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Dr. Viliam Zvalo will start his new position as Chief Executive Officer. Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc on April 4th. He joins Perennia from Vineland Research and Innovation Centre in Vineland, Ontario where he has led their world crop program since 2014. Under his leadership non-traditional crops such as okra, Chinese long and Indian round eggplant have begun to find ground on Canadian farms. Prior to his time at Vineland, he was a team lead and senior specialist for 13 years at Perennia, focusing on all vegetables crops. Zvalo has a PhD in Plant Physiology/Soil Ecology and an Executive MBA from St. Mary's University. He replaces Lynne Godien, who has served as interim CEO.

Mount Saint Vincent University is set to launch new graduate programs in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), including a new Master of Arts in Education in TESOL, a revised Master of Education (Curriculum Studies): TESOL, and new certificate and diploma programs. The new MA and revised MEd programs will launch this September, with the certificate and diploma programs targeted to launch in two years. The certificate and diploma programs will be offered in two streams – one focused on teaching adults and the other for teaching children/youth. The MA and MEd programs cover both. While these programs will be initially offered on-campus, the intent is to offer them online as soon as possible. For more information on the program, please contact: Dr. Hong Wang at Hong.Wang@msvu.ca or 902-457-6192.

The province's Safe Body Art Act was proclaimed on March 6 and will come into Feb. 1, 2019, will help ensure safe practices and products are used for services such as tattooing and piercing. The Department of Health and Wellness is responsible for the act and regulations. The Department of Environment is responsible for enforcement. Permits will be required for people who sell body art services in Nova Scotia: permanent and mobile facilities will need a Class 1 permit. It costs \$195 plus HST and is renewable every 10 years. A Class 2 permit is for facilities at temporary events. It costs \$30 plus HST, can be issued for one to 14 days, and is not renewable. Operators will need to meet standards for infection prevention and records management.

Nova Scotia Power announced on March 6th it is moving ahead with plans to install Nova Scotia's first electric vehicle fast-charging network. This spring, Nova Scotia Power will install a network of 12 Level 3 fast chargers from Yarmouth to Sydney, making it a more viable option to drive an electric vehicle in Nova Scotia. These chargers will charge an electric vehicle in 15-30 minutes. The initiative will also enable NS Power to study the effects of electric vehicle fast chargers on the power system. Natural Resources Canada will provide funding towards the installation of this network. The Government of Nova Scotia plans to include an additional 12 Level 2 chargers at the same locations. These chargers will provide a charging solution for plug-in hybrid vehicles unable to charge using the Level 3 chargers.

The Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon was named the 2018 Sustainable Sport Event of the Year on March 8, at the 12th annual Canadian Sport Tourism Association (CSTA) Prestige Awards held in Halifax. Some of the sustainable initiatives included: all water used on course was sourced from Halifax Water hydrants located throughout the city. No water bottles! This represents over 100,000 cups of water on race weekend; to reduce carbon emissions and to encourage the use of transit on race weekend 13,000 participants and 1,400 volunteers Halifax transit offered free transit services. Left-over food and drinks were given to Souls Harbour Rescue Mission for homeless people in Nova Scotia.

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