



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Discovery Awards Finalists Announced

Nova Scotian innovation shines through a gleaming set of finalists

Halifax, NS – September 16, 2019– Atlantic Canada’s most prestigious science recognition event, the [**Discovery Awards for Science and Technology**](#), has released the names of this year’s awards finalists, Youth Award winner and Nova Scotia Science Hall of Fame inductees.

Chair of the **17th Annual Discovery Awards**, the Honourable Myra Freeman, is thrilled with the final selections. “There was an unprecedented number of nominations this year, all with incredible merit. Nova Scotians will be excited to learn about the work being done by these incredible innovators, educators, and researchers. We are host to a great deal of forward-thinking talent here in our province, and this event presents an opportunity for the **Discovery Centre** to showcase this talent,” says Freeman.

Award categories include **Professional of Distinction**, **Emerging Professional**, **Innovation**, and **Science Champion** with three finalists named to each as listed below:

2019 DISCOVERY AWARDS FINALISTS

PROFESSIONAL OF DISTINCTION

An individual who is a leading innovator and role model for those pursuing a career in science

Dr. Graham Gagnon

Associate Vice President Research, NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Water Quality and Treatment, and Director, Centre for Water Resource Studies, Dalhousie University

Dr. Stan Matwin

Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) at the Faculty of Computer Science, Dalhousie University. Director of the Institute for Big Data Analytics. Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Computer Science, University of Ottawa.

Dr. Stan Kutcher

Professor Emeritis, Department of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University

INNOVATION

A company that has produced a commercially viable product or service that is market-ready or has already launched

MARA Renewables

Novonix

Steve Dafer & Dr. Srimi Sampalli

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL

An individual under the age of 35 who demonstrates intellectual achievement, professional excellence, and potential for ongoing growth and development

Chris Burns

President & CEO, Novonix Battery Testing Services Inc.

Dr. Stephanie Colombo

Assistant Professor, Canada Research Chair in Aquaculture Nutrition

Dr. Barret Kurylyk

Assistant Professor & Canada Research Chair in Coastal Water Resources

SCIENCE CHAMPION

An individual who promotes science and technology to the public above and beyond the normal avenues of communication

Dr. Christine Chambers

Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Children's Pain and Professor, Pediatrics and Psychology & Neuroscience, Dalhousie University

Stephen Payne

Senior Instructor, Department of Physics & Atmospheric Science, Dalhousie University

Emma Finlayson-Trick

Medical Student, University of British Columbia

The Discovery Awards will also recognize *Youth Award* winner **Om Agarwal**, student at Citadel High School and winner of Canada Wide Science Fair. In addition, two Nova Scotians will be named to the prestigious *Science Hall of Fame*. **Alexander Howard MacKay** will be honoured posthumously for his influential research in climate change over 90+ years ago. **Dr. Sultan Darvesh** will also be recognized for his exceptional contributions and ground-breaking research on diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

The **17th Annual Discovery Awards Gala**, co-presented by **Dalhousie University** and **Saint Mary's University**, will be held the evening of Thursday, November 21st at the Cunard Centre. Tickets and tables may be purchased [online](#) or by phoning **902.492.4422 x.2237**. As the marquee fundraiser for the **Discovery Centre**, all proceeds from the event directly support the Centre's charitable mission to provide the best in hands-on STEAM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math*) learning experiences, inspiring youth from one end of the province to the other.

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[About the Discovery Awards](#)

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