



# Sheelagh Nolan Award

## *2021 Call for Nominations*

Thank you for taking this opportunity to recognize the outstanding achievement of educators and teams in support of Autistic learners across the lifespan in Nova Scotia. Another year has passed where COVID-19 has forced teachers and students, community members, and those in the working field to overcome unprecedented challenges. Celebrating their successes has never been more important than it is right now.

The Sheelagh Nolan Award for Excellence in Teaching is a prestigious award that honours the devotion and perseverance of the late Sheelagh Nolan. Sheelagh was an active contributor to numerous school and community causes. Sheelagh's son, Patrick, is on the Autism Spectrum and was always Sheelagh's greatest inspiration. With this award, we celebrate her legacy of support and her championing of excellence in education.

The winner of this award may be an individual or a group in Nova Scotia, such as a teacher or member of a student support team, a learning team, or a school. It may also be awarded to honour the exceptional work of individuals and teams who continue to teach Autistic individuals once their school days are through, both in the workplace and in the community.

Nominations will be accepted from parents, educators/learning support personnel, or learners at a school or in another learning environment (community or workplace) in Nova Scotia.

With this award, we will recognize the efforts of an individual or team who foster the growth and maximize the potential of a learner or learners on the Autism Spectrum in a collaborative and positive manner.

### **Sheelagh Nolan Award for Excellence in Teaching: How to Make Sure Your Nomination Ticks All the Boxes**

When choosing someone to nominate, it is best to be very clear in how that individual or team provides an exceptional learning environment to those who are autistic (In other words, please be very specific in your examples, using real life stories and situations you have experienced or have been told about).

Please be sure to include information for all four "check boxes" below, as they will be looked at equally when determining who the winner will be. Additional comments may also be considered when determining the winner.

- 1. The person I am nominating works hard to help the student or learner with autism grow and maximize their potential;**
- 2. The person I am nominating recognizes the importance of collaborating with the learner, family/caregivers, educators and other significant partners involved;**
- 3. The person I am nominating helps the autistic learner build self-esteem and peer relationships; and**
- 4. The person I am nominating consistently makes sure that they use the best practices and the most current information about autism and teaching autistic learners.**



For the 2020-2021 year, the Awards committee will also consider how the nominee has gone above and beyond to support learners face the unique challenges caused by COVID-19.

This year, the Sheelagh Nolan Award for Excellence in Teaching will be presented at our Holiday Open House in December.

All nominees and nominators, schools, and the community will be notified of the details prior to the event.

**Please submit your completed nomination form by November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to Jill Cormier at [jcormier@autismns.ca](mailto:jcormier@autismns.ca)**

**You may also send in your physical nominations by fax to 902-446-4997 or mail:**

Autism Nova Scotia  
5945 Spring Garden Road  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3H 1Y4





# Nominee Information

Please provide the name and contact information for the individual that you are nominating for Autism Nova Scotia's Sheelagh Nolan Award:

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school or learning environment: \_\_\_\_\_

Public School:  Private School:  Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Name and email address of the school principal (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

*\*The awards committee may call the principal for further information. Please let them know that you are making this nomination.*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please identify your relationship to the nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent:  Student:  Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_



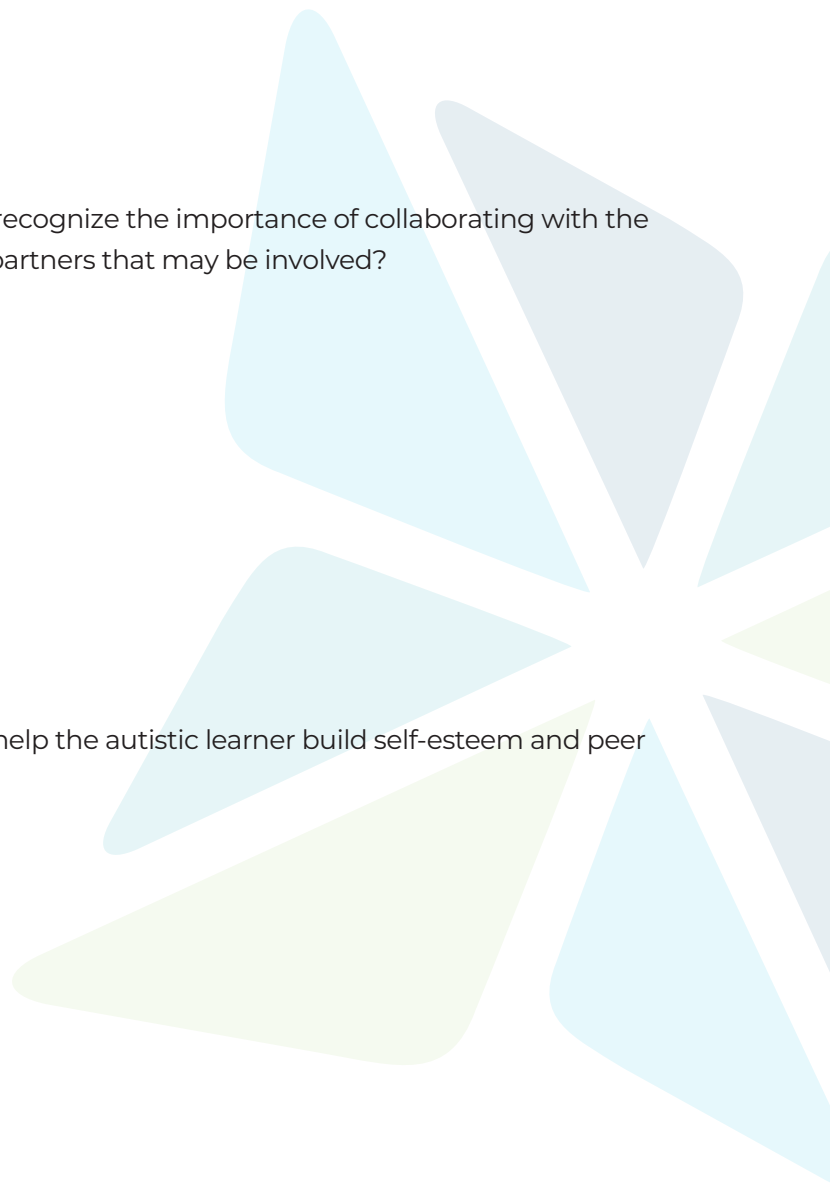
# Nominee Information

Using specific details and examples, please answer the following questions in 250 words or less:

**1.** How does the individual that you are nominating help autistic learners grow and maximize their potential?

**2.** How does the individual that you are nominating recognize the importance of collaborating with the learner, their family/caregivers, educators and other partners that may be involved?

**3.** How does the individual that you are nominating help the autistic learner build self-esteem and peer relationships?



## Nominee Information

**4.** How does the individual that you are nominating consistently make sure that they are using the best practices and most current information about autism and teaching autistic learners (e.g., TEACHH, PECS, social stories, assistive technology, etc.\*)?

*\* If you are not sure, please consult your Learning Centre teachers, Autism Specialists, School Administrators, etc.*

**5.** How has the individual that you are nominating gone above and beyond to support learners who are facing the unique challenges (in school, community and/or the workplace) that have been caused by COVID-19?

