Climb Nova Scotia Strategic Plan

Purpose of this Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan provides the long-term direction for Climb Nova Scotia (CNS). It outlines our priorities, guides decision-making, and establishes goals that support the growth, sustainability, and stewardship of climbing throughout Nova Scotia.

As the provincial climbing organization, Climb Nova Scotia is committed to protecting access to climbing areas, promoting safe and responsible climbing practices, fostering an inclusive and welcoming community, and supporting the continued development of climbing across the province.

Strategic Priority 1: Access and Development

Protect and Maintain Access

Climb Nova Scotia will maintain existing access agreements for climbing areas located on private land and continue to build strong, respectful relationships with landowners and land managers. We will advocate on behalf of the Nova Scotia climbing community to preserve access and pursue new agreements for rope climbing, bouldering, and ice climbing areas.

Support Sustainable Development

Climb Nova Scotia will support the responsible development of new climbing areas and routes through education, guidance, and, where feasible, financial assistance. Development will prioritize environmental stewardship, climber safety, and long-term sustainability.

When concerns arise regarding safety, environmental impacts, route development, or site maintenance, CNS will communicate with the climbing community as quickly as practical and work collaboratively to resolve issues.

Strategic Priority 2: Responsible Climbing Practices

Promote Safe and Ethical Climbing

Climb Nova Scotia will provide timely communication regarding climbing area closures and access restrictions resulting from public safety concerns, private property issues, wildlife nesting, environmental protection, or other relevant factors.

We will promote responsible climbing practices by sharing educational resources, supporting local technical skills courses, and hosting guest speakers, clinics, and demonstrations that develop both technical abilities and outdoor leadership skills.

Environmental Stewardship

Climb Nova Scotia will encourage climbers to minimize their environmental impact by promoting Leave No Trace principles and responsible outdoor recreation. Educational clinics and awareness initiatives will be offered annually to reinforce sustainable climbing practices.

Strategic Priority 3: Community and Member Development

Build an Engaged Climbing Community

Climb Nova Scotia will organize at least two annual Clean and Climb events, including one focused on a bouldering area and one on a rope climbing area, with priorities determined by current community and stewardship needs.

We will host at least one major community event each year, such as Boulderfest, to celebrate climbing, strengthen community connections, and provide welcoming opportunities for climbers of all ages, abilities, and experience levels.

Through educational programming, volunteer opportunities, and social events, CNS will continue to foster an active, supportive, and connected climbing community across Nova Scotia.

Strategic Priority 4: Community Outreach and Inclusion

Expand Participation

Climb Nova Scotia will continue to collaborate with community organizations, clubs, and advocacy groups to increase access to climbing through educational programs, introductory climbing experiences, and social events that reduce barriers to participation.

These partnerships may include, but are not limited to, Queer Climbs, the ASL climbing community, youth organizations, adaptive recreation groups, and other community partners.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA)

Climb Nova Scotia is committed to creating a climbing community where everyone feels welcome, respected, and valued.

CNS will designate a board member responsible for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA). This representative will provide leadership on inclusive practices, advocate for underrepresented members of the climbing community, and help guide initiatives that improve accessibility, representation, and participation across all CNS programs and events.

Strategic Priority 5: Indoor Competitive Climbing

Support Athlete Development

Climb Nova Scotia is committed to supporting athletes who wish to participate in indoor competitive climbing at the provincial, regional, and national levels.

CNS will promote awareness of sanctioned competitions by maintaining and sharing current competition calendars, registration information, qualification pathways, and relevant updates to athletes, coaches, and climbing facilities.

Develop Competitive Pathways

Climb Nova Scotia will assist athletes in understanding and meeting the eligibility requirements for competition, including membership, certification, and other governing body requirements.

CNS will work collaboratively with climbing facilities and coaches to ensure athletes have access to qualified coaching, appropriate training opportunities, and development programs that prepare them for competition.

Strengthen the Competitive Community

Climb Nova Scotia will encourage collaboration among athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and climbing gyms to foster a positive and supportive competitive climbing community.

Our Commitment

Climb Nova Scotia is dedicated to protecting climbing access, supporting responsible route development, promoting safe and sustainable climbing practices, and building an inclusive, welcoming, and vibrant climbing community.

By working collaboratively with landowners, volunteers, community partners, and climbers throughout the province, we will continue to ensure that climbing in Nova Scotia remains accessible, sustainable, and enjoyable for generations to come.

	2026 to 2030
Access and Development	1. Maintain current existing access agreements. 2. Communicate with current land owners about access 3. Monitor existing anchors and hardware for safety and sustainability 4. Develop, and assist community develop, new cliffs and routes within Nova Scotia 5. Monitor and advise community of closures in the province including safety concerns, environmental concerns, land owner concerns. 6. Administer and update Application for all routes and cliffs in the province. 7. Education community on development considerations and reimbursement for equipment and hardware as feasible.
Responsible Climbing Practices	1. Provide timely communication regarding climbing area closures and access restrictions resulting from public safety concerns, private property issues, wildlife nesting, environmental protection, or other relevant factors. 2. Provide annual educational clinics and awareness initiatives to reinforce sustainable climbing practices. 3. Promote responsible climbing practices by sharing educational resources, supporting local technical skills courses, and hosting guest speakers, clinics, and demonstrations that develop both technical abilities and outdoor leadership skills.
Community and Member Development	1. Climb Nova Scotia will organize at least two annual Clean and Climb events, including one focused on a bouldering area and one on a rope climbing area, with priorities determined by current community and stewardship needs.

	2. Plan and implement Boulderfest; to celebrate climbing, strengthen community connections, and provide welcoming opportunities for climbers of all ages, abilities, and experience levels. 3. Provide opportunities for weekly outdoor Bouldering sessions to be held at different areas and different difficulty levels for a barrier free experience. 4. Provide opportunities to participate in weekly Ice Climbing events for the community. 5. Plan and host a rope climbing community event to introduce outdoor climbing to the community. 6. Guide initiatives that improve accessibility, representation, and participation across all CNS programs and events. Work with Queer Climbs and provide opportunities for climbing outdoors that are inclusive and barrier free. 7. Work with the ASL community to educate and inform the community on how to climb safely with, and around hearing impaired individuals.
Indoor Competitive Climbing	1. Grow athlete membership by increasing awareness within the climbing community about the pathway to competitive climbing. Ensure athletes are aware of the eligibility requirements for competition, the locations and structure of our qualifying events and the availability of higher level competitions. 2. Collaborate with athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and climbing gyms to foster a positive and supportive competitive climbing community. 3. Continue to train coaches via the NCCP training pathway and maintain a registry of coaches including their training status & safe sport status.

	4. Create and maintain a database of all CEC trained provincial officials/judges and work with the climbing community to recruit and train additional judges and volunteers.