



Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month events help students make connections through hands-on learning

Wednesday, March 1, 2023- Students in schools across Canada will participate in annual Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM) events hosted by Agriculture in the Classroom-Canada (AITC-Canada) for the entire month of March.

CALM is a hands-on program that encourages children to learn about and celebrate agriculture. Agriculture in the Classroom NL (AITC-NL) is celebrating its 12th annual CALM in 2023. Following the theme “Our Food, Our Story,” AITC-NL will deliver this program in Kindergarten to Grade 12 classrooms across Newfoundland and Labrador, sharing stories of farmers and agriculture professionals through presentations, classroom visits, virtual farm tours and other resources. Topics raised during CALM ignite discussion about food security, safety, and production.

“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.

“The connections students make with our agriculture sector during Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month are invaluable. There is no better way to help children understand where the food on their plates comes from than by sharing stories and visiting with farmers and producers. I hope that these stories will spark their interest in pursuing careers in agriculture. Thanks to Agriculture in the Classroom Newfoundland and Labrador for helping to inspire students in our province’s classrooms.”

Honourable Derrick Bragg,
Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

This year, AITC-NL will launch an animated storybook, “Reggie’s Technology Adventure,” following Reggie as he learns about modern technology used in agriculture today. AITC-NL will also launch a new activity book – “Plant, Grow, Eat, Share” – which pairs with the storybook



released in March 2022. Along with these new resources, audio storybooks are available on AITC-NLs website, along with other resources for teachers and students.

Throughout the month of March, AITC-NL is partnering with the Newfoundland and Labrador Beekeeping Association (NLBKA) and Egg Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador (EFNL) to host the “Bee Creative Literacy Contest” for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students. Classes can submit up to three of their top literary works that combine the students’ literacy talent with their knowledge of agriculture in Newfoundland and Labrador. The winning classes get to decorate the beehive any way they choose. The beehive will be returned to the participating beekeeper’s farm to be taken care of in the name of the school/class.

All contest entries can be submitted by tagging @AITCNL and @NLBees1 via Twitter with the hashtag #BeeCreative23. All entries must be submitted by April 2, 2023. The contest runs March 1-31, 2023, with winners announced Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Details about CALM events are available at: www.aitcnl.ca or on social media: Facebook: Agriculture in the Classroom NL; Twitter and Instagram: @aitcnl

CALM activities are funded in part by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year (2018-2023), \$3-billion 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.

For more information contact:

Chelsea Foley, Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture - AITC NL Coordinator
chelsea@nlfa.ca

709-747-5708

www.aitcnl.ca

