



# Sheelagh Nolan Award

## *2024 Call for Nominations*

Thank you for taking the opportunity to recognize the outstanding achievement of educators and teams who support Autistic learners across the lifespan in Nova Scotia.

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 many 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 group—such as a teacher, a student support team, or a learning team—within a recognized and credited Nova Scotia education centre, college, university, or Designated Special Education Private School (DSEPS).

Nominations will be accepted from parents, educators, learning support personnel, or learners at a school in Nova Scotia. With this award, we will recognize the efforts of an individual or team who fosters growth and maximizes the potential of a learner or learners on the Autism Spectrum in a collaborative and positive manner.

The recipient will receive a \$1,000 award to support autistic learners at their school, further enhancing their inclusive teaching practices. This financial support reinforces our commitment to empowering educators to create lasting, meaningful impact in the lives of autistic students.

### **Sheelagh Nolan Award for Excellence in Teaching:**

#### **How to Make Sure Your Nomination Ticks All the Boxes**

When choosing someone to nominate, please clearly explain how that individual or team provides an exceptional learning environment for Autistic learners. In other words, be specific in your examples, using real life stories and situations you have experienced or have been told about.

Include information for all five “check boxes” below, as they will be looked at equally when reviewed. Other comments may also be considered when reviewing applications.

- 1. The person I am nominating works hard to help the Autistic learner(s) grow.**
- 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(s) build self-esteem and peer relationships.**
- 4. The person I am nominating consistently ensures they use the best practices and the most current information about autism and teaching Autistic learners.**
- 5. The person I am nominating is a teacher, member of a student support team, or learning team within a credited Nova Scotia education centre, college/university or DSEPS school.**



This year, the Sheelagh Nolan Award for Excellence in Teaching will be presented at our Holiday Open House on November 28, 2024.

All nominees and nominators will be notified prior to the event.

**Please submit your completed nomination form to [awards@autismns.ca](mailto:awards@autismns.ca) by November 4, 2024.**

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

Autism Nova Scotia  
5945 Spring Garden Road  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3H 1Y4  
Re: Sheelagh Nolan Award



## 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

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. Is the person you are nominating a teacher, member of a student support team, or learning team within a credited Nova Scotia education centre, college/university or DSEPS schools?