

# AITC Collective Connection

May 2024



## NATIONAL UPDATES

### Get Ready for Rendez-Vous on the Rock!

This year's AITC National Summer Sharing Session is fast approaching. Co-hosted by AITC-NL, Rendez-vous on the Rock: Setting a Strong Foundation will take place from July 8 to 12 in St. John's, Newfoundland. It will be a time for us to share our wins from the year and work together to plan for the next year and beyond. All the event details, including the agenda, registration form, accommodation and tourism information and more, can be found on the [AITC Hub here](#). Be sure to complete your registration form and book your hotel room. The deadline to reserve rooms is May 23.



### Communications Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the AITC-C communications survey. If you haven't had a chance, you can still submit your responses by end of day Monday. The purpose of this survey is to get a better understanding of how we can more effectively communicate with one another when it comes to sharing information and programming. We will share our findings once the survey and review is complete.

### Grow Our People

AITC-C's Mathieu Rouleau and Mercedes Unwin as well as Ashlee Leggett from AgScape are attending the Grow Our People conference in Niagara-on-the-Lake from May 28 to 30. They will be giving a brief presentation on AITC and leading an interactive agricultural activity with conference participants. Grow Our People aims to create a first-class professional development opportunity for the ag sector. Learn more at [www.loft32.ca/growourpeople](http://www.loft32.ca/growourpeople).



# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## Newfoundland and Labrador



## AITC-NL attends Hospitality NL event

Hospitality NL hosted an event on April 18 to celebrate National Tourism Week. The theme was “going green” and focused on Pillar 8 of the provincial tourism strategy, Vision 2026, which includes objectives around sustainability, energy efficiency and climate change adaptations. AITC-NL’s host organization, the NL Federation of Agriculture, was a partner for this event. AITC-NL was invited to have a booth and provide resources to members. Hospitality NL has thousands of members, so this was a great opportunity to bring awareness to agriculture education in the province. AITC-NL hosted a lettuce planting at the end of the event for attendees to take home with them. Making a connection with the tourism industry has been a great partnership so far and we look forward to working with them in the future.

## Exploring Careers

In collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, PEI ag students were invited to tour the Charlottetown Research Development Centre. Scientists engaged the students in learning about their career journey, their current research and respective laboratories, along with sharing the many student employment and educational opportunities available at AAFC.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

### AG Sector Showcase

With the Department of Education, AITC-PEI delivered a virtual AG Sector Showcase to all Grade 10 Career Exploration Opportunities students and Agri-Science & Animal Science students.

The showcase used a multi-pronged programming approach. A live panel session of young adults working in agriculture who shared their career journey and educational pathways, and answered live and submitted questions from our AG students took place, as well as a virtual farm tour with Island farmer, Deanna Doctor. There was also an educational resource video featuring



a virtual tour at Summerside Green Diamond Equipment Ltd., highlighting ag technicians’ skills, abilities, training, responsibilities and opportunities, in addition to the PEI Agriculture Sector Council’s Farm Technician Program, the PEI Apprenticeship Program Information and Supports, and Team Food Island Information for summer employment opportunities.

# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## NOVA SCOTIA



### Visiting the Research Centre

AITC-NS partnered with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to put on an event at the Kentville Research and Development Centre in April. Agriculture 11 classrooms from two nearby high schools visited the Research Centre to learn about the amazing studies that are happening right in their community that benefit the industry.



A Grade 11 chemistry classroom testing out the Science of Cheesemaking kits.



## NEW BRUNSWICK

### April is for Exploring Careers

The theme for April in New Brunswick was careers. AITC-NB participated in two expos this month, with close to 4,000 students in attendance. Highlighting I AM AG and thinkAG resources, students learned about the Holland Code and their impact on the future of agriculture. Through a partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AITC-NB organized two field trips to the local research centre for students in our high school AG110 course. Students learned about career opportunities in agriculture, met with scientists studying entomology and potato DNA, and had a hands-on lab focused on irrigation. Support of the AG110 course continued with two labs run at schools in Chipman and Rothesay, NB.

There was also a thrilling opportunity for teachers with the FCC-sponsored Teacher Farm Tour. In partnership with Nutrients for Life and the Elementary Council, nine teachers toured four farms, connecting with the farmers and increasing their knowledge. This was a very positive opportunity for the teachers, and they are looking forward to incorporating agriculture more in their classrooms.



# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## QUEBEC



A new ambassador farm, les agneaux de Laval, has started working with École-O-Champ

### Meeting Educators

École-O-Champ attended its first education and teacher-focused exhibition at the end of April and collected a ton of email addresses. Staff members at the event distributed resources for free and had some excellent professional encounters!

## ONTARIO

### thinkAG Career Competitions

In April, AgScape hosted two thinkAG Career Competitions in partnership with William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute and Markville Secondary School for over 700 Greater Toronto Area students. The students learned about Ontario's dynamic agriculture and food systems, connected with various industry representatives, participated in hands-on activities and discovered meaningful career pathways in



agriculture and food. Industry representatives included members from Beef Farmers of Ontario, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Farm Credit Canada, Grain Farmers of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), and the University of Guelph.

### Welcome on board, Catharine!

AgScape is pleased to introduce our newest member, Catherine Melillo, who joined us as the Program and Resource Manager. Catherine is deeply committed to advocating for enriching experiential opportunities that allow students to reconnect with the environment and the land surrounding them. Central to this dedication is her passion for promoting food literacy and sustainability. She firmly believes that cultivating an understanding and appreciation for all facets of the food system is an essential tool for fostering meaningful discourse and change across various critical issues such as food security, sustainability and overall well-being. With her experience working as an Ontario Certified Teacher, Catherine is thrilled to have joined AgScape and is eager to contribute to its mission of integrating agriculture and food education into every classroom across Ontario.



# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## MANITOBA

### Celebrating Our Educator Champion Award

At our Celebration Mixer, we presented this year's Educator Champion Award to Jessica Canning, a high school science and geography teacher at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School in Brandon. [Watch our video](#) to find out why Jessica is an inspiration.



### Launch of the AITC-M 2023 Annual Report

AITC-M programs and resources helped deliver 407,314 student experiences in 2023. The impact of these experiences can be seen in our new annual report, [now available online!](#)

### A Memorable Mixer and AGM

Thanks to an incredible team effort, AITC-M's 35th AGM and first Celebration Mixer was a success on April 18. An amazing 134 guests attended, joining for an afternoon of sharing in the organization's 2023 wins followed by an evening of fun, hands-on activities, delicious food and more. The night included government remarks and recognition of the many volunteers in the room. One takeaway stood above all for AITC-MB staff when debriefing –



the reward of seeing partners, donors, volunteers and educators in the same room with a common goal in mind!

## SASKATCHEWAN

### 30 Years of AITC-SK

Our team, along with our AITC-SK community,



celebrated three fantastic decades of connecting kids and agriculture. We are proud to share our 30-Year Report, highlighting many incredible moments and people who helped us reach this milestone. [Read it here.](#)

### Impact Story

Meet Celine, a Master's student at the University of Saskatchewan, who credits an AITC-SK program for her finding her passion in agriculture! [Watch the video on YouTube.](#)



### AITC-SK's AGM

In early April, we hosted our AGM and had the opportunity to celebrate the past, strategize for the future and demonstrate the value of our initiatives to our stakeholders with a hands-on experience. Explore how connection, partnership and experiences invigorated our 2023 [here.](#)

# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## ALBERTA



## Spuds in Tubs

Ag for Life's Spuds in Tubs program is in full swing! This program was designed to connect students with their local food system and help them develop a deeper appreciation for where their food comes from. Students learn about the history and culture of potatoes, as well as the importance of supporting local farmers and sustainable food systems. The program encourages collaboration and creativity while teaching students about plant biology, soil health and sustainable food production. The program also teaches students about the importance of reducing food waste, composting and using resources responsibly.



## BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Celebrating Professionals Day

On April 26, BCAITC's Professionals Day Camp was attended by around 10 enthusiastic students for a technology-free adventure, fostering connections to food, agriculture and nature. Through hands-on experiences, campers delved into the essence of gardening and sustainable living, creating lasting memories and meaningful connections with the nature around them.

### Summer Camps

BCAITC is offering Summer Camps in May. The goal of the camp is to offer an exciting blend of agriculture, fun and hands-on learning. With a focus on planting, harvesting, physical activity and creative expression, campers dive into the real gardening experience, getting their hands dirty and cultivating a deeper understanding of the agriculture world.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 16 - Agriculture in the Classroom Canada Board Meeting**

**May 8 - Real Dirt on Farming resource announcement news release**

**May 15 - Mission Explorium winner announcement news release**

**May 28-30 - Grow Our People Conference**  
**Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON**

**June 24-27 - American National Agriculture in the Classroom Meeting**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**

**July 8-12 - AITC-C National Meeting - Summer Sharing Session**  
**St. John's, NL**