



# COVID-19 Safe Event Planning

Communities, Culture and Heritage

July 15th



# Agenda

- Introductions
- Current Situation
- Return to Live Events Research
- Event Planning Process
- Taskforce
- Q&A's



# Session Overview

- Purpose
- Format
- Future Sessions



# About Us!

- Launched the NS Event Strategy in 2018
- Staff of three event professionals
- Government's on ramp for major event investments and execution and advice
- Providing advice, support and guidance to event industry

Stacey Oxner



Neal Alderson

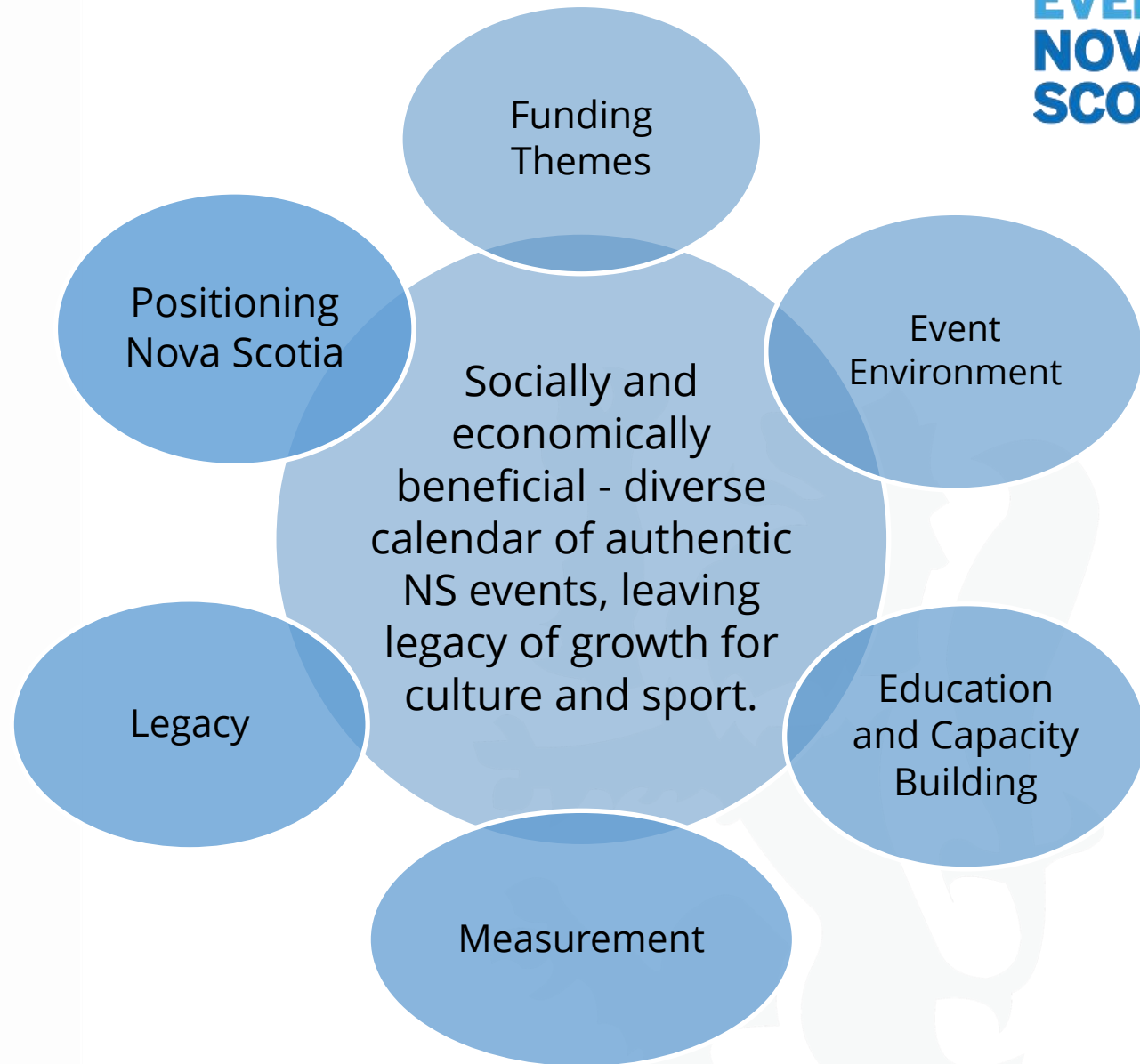


Stephen MacDougall



# NOVA SCOTIA EVENT STRATEGY

## Goal and Supporting Pillars



# Current Situation and Priorities

- Events Nova Scotia focuses on:
  - Keeping existing events healthy and assisting with pivoting/adapting
  - Investing in new event ideas that operate within current health guidelines
  - Communicate guidelines and build confidence

## Guidelines

- Outdoor guidelines (Posted)
- Road Racing Event Guidelines (Posted)



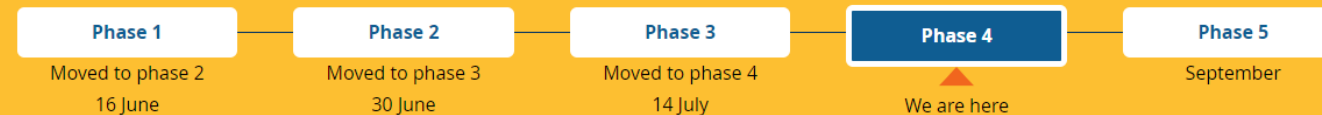
# Reopening Plan

## Reopening safely

During phase 4 we can continue to have more social connections and access to expanded services, activities and events. Phase 4 will allow more travel into Nova Scotia with less restrictions and increased visitation with long-term care residents.

The 5-phase reopening plan outlines how restrictions will ease while protecting the healthcare system and increasing vaccination rates throughout the province. COVID-19 transmission will continue to be monitored. If required, a phase may be paused to respond to trends at county or provincial levels. Additional plan details will be released as each phase starts.

**Phase 4**  
in effect



<https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan/phase-four/>



# Phase 4 – July 14<sup>th</sup>

## Phase 4

- Festivals, special events and arts and culture events - 50% of the venue's capacity up to 150 people indoors and up to 250 people outdoors with social distancing and mask requirements.
- Must be hosted by a business or organization.
- Organizers must have a COVID-19 Prevention Plan

## Phase 5

- 75% of population is fully vaccinated with 2 doses
- Expected by September
- Discussions ongoing regarding restrictions



# What's new?

## Licensed Facilities & Events

- Bar service now permitted
- Physical distancing measures must be in place
- Attendees must remain seated at their table, except while obtaining bar service, waiting to be seated, going to the bathroom, and getting ready to leave
- Dancing at events & wedding receptions permitted in social bubbles (max of 25)
- No cocktail or stand-up receptions

