfoundation.ca

Some examples of possible alternative application formats include (but are not limited to):

- We can accept verbal responses (over the phone) to the online application form questions.
- You can complete the entire application process over a 30-minute video call with one of our team members. You will be asked to provide verbal responses to the application questions and the call will be recorded.
- We can give you a printable copy of the application form to complete hand-written and mail to us.

Selection Criteria

To be considered, you must demonstrate that you meet all the eligibility criteria to become a member of the Nova Scotia Youth Climate Council. Eligible applications will be reviewed by a committee composed of Clean Foundation staff and Department of Environment and Climate Change staff.

Council members will be selected based on the following criteria.

Applications will be scored out of 100 points. The different criteria are weighted as outlined below.

- **Personal commitment to climate and environment (25 points)** – The committee will consider an applicant’s commitment and/or desire to contribute to environmental and climate initiatives in Nova Scotia.

- **Communication skills (25 points)** – The committee will consider an applicant's ability to communicate clearly and professionally, as demonstrated through their application form and interview. Both written and verbal communication skills will be considered.
- **Education and experience (20 points)** – The committee will consider an applicant's relevant knowledge and experience that has prepared them for a role on the Council. Any past education, work, or volunteer experience related to climate change, government relations, or community leadership will be considered.
- **Equity of opportunity (20 points)** – The committee will aim to select a diversity of applicants to ensure that the Council is representative of the different identities, ages, geographic locations, and lived experiences of Nova Scotian youth. Applicants from equity-deserving groups and rural communities will be prioritized.
- **Personal profile (10 points)** – The committee will consider other unique aspects of an applicant's personal profile – such as their skills, abilities, and personality – that would make them an asset to the Council.

Contact Us

If you still have questions or need assistance with your application, please **email us** and we will do our best to assist you: YCC@cleanfoundation.ca