

C. NSM Site Mandates and Topics

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MANDATE AND MISSION

- » To introduce Nova Scotians and visitors to the great diversity of the natural history of Nova Scotia's land and coastal waters.
- » To provide permanent exhibitions, temporary exhibitions and programs to provide information on, and celebrate the diversity of, the province's natural history heritage.
- » To be a resource centre that encourages the public's understanding of their natural world, and its relationship to human activity.

PROPOSED CONTENT

*Note: Topics are drawn from the NS Interpretive Master Plan Content Framework.

I. CONTENT TO MAINTAIN

A. FORMING

A.1 Geological Formation

- Creation of Mineral Deposits
- Nova Scotia's Fossil Record

A.2 Making Landscapes

- Ancient Landscape and Drainage
- Glaciers, Deposits, and Erosion
- Offshore Coastal Landforms
- Rivers and Lakes
- Soil Development

A.3 Climate

- Causes and Influences
- Weather

A.4 Ocean Environment

- Currents and Tides
- Continental Shelf Environments
- Coastal Intertidal Environments

B. EVOLVING

B.3 Exploring & Settling the Unknown

- Early Aboriginal Settlement
- Mi'kmaq Exploration & Settlement

E. LIVING

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Heritage Preservation: Preservation of landscapes.

II. CONTENT TO ENHANCE

A. FORMING

A.1 Geological Formation

- Plate Tectonics
- Geology and Landscape Diversity

A.5 Biodiversity

- Life Forms and Ecosystems
- Species Diversity
- Ecosystem Diversity
- Genetic Diversity
- Extinction of Species
- Contemporary Research

B. EVOLVING

B.1 Vegetation

- Diversity of Plant Life
- Botanical Study and Research
- Paleobotany in Nova Scotia

B.2 Birds, Fish, and Animals

- Bird and Fish Environments & Habitats
- Diversity of Birds and Fish: Inland, Coast, Sea

- Mammal Environments & Habitats
- Diversity of Mammals
- Amphibians and Reptiles

B.5 Response to Place

- Mi'kmaq Settlement Patterns

B.6 Agents of Change

- Climate Change & NS Environment
- Human Activity and the Environment
- Inadvertent/Introduced Migrants

B.7 Understanding Our World

- Scientific Inquiry: 19th - 21st Century: Who was writing about Nova Scotia and how were they using its natural history to advance knowledge and theories? What was the impact of their work?
- Archaeology: Evolution of a science in the Nova Scotia context.

C. EXPLOITING

C.6 Environmental Values

- Depletion of Natural Resources
- Environmental Impact
- Endangered Environments/Species
- Air Quality
- Protecting Cultural Resources

III. NEW CONTENT TO DEVELOP

B. EVOLVING

B.5 Response to Place

- Building Technologies/Materials

B.7 Understanding Our World

- Amateur Inquiry and Collecting: The role of the enthusiast and volunteer in scientific study and the promotion of science.

C. EXPLOITING

C.1 Energy

- Solar/Wind Power

C.2 Resource Development

- Agriculture: Explore the natural history context for these industries.
- Fishing
- Forestry
- Mining
- Oil and Natural Gas

D. RELATING

D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia

- Indigenous

D.5 Education

- Lifelong & Informal Learning: Popularizing science in the modern world.

E. LIVING

E.3 Recreation

- Leisure-time Activities: Enjoyment of Nova Scotia's natural world.

E.4 Cultural Expression

- Folklore and Celebrations: Natural folklore.
- Literature/Poetry/Drama: Making of literature/stories/poems around natural history topics.
- Music: Making of music/songs around natural history topics.
- Fine/Folk Art: Making of Art around nature.

E.5 Social Development and Organizations

- Philanthropy & Social Conscience

CONCLUSIONS

Good basic coverage of the major themes is apparent, but more recognition to the cross over (diversity yet integration) in different scientific disciplines is required. Biodiversity is the unifying thread. The new approaches to scholarship need to be reflected in the content presented. Although not noted as new content to develop, the topic "Indigenous Peoples" (part of D.1 Peoples of Nova Scotia) is an important talking point that should be addressed at this site.