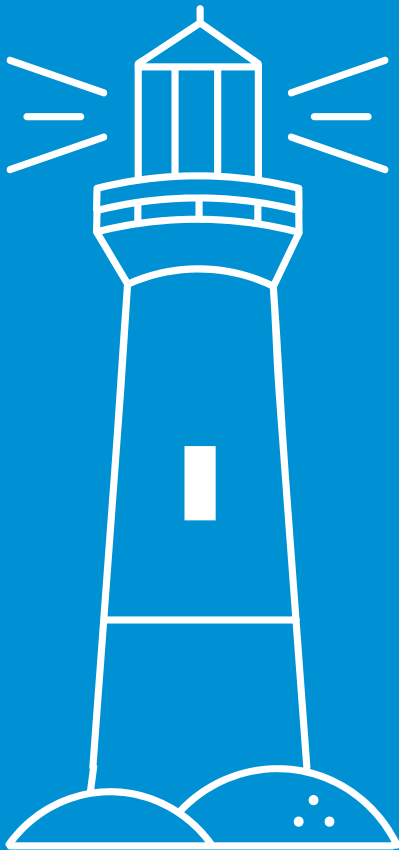




Annual Report 2025/26



Our Board of Directors

Our Mission:

Established in 1987, the Surfing Association of Nova Scotia is a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to: building an inclusive, fun and respectful surf community; supporting recreational and competitive surfing; promoting coastal stewardship and access; while striving to achieve organizational effectiveness.

Letter from the Board of Directors:

2025/26 was a period of significant growth and deepened community impact for the Surfing Association of Nova Scotia (SANS). Through strategic partnerships and supportive funding, we were able to expand our programming to make surfing more inclusive and welcoming sport for neurodiverse individuals, newcomers to Canada, and girls and non-binary youth, while promoting surf as an avenue for supporting the mental and physical health of at risk communities and individuals. Our programming prioritized ocean literacy, safety, and inclusive recreation, fostering a sense of belonging and well-being for participants across the province.

Out of the water, we also spent a significant amount of time working to build a more stable, transparent, responsive, and accountable foundation for SANS to build upon moving forward. These processes required hard conversations and reflection on the way that SANS has previously operated and the impact that has had on the community.

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of Nova Scotian surfers, and we can't wait to see what we can accomplish together in the coming year. See you in the lineup!

– Board of Directors, Surfing Association of Nova Scotia



Governance & Organizational Efficiency

To support accountability, transparency, and a sports community that is safe and inclusive for everyone, the Board of Directors worked closely with our partners at Sport Nova Scotia and Recreation Nova Scotia to revamp our organizational governance and membership structure to bring it in line with best practices. As we look to the future and make big plans, this work will provide a solid foundation for SANS to build upon.

Changes to SANS Membership:

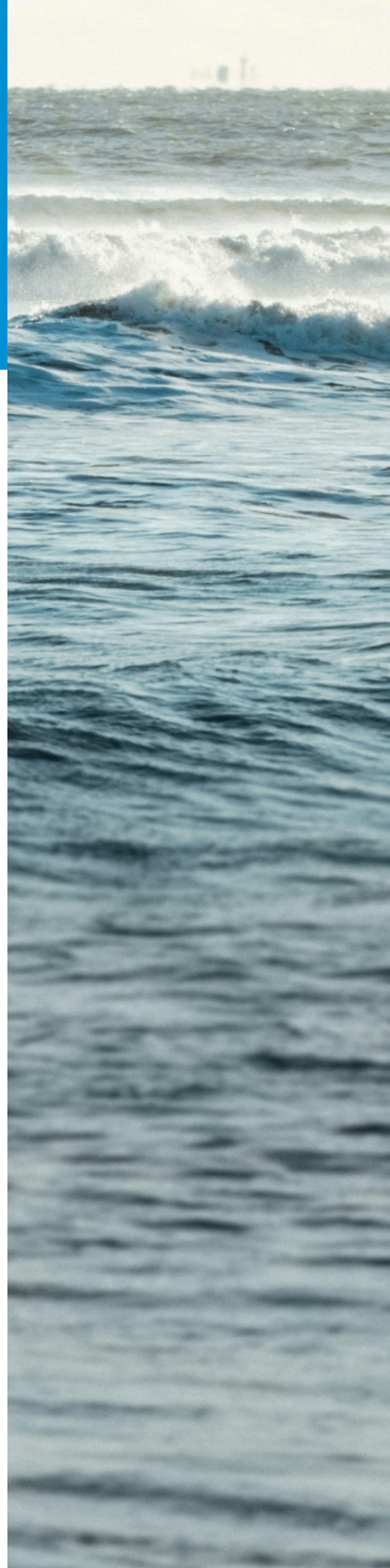
For many years, membership to SANS consisted of anyone who “likes” our page on Facebook. Now our membership definition is clearly outlined, with a small fee that is designed to encourage more engagement from the community and support programming, and provides disciplinary procedures to keep participants, volunteers, and staff safe in the long term.

