

# AITC Collective Connection

## January 2025



## NATIONAL UPDATES

### Mission Explorium 2025

The next edition of Mission Explorium kicks off next month! Registration for this year's island adventure is now closed, and 227 Grade 6-8 classes from across Canada have signed up to compete for the title of National Champion. The epic adventure begins on February 17, with the regional winners moving on to the national competition in April.

### CALM 2025

Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM) 2025 is quickly approaching! This year, AITC-C will be running a social media campaign to celebrate. The campaign will feature videos from participants with various backgrounds and careers showcasing why it is important to know where your food comes from.

### AITC Dashboard Tips

For those who run on a fiscal/reporting period of January 2024 to December 2024 and are currently preparing their stats, the stats for last year's national programs (GCFT Spring 2024, GCFT Fall 2024 and Mission Explorium 2024) are up to date.

As a reminder, they can be located in the AITC Dashboard by following these steps:

- Login in to the [Agriculture in the Classroom Dashboard](#).
- Proceed to the Admin section
- Go to Yearly Reports
- Select the Data Range
- Select Program Instance List
- It will export an excel spreadsheet
- Pull the Total Student Experience numbers for the national programs

Please note this is where you would also find the numbers for program instances ran by you via the AITC Dashboard.

For any support and to refer to standard procedures and processes – please go to: [AITC Dashboard Help Center](#).

# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

### Agriculture in the Classroom NL hosts Virtual Amazing Ag Adventure!

AITC-NL hosted an exciting virtual Amazing Agriculture Adventure for Grade 4, 5, and 6 classes from November 23 to December 13, 2024. Teachers received a package that included video links to several farm tours and agriculture-related videos, and the classes answered a series of questions based on whichever four videos they chose. Topics included in the farm tour videos are food safety, chicken farming, berry farming, Lester's Farm Market tour, Mark's Market tour, a honeybee farm, a dairy farm, egg processing, soil and plants, plant adaptations, cranberry farming and more!

Each class that participated was entered to win a prize. Two winners were chosen and each participating class received a set of resources and activities from AITC-NL. Winners received a Seed Detective Kit, where students investigate mystery seeds to guess what plants they are growing!



## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

### Visiting the Atlantic Veterinarian College

Animal science students at Three Oaks Senior High School created an awesome interactive genAG school event to close 2024 and to begin 2025, these genAG students had the special opportunity to visit the Atlantic Veterinarian College (AVC) and get an up close and personal look at veterinary medicine and careers in the field. A third year AVC student was chosen to lead the tour to facilitate meaningful connections when sharing the educational pathways and career possibilities that exist. This is the beginning of exciting collaborations with AVC.



#### Ag Day

- Jeopardy Game (lecture theatre)
- Feed Matching (lecture theatre)
- Agricultural Career Scavenger Hunt (lecture Theatre)
- Photo Booth/Station (gym classroom)
- Sheep/Poultry/Pig Trivia (cafeteria)
- Potato Trivia (cafeteria)
- Memory Game (cafeteria)
- Lasso a calf or miniature horse (cafeteria)
- 50lb Bag of Potato Race (gym)
- Farmer's Bucket Carry Relay Race (gym)

# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## NOVA SCOTIA

### Kicking Off the New Year

On Thursday, January 2, the Provincial Agricultural Diversity Programming Coordinator and Agricultural Career Promotions Coordinator presented at a Professional Development Day for Connect and O2 teachers at the Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education. The presentation was career-focused to assist in raising awareness about career opportunities, while also showcasing the diversity of roles to help inspire their students to consider a future in agriculture. These teachers were an attentive audience who appreciated learning more about the variety of careers in the agricultural industry.

ATIC-NS also welcomed a local Grade 11 student for a co-op placement with our Environmental Sustainability team with the Department of Agriculture. Nathaniel is interested in mechanical engineering.

### Careers in Agriculture

Innovative-Exciting-Challenging-Rewarding



## NEW BRUNSWICK

### Annual General Meetings

January is when AITC-NB connects with the agriculture industry through various Annual General Meetings. Over the next month, we will talk to producers and industry leaders in the maple, potato and grain sectors along with the Agricultural Alliance of NB. It is an opportunity to highlight our programming, both provincial and national, and build visibility and partnerships.



# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## ONTARIO

### Holiday-themed Virtual Field Trips

In December, AgScape hosted three engaging Virtual Field Trips, connecting students across Ontario to unique agricultural and food experiences during the holiday season. Students explored the journey of cocoa to chocolate production on a Costa Rican farm, learned about sustainable practices at a local tree farm and discovered the process of candy cane creation at a local candy shop. Five lucky classes were chosen to receive delicious handmade candy canes, courtesy of Candies of Merritt.



### AgScape Partners With Just Vertical for Exclusive Giveaway

AgScape has partnered with Just Vertical to offer educators in Ontario the chance to win The EVE Tower Garden, an innovative indoor garden that uses advanced hydroponic technology. Valued at \$1,250, this giveaway includes The EVE Tower Garden, a year's supply of seeds and all the supplies needed to grow 240 plants. Designed to inspire curiosity and teach real-world lessons, The EVE is the perfect tool for incorporating hands-on, experiential learning into the classroom.

## SASKATCHEWAN

### Invest in the future of agriculture

**DONATE**  
10 cents an acre of land you tend

**DONATE**  
\$500 to send a class to a farm or agri-business

**DONATE**  
ANY amount - every dollar brings students closer to agriculture.



ACRES FOR | Agriculture

### 2nd Annual Acres for Education Campaign

AITC-SK held its Acres for Education campaign again this fall. The fundraising campaign targets individuals working in agriculture, encouraging them to donate to AITC-SK for their charitable contributions each year. Launching in October, a multi-media approach utilized social media, radio, print, online and email to reach potential individual donors across Saskatchewan. The campaign has raised over \$35,000 so far with a few final pushes scheduled to communicate the charitable receipt extension to the end of February.

# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## Chef Trevor Randle Shines at Cornucopia!

BCAITC is absolutely thrilled to announce that Chef Trevor Randle took the stage at Whistler's renowned Cornucopia event! This incredible occasion saw him celebrating the finest local ingredients from beautiful British Columbia in collaboration with beef rancher Andrea van Iterson from the BC Cattlemen's Association. Together, they prepared four exquisite dishes that left attendees in awe and ignited inspiring conversations about the vital connection between farming and culinary education. What an unforgettable experience!

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

## New Kitchen Skills Toolkits – A Recipe for Success!

We are delighted to share some exciting news! BCAITC, in partnership with BC Egg, the BC Greenhouse Growers' Association and BC Dairy, is excited to announce the launch of instructional Kitchen Skills Toolkits for educators and students! These engaging videos and lessons cover essential culinary techniques such as knife skills, free-form tarts, soup basics, salad dressings and deboning chicken. Each lesson emphasizes the use of fresh and local ingredients and aims to empower students to master kitchen skills while connecting with local agriculture.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>February 11</b>	Canada's Agriculture Day
<b>February 17</b>	Mission Explorium Begins
<b>March</b>	Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM)