



ATLANTIC SCIENCE LINKS ASSOCIATION

2013

ASLA REACHES MORE THAN 5600 STUDENTS THIS SCHOOL YEAR

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"Bringing presenters into the school is a wonderful addition to the curriculum. We need to do this more often!"

OUR SERVICES AND RESOURCES

- Classroom presentations
- Speakers for career fairs
- Science fair judges
- Science mentors
- Workplace visits
- Field trips
- Climate Change Action Pack
- Ecosystem projects
- Workshops for teachers

ASLA's mission is to bridge the gap between the scientific community, schools and the public. We reached more than 5600 students, 500 more than in 2011-2012, through Speakers Bureau activities and many more through the Climate Change Action Pack and Ecosystem projects which are based on the province's science curriculum.

During the 2012-2013 school year, the Speakers Bureau received 113 requests from schools, covering a wide range of scientific disciplines and 84 of these requests were filled. SITS reached approximately 1750 students in classroom presentations, 600 at Science Fairs and 750 by information folders. In addition, another 2500 students benefited from conferences and workshops for

teachers. Also, two field trips were arranged accommodating 39 elementary school students to explore high tech laboratories, museums and aquariums; and to experience some hands-on scientific activities. Furthermore almost 50 students benefited from mentorship and science fair ideas from our volunteers.

Science teachers and volunteer educators benefited from ASLA's Climate Change and Ecosystem project presentations through hands-on activities and field sessions at the Atlantic Science Teachers (AST) conference organized by the Association of Science Teachers, NS. Nearly 60 DVD's on "Climate Change Action Pack" (CCAP) and 30 copies of teaching materials on

"Ecosystems" were provided to teachers registered for the sessions. A further 40 DVD's on CCAP were distributed to student teachers at Mount Saint Vincent University who attended a session organized by the Environmental Education Caucus, NS.



Visit to a Biology lab at Dalhousie



ASLA's display at AST conference



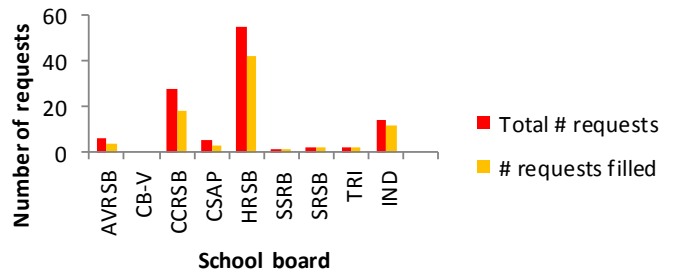
Field activity at a teachers' workshop

ASLA RECEIVES REQUESTS FROM ALL OVER NS

The largest number (49%) of requests came from schools within the Halifax Regional School Board followed by the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (25%). Although a significant increase in the first-time participants who had heard about SITS through various means of promotion, many of the teachers who applied this year had been participants in a previous year.

The requests by South Regional Schools, Strait Regional Schools and Tri-County schools were filled 100%. There were high fill rates, 86% and 76% for Halifax regional and independent schools respectively. Chignecto-Central region showed 64% fill rate. Volunteers from post-secondary and research institutions in these areas contributed to achieve this trend.

Total number of requests vs number of requests filled

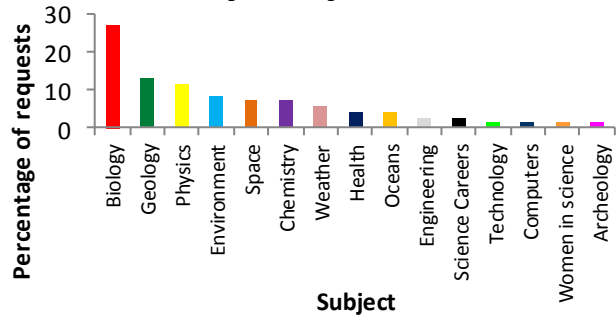


BIOLOGY, GEOLOGY AND PHYSICS REMAIN HIGH IN DEMAND

This year, ASLA received requests for many disciplines. Like the last two school years, requests in Biology, Geology and Physics remained significantly higher at 27, 13 and 11 percentage of the total requests, respectively.

The numbers include the six French presentations (mostly in Biology) given by our French speaking volunteers from post secondary research institutions in NS.

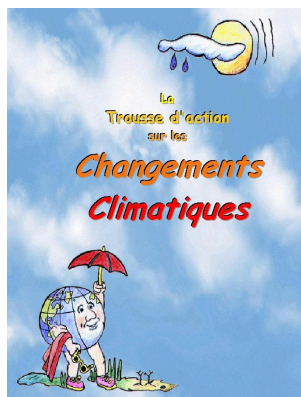
Percentage of requests by subjects



ASLA ENCOURAGES HANDS ON EXPERIENCE

100 students had the opportunity to perform hands-on dissection of fish donated by the NS aquaculture industry (as well as the Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University) and learn about the similarities and differences between fish and human biology.

ASLA'S CCAP BECOMES POPULAR



"ASLA distributed more than 100 DVD's (both in English and French) and 25 folders (in French) of it's popular CCAP to science teachers and schools"

NEWS IN PICTURES



Elementary students' visit to Dalhousie University



Classroom presentation at a junior high



"Climate change" session by ASLA coordinator at a teachers' workshop



"Climate change" field activity for student teachers by ASLA

TEACHERS' COMMENTS

We received excellent feedbacks and high ratings on our presentations and science fair judging:

"This is a wonderful service by SITS. Thank you so much"

"He was great for the age span we had"

"She did a super job. Lot of hands on learning; perfectly suited to the students' developmental stage"

"Thanks so much for all you have done in providing us with great resource people. Look forward to another year with SITS"

"We really believe that these experiences enrich the lives of our students and help them to grow as learners, athletes and good citizens of their community"

"Thank you for the excellent service in promoting science in our schools"

"I also love learning new things and enjoyed the experience thoroughly. I hope that he will continue to visit our class again next year "



We are on the web and Facebook
<http://atlantiscienceinks.dal.ca>

**ATLANTIC SCIENCE LINKS
ASSOCIATION (ASLA)**

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 in the SCHOOLS

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**ASLA WELCOMES REQUESTS
FROM SCHOOLS AND MORE
VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN**

SITS provides several services (listed on page 1), but our most popular by far is the Speakers' Bureau. Through the Speakers' Bureau, we assist schools in finding volunteer scientists and innovators to speak to students across the province. And the best part is, **it's completely free!** So you can bring exciting, hands-on science learning into your classroom at no charge. To get a Request Form or to find out more about the Speakers' Bureau go to <http://atlantiscienceinks.dal.ca> or contact us by phone or email

Strong volunteer commitment helped us to fill 74% of the requests made by schools in Nova Scotia. Science outreach initiatives at Dalhousie and Saint Mary's Universities added some strength to our volunteer base as new groups linked with SITS to strengthen their ability to connect to P-12 teachers. With the increasing demand we still need more volunteers (especially in rural areas of the province) to reach many more students. To register yourself as a volunteer, please go to <http://atlantiscienceinks.dal.ca> or contact the coordinator at sits@dal.ca.

OUR SPONSORS

ASLA continues to receive funds from NSERC's PromoScience grant, Dalhousie University, Education Department of NS, EnCana, Engineers NS and Maritimes Northeast Pipeline. We display our funders' logos here to thank them for their generous support and encouragement of science literacy and outreach in Nova Scotia. If you are interested in becoming one of our sponsors, please contact the coordinator at sits@dal.ca.



"INVEST IN SCIENTIFIC LITERACY OF NS YOUTH"