Code of Conduct:

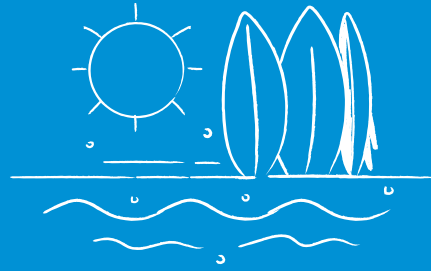
A major component of our new membership structure is the development of a Code of Conduct that every member of the organization is expected to abide. This document provides clear expectations for behaviours, and a roadmap for addressing concerns as they arise and holding individuals accountable.

Updated By-Laws:

In 2025/26, we also spent a lot of time revising our by-laws. It is common practice for by-laws to be re-visited regularly and to assess whether they are adequately serving the needs and strategic goals of the organization. Major updates this year included our membership structure and disciplinary processes.



Our Programming



Water Moves Mavillette:

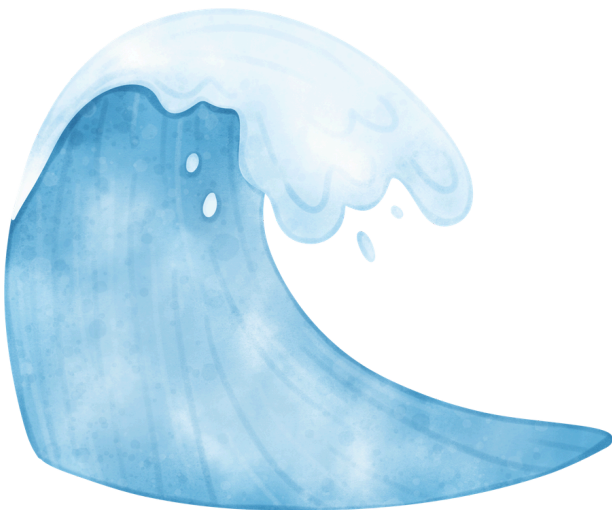
In partnership with Autism NS, SHYFT House, and local community groups, this pilot initiative at Mavillette Beach was designed for neurodiverse individuals, girls and non-binary youth, and equity-deserving Nova Scotians. This program offered sensory-friendly, non-competitive wave play and entry-level surf skills. Supported by nine youth mentors, it provided a low-barrier introduction to the water for 37 participants.

Active Community & Social Development Through Surf:

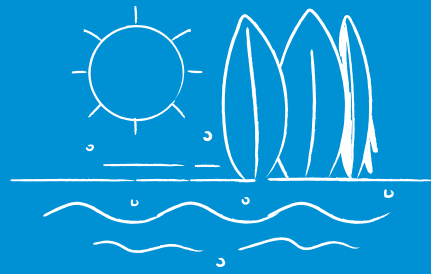
In partnership with the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) and with funding from the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the Central Dartmouth Community Health Board, SANS hosted several surf days designed to facilitate community integration and overall wellness. These sessions provided free transportation, equipment, and instruction to 40 participants, including youth and their families.

Surfing For Community, Wellbeing & Connection:

In collaboration with Alnaas Youth Group, this program offered two social and educational surf days for newcomer youth to fostered community connection, mental and physical wellbeing, and safe access to Nova Scotia's ocean environment. Activities included dryland and in-water surf instruction, equipment rental, and transportation for 44 participants.



Our Programming



Point Michaud Surf Classic:

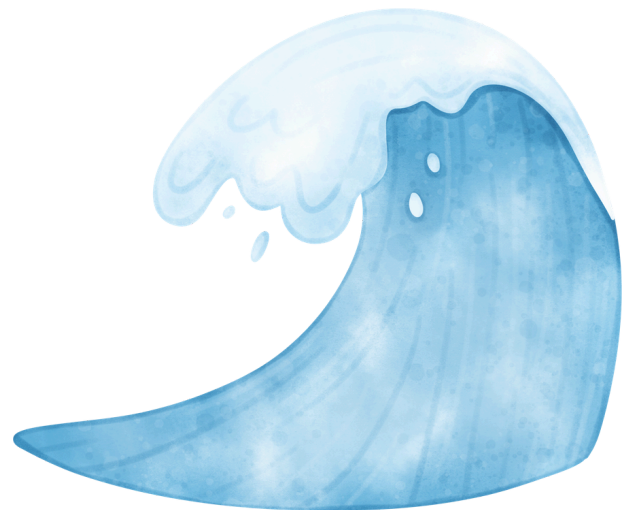
The Point Michaud Surf Classic was a wicked weekend of competition for wave riders of all kinds, along with just-for-fun contests and water-based action. More than 40 people participated, and even more came out to watch. This event has run annual for over 20 years thanks to support from our wonderful partners at the Municipality of Richmond.

Point Michaud Youth Development:

SANS takes an active role in capacity building to certify and mentor future leaders, instructors, coaches, and lifeguards at Point Michaud Beach in partnership with the Municipality of Richmond. 15 youth participated throughout the summer in water based training, lifesaving courses, and at surf and swim events. The youth girls also hosted the Mavillette Surf Girls weekend which offered an opportunity for them to practice their mentorship skills with the support of Jumpstart and Canadian Women & Sport.

Supporting Healthcare Professionals Well-Being:

This is a multi-month initiative in collaboration with the Tri-County Women's Centre healthcare providers, supporting healthcare providers through surf instruction and reflective wellness practices to address burnout and build community. Using trauma-informed facilitation, activities included surf instruction, equipment rental, transportation, food, and program materials like stationery and surf journals for six individuals.



Training & Certification

ISA Judging Level 1:

This year, we were excited to offer the ISA Judging Level 1 Certification Course. In order to keep the course accessible, we were able to provide subsidies to participants who identified that the cost would be a barrier for their participation. After a weekend of fun, learning, and mock judgements, we were proud to have 10 new certified judges to support the facilitation of surf contests in Nova Scotia.



Bronze Cross Certification:

In partnership with the Nova Scotia Lifesaving Society, we supported 14 youth in achieving their Bronze Cross Certification as part of our commitment to developing youth skills to enhance beach access and build safe ocean access all across Nova Scotia.

Our Partners

“Our daughter had such an incredible experience this year. This was her second year learning to surf, and it was so special to see her confidence grow – not only in her own surfing, but also in her ability to support others. Being able to help teach girls really boosted her awareness of the ocean and her belief in herself. She always looks forward to the next surf night or clinic at the beautiful Mavillette Beach, and she loves being in the water surrounded by such a positive group of girls. I especially value how the multi- age group setting shows that girls of all ages can learn from one another, no matter their experience or age.”

None of this work would be possible without the support and resources of our partners, and we are endlessly grateful for their time, expertise, and dedication.

