

Media Release

February 23, 2023

Agriculture in the Classroom NL Hosts thinkAG Career Expo

Agriculture in the Classroom Newfoundland and Labrador (AITC-NL) is hosting an Agriculture Career Expo to inspire students to consider some of the many diverse career options available in the agriculture industry.

Agriculture employs more than two million people, with one in every eight Canadian jobs in the agriculture sector. According to Agriculture More Than Ever, the world will require 60 per cent more food by 2050. Educating youth is important to the growth and development of this thriving industry, with many career options available in the future.

The thinkAG Career Expo begins at O'Donel High School in Mount Pearl on Thursday, February 23 at 8:30 a.m. Booths will highlight agriculture professionals from different areas of the industry, including farmers, animal specialists, and scientists. The goal of the career event is to strengthen understanding of innovative concepts in the agriculture sector, stimulate creative thinking, generate new ideas, and develop collaborative problem solving methods through participation in science, technology, and engineering-focused projects. Approximately 350 high school students from O-Donel High and Mount Pearl Intermediate are invited to attend.

"We encourage Canadian youth to learn about agriculture and the many exciting career opportunities across the sector. Agriculture in the Classroom NL is doing great work to get students interested early through Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month. By sharing stories of food production in their communities and exploring innovative technologies in agriculture, youth will discover how they can make a difference and contribute to the sustainability of one of Canada's largest industries."

Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.







"A strong agriculture sector is vital to the health and security of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, and we need a strong workforce to keep it growing. It's important to make young people aware of the many exciting career opportunities in the agriculture sector, and there's no better way to do that than talking directly to students. Thank you to our agriculture industry professionals for sharing their time and expertise."

Honourable Derrick Bragg

Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

AITC-NL is a charitable organization hosted by the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture, with a vision to connect youth to agriculture through education. Through its programs and events, AITC-NL teaches students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 where food comes from, and focuses on the importance of this industry to society. AITC-NL directly impacts more than 23,000 students and values the contributions of all our volunteers in Newfoundland and Labrador throughout the school year.

Agriculture in the Classroom NL is funded in part by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a \$3-billion, five-year (2018-2023) investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to innovate, strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture and agri-foods sector. This includes a \$2-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60% federally and 40% provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories. The Canadian Agricultural Partnership provided \$305,000 to support Agriculture in the Classroom activities in Newfoundland and Labrador in 2022-2023.

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