# What's New?

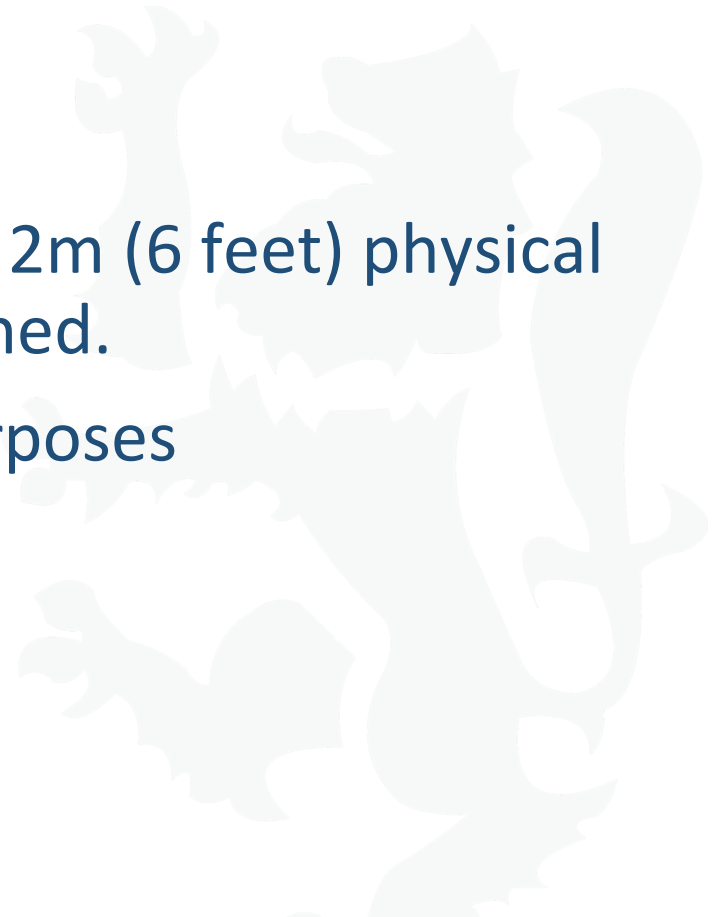
## Weddings

- Bar service now permitted, with physical distancing measures in place
- Dancing at wedding receptions permitted in social bubbles (max of 25)
- Food buffets can operate if the food is served by staff
- Tents are considered indoor spaces

# What's New?

## Masks

- Masks are required for indoor events.
- Masks required for outdoor events where 2m (6 feet) physical distancing cannot be consistently maintained.
- Masks can be removed for ceremonial purposes



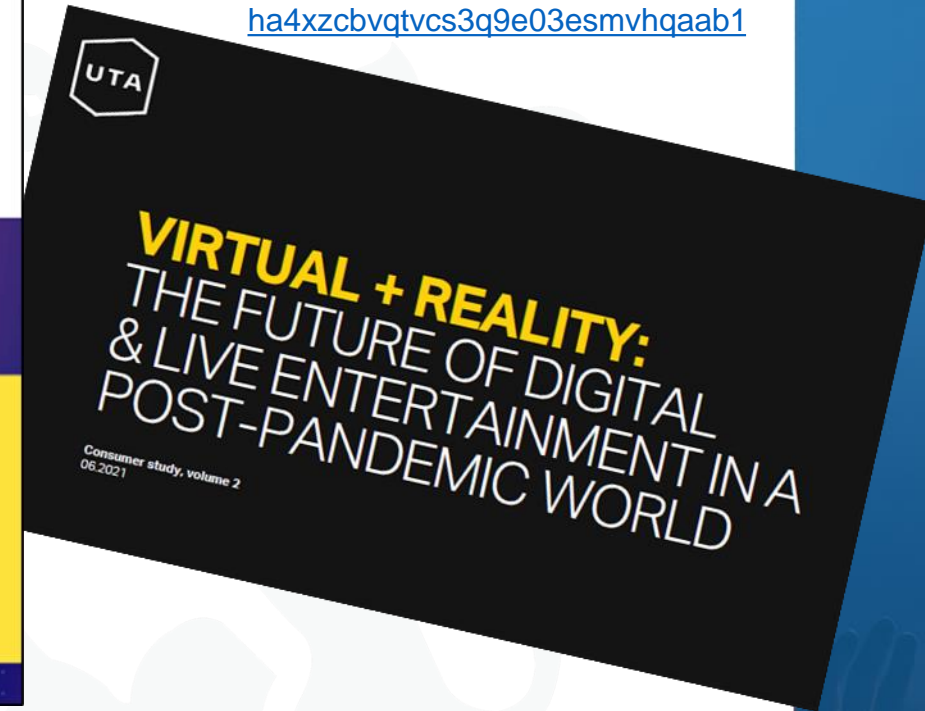
# Return to Live Events Research

<https://sporttourismcanada.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/STC-Bouncing-Back-Consumer-Full-Report.pdf>



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/events-research-programme-phase-i-findings/events-research-programme-phase-i-findings>