A **huge** thank you to:

Recreation Nova Scotia

Sport Nova Scotia

The Province of Nova Scotia

Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

Municipality of Richmond

Nova Scotia Health Authority

Central Dartmouth Community Health Board

Jumpstart

Canadian Women & Sport

Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment

Tri-County Women’s Center

Alnaas Youth Group

Autism Nova Scotia (Southwest Chapter)

SHYFT House

Life Rolls On & SurfAble NS

Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Lifesaving Society

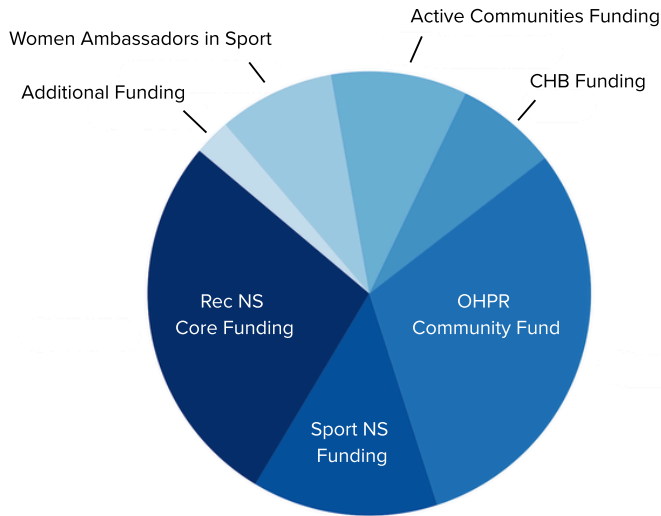
International Surf Association

Surf Canada

And finally, thank you to every individual who participated in SANS programming and to the instructors who poured their heart and soul into making our programs a success.

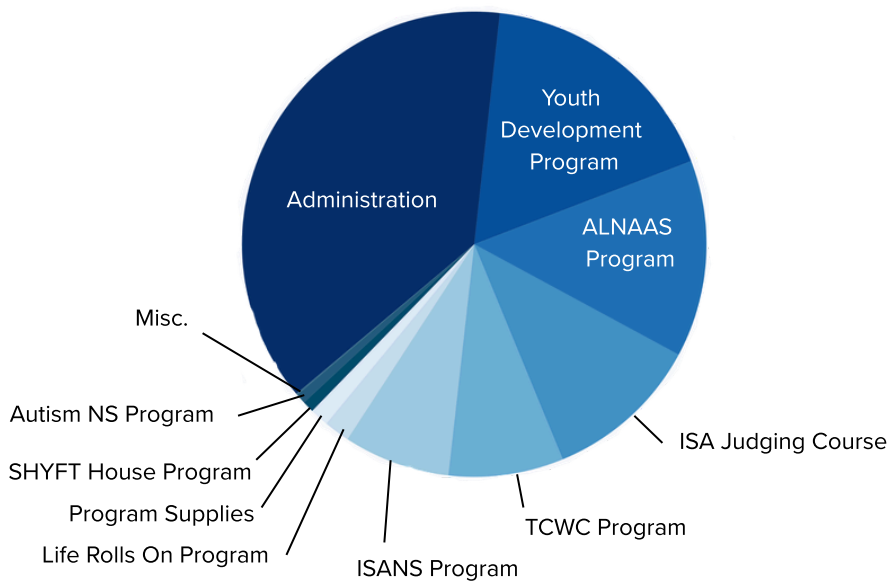


Revenue:



- Rec NS Core Funding: \$13,000
- Sport NS Funding: \$6,400
- OHRP Community Fund: \$14,400
- CHB Funding: \$3,500
- Active Communities Funding: \$4,687.50
- Women Ambassadors in Sport: \$4,000
- Additional Funding: \$1,250

Expenses:



- Total Admin Expenses: \$21,296.12
- Youth Development Programming: \$9,790.70
- ALNAAS: \$7,703.56
- Program supplies: \$735.30
- TCWC: \$4,502.74
- SHYFT House: \$448.23
- Life Rolls On: \$1,000
- Autism NS: \$368.80
- ISANS: \$4183,30
- Misc.: \$75.24
- ISA L1 Judging Course: \$6,128.40

