



**November 5, 2018**

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### **Atlantic Provinces to Promote Real-Life and Work Experiences in Atlantic Schools and Post-Secondary Education Institutions**

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Students in schools, universities, and community colleges in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island will have new opportunities to strengthen real-life and work experiences with the launch of an online resource focused on career planning and experiential learning. Today, the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training launched the website, [www.realworldlearning.ca](http://www.realworldlearning.ca) which contains experiential learning practices and exemplars that students can use to explore and plan career options. The online resources are launched in conjunction with the third annual Atlantic Canada Career Week, under the theme *Experiential Learning: Real World Learning*, running from November 5-9, 2018.

The online resource and the 2018 Atlantic Canada Career Week are intended to provide students with an experiential learning approach to create an interdisciplinary active learning experience that reflects real world learning. These experiences take place either in schools, post-secondary education institutions, communities or workplace settings.

By providing concrete practices and examples, ministers are pursuing the following objectives:

- provide motivation through contextual learning
- create opportunities for success in learning for all students who may not fully understand and thrive in traditional instructional approaches
- promote the development of transferable “essential” skills and competencies that can be applied and enhanced in the workplace
- help students integrate and practice concepts and theories learned in the classroom, deepening their understanding of what they have learned and allowing them to transfer this knowledge to the workplace or other contexts
- lead students to reflect on career options and explore potential career pathways in a low-risk environment

The online resource showcases over 50 best practices and exemplars currently being used in Atlantic Canada and are presented to inspire and encourage students to replicate, modify, and adapt to fit their own unique experiences and situations. Through these exemplars, students are invited to connect with their communities, to establish networks by developing new skills, to expand their opportunities, and to discover career pathways by undertaking concrete activities and practices.

The Atlantic Ministers of Education, Post-secondary Education, and Training believe that the value of experiential learning lies in its integration of theory and practice to engage students in purposeful and carefully chosen, authentic tasks that require the use of key concepts or skills. Ministers recognize that learning through meaningful practice encourages students to engage in the experience/activity and to reflect upon their learning and how the competencies through their academic studies can be enhanced and applied to real life experiences.

The 2018 Atlantic Canada Career Week and the launch of the website build on the efforts undertaken by ministers provincially and regionally in the area of career development and student transition. Both the career week and the website respond to the goals outlined in *Future in Focus – Atlantic Career Development Framework for Public Education: 2015–2020*, released by CAMET in June 2015. These strategies and initiatives also follow the successful implementation of the 2016 and 2017 Atlantic Canada Career Week.

The Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET) is an agency of the departments responsible for public and post-secondary education, and its purpose is to enhance cooperation in public (Entry–12) and post-secondary education in Atlantic Canada by working together to improve learning, optimize efficiencies and bring added value to provincial initiatives.

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