<https://unitedtalent.app.box.com/s/fcaha4xzcbvqtvcs3q9e03esmvhqaab1>



# What are people looking for?

- Anxious to return
- Cautious return slow & steady
- Safety still a factor
- Social connection is king
- Digital consumption & hybrid events
- Rising expectations



# Covid-19 Event Planning



- CCH – Events Nova Scotia
- Labour and Advanced Education
- Department of Environment
- Public Health
- Alcohol and Gaming



# Event Planning Process

| Event operating within gathering limits   | Zone or cohort (outside gathering limit)   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read the Public Health Order</li><li>• Review guidelines that best describe your activity</li><li>• Build a COVID-19 safe operational plan</li><li>• Have plan onsite should compliance show up</li><li>• <u>No</u> approval required. Events are expected to follow the guidelines</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read the Public Health Order</li><li>• Review guidelines that best describe your activity</li><li>• Build a COVID-19 safe operational plan</li><li>• Have plan onsite should compliance show up</li><li>• Submit a copy of the plan to <a href="mailto:NSEconomy@novascotia.ca">NSEconomy@novascotia.ca</a> at least 30 days prior to your event.</li><li>• <u>No</u> approval required. You may hear from staff regarding feedback and may have a visit from compliance at any time.</li><li>• Events are expected to follow the guidelines</li></ul> |



# Taskforce Partners

## **Labour & Advanced Education**

Kelly MacRitchie

## **Environment and Climate Change**

### **Environmental Health & Food Safety Division**

Sonya Locke

## **Service Nova Scotia**

### **Alcohol, Gaming, Fuel & Tobacco Division**

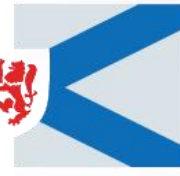
Greg MacDonell



# Labour & Advanced Education

- We administer and enforce OHS legislation throughout provincially-regulated industry sectors.
- Improve OH&S conditions through research, setting requirements, promotions of compliance, inspections and when necessary, enforcement tools.
- Top tips for events:
  - Ensure staff are aware of the COVID plan and are knowledgeable about the requirements in place.
  - Ensure that considerations are made for staff only areas to comply with the order as well as areas patrons will occupy.
  - For further information contact: 1-800-9LABOUR

# Environment and Climate Change – Environmental Health & Food Safety



- We provide programming support to the Public Health Officers across the province.
- Public Health Officers issue Temporary Food Event Permits and Safe Body Art Temporary Event Permits.
- Public Health Officers can get called upon by the Provincial Medical Officers of Health team to provide inspections related to Covid-19 protocols under the HPA Order.
- Top 3 tips for events:
  - Submit permit applications early
  - Have your COVID-19 mitigation plan available for review
  - For more information contact local ECC office at 1-877-936-8476

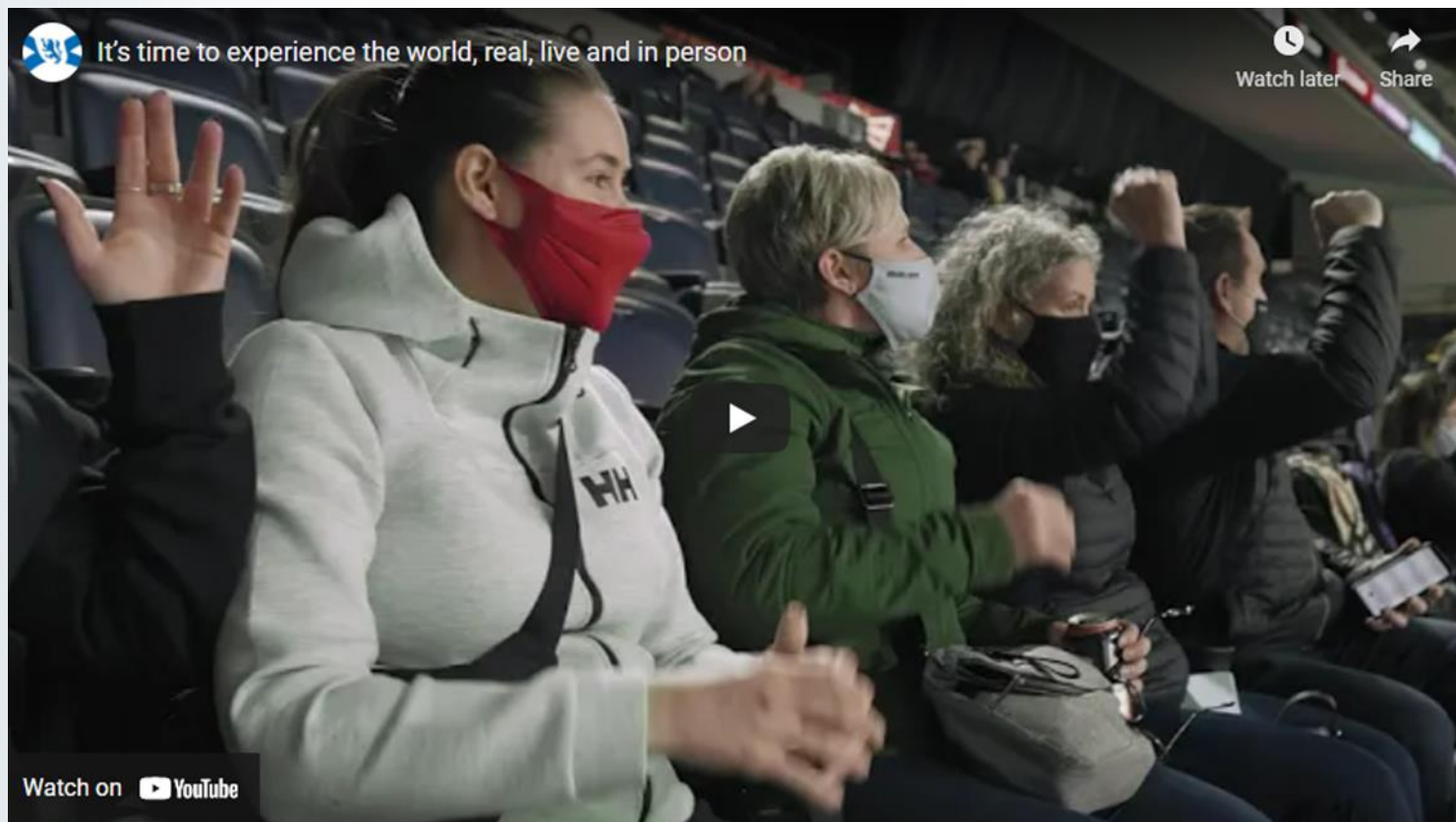
# Alcohol, Gaming, Fuel & Tobacco Division Service Nova Scotia

- Oversees the application and regulation of Special Occasion Licenses needed for alcohol & lottery licenses for special events

## Tips for events:

- Apply early (much easier to work out any concerns)
- Always provide area plan for licensed area
- Always provide a security plan

# Confidence Campaign



<https://events.novascotia.ca/welcomeback>

# Resources

<https://events.novascotia.ca/covid-19-advice-for-events>

- Road Racing Guidelines
- COVID-19 Guidance for Outdoor Events
- COVID-19 Prevention Guide for event organizers, theatres and performance venues
- Guidelines for Venues and Facilities
- COVID-19 Guidance for Musicians (Vocalists and Instrumentalists)
- Private Property Event Guidelines
- Nova Scotia's Health Protection Act Order
- Nova Scotia's Reopening Plan





# Next webinar

EVENTS NOVA SCOTIA  
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR WEBINAR SERIES

## COVID-19 SAFE EVENT PLANNING

Thursday August 12<sup>th</sup>  
3pm

  
NOVA SCOTIA

EVENTS  
NOVA SCOTIA   
inspiring business





**Thank you!**  
**Questions?**