

# AITC Collective Connection

October 2024



## NATIONAL UPDATES

### Class is in Session

The back-to-school season is behind us, and we are happy that September was such a busy month for the AITC collective. As we dive deeper into the school year, we are excited to follow along as all the programs, classroom visits and expos start to gear up! Make sure you're tagging us and using #AITCC in your social media posts so we can share your great adventures and promote your work in agriculture education.



### FOOD FORWARD 2024

Our thinkAG Manager, Kalysha Hanrahan, attended the fourth annual "FOOD FORWARD 2024" conference, organized by NL Eats. This year, they brought together national leaders in food security, digital transformation, and AI to discuss and address future challenges and opportunities in our food system. The conference aimed to drive discussions focused on youth development, policy advocacy, and the role of diverse demographics in shaping the future of food systems in Canada.



# NATIONAL UPDATES

## Annual Report

The AITC-C 2023-2024 Annual Report was released on September 19. The report reflects on another successful year in agriculture education and shares some highlights. Thank you to the AITC Collective members for being a part of our successes!

A copy of the Annual Report can be found on the [AITC-C website here](https://www.aitc-c.ca/).

AITC-C's Annual General Meeting was also held on September 19.



## Two Million Student Experiences and Growing!

Agriculture in the Classroom Canada  
Annual Report  
2023-2024

## OCTOBER

### Great Canadian Farm Tour Season 4 Calendar

The events will be live streamed by Agriculture in the Classroom Canada via:

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@agricultureintheclassroom6795/live>



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/AITCCanada/>



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
30	1	2	3	<b>FARM TOUR! 4</b> Sea Buckthorn (New Brunswick) 9h PDT 10h MDT 11h CDT 12h EDT 13h ADT 13h30 NDT
7	8	9	<b>FARM TOUR! 10</b> Pumpkin farm (Newfoundland & Labrador) 9h PDT 10h MDT 11h CDT 12h EDT 13h ADT 13h30 NDT	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	<b>FARM TOUR! 22</b> Egg production (Nova Scotia) 9h PDT 10h MDT 11h CDT 12h EDT 13h ADT 13h30 NDT	23	24	25
28	29	<b>FARM TOUR! 30</b> Grain Farm (Saskatchewan) 9h PDT 10h MDT 11h CDT 12h EDT 13h ADT 13h30 NDT	31	

If you are unable to watch the tours live, do not worry! All tours will be recorded and available for viewing immediately after they are streamed. Recordings are available at AITC-C's Youtube page:



## GCFT Season 4

Season 4 of the Great Canadian Farm Tour is finally here! The first stop of our fall tours took place earlier today, October 4, when we visited a sea buckthorn farm in New Brunswick! The next stop of the GCFT is on October 10 in Newfoundland and Labrador where we will explore a pumpkin farm.

Registration will remain open over the next few months as we complete our journey across Canada. All tours are being streamed with live interpretation. Completed tours can be found on the [AITC-C YouTube channel](https://www.aitc-c.ca/).

# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

### Amazing Agriculture Adventure and Family Fun Night at Ag Expos

AITC-NL hosted in-person Amazing Agriculture Adventures (AAA) at the Agriculture Expos in Corner Brook and Grand Falls Windsor on September 20 and October 4. Over 500 students and teachers attend AAA, where students go from booth to booth and visit farmers and agriculture representatives to learn about the NL agriculture industry. Students and teachers participate in hands-on activities including making nutrient bracelets, living necklaces, animal farms, beekeeping displays and much more!

AITC-NL organizes a children's activity area during the Agriculture Expos hosted by the NL Federation of Agriculture. On the Friday evening, AITC-NL hosts a Family Fun Night with special activities including painting pumpkin ornaments for children to take home, as well as, giving away storybooks. Saturday morning, Little Green Thumbs hosts a culinary demo where past LGT students make smoothies using local ingredients and share them with the public. Sunday morning, AITC-NL hosts "Story Time with a Farmer" where a farmer will read one of our storybooks and give out resources to participants. Throughout the weekend, AITC-NL promotes all AITC programming and makes connections with visiting teachers and students.



## NEW BRUNSWICK

### Fall in New Brunswick

October is here and so are many engagement opportunities! Skills NB is hosting a try-a-trade event where AITC-NB will be showcasing robotics using the thinkAG programming. We will continue with digital agriculture at a career fair at Leo Hayes High School and a field trip with students from our local AG110 course to the AAFC research station. The school year is starting off strong!

# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## NOVA SCOTIA

### Teacher Tour with AITC-NS

AITC-NS held a second teacher tour on August 13 and 14. Twenty-five teachers from across Nova Scotia met on the Dalhousie University Agriculture Campus. Day one began with a tour of their Cultiv8 garden project where students create a business to sell CSA's, then onto the Aquaculture Department to learn about the current research and hot topics in the industry. The next stop was Steinhart Distillery for a tour and tasting, and then a visit to Knoydart Farm, where we got to taste some yummy cheese and learn about the cheese-making business. The group travelled on the St. Francis Xavier University bus and stayed on the beautiful campus. Day two included a drone demonstration from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, a facility tour of Scott and Stewart Forestry, a tour and presentation of the Antigonish Farmers Market, a presentation from a local growers co-op where five farms have combined to create CSA's and ended the tour with a tour of Lindenright Holsteins.



## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



### thinkAG with AITC-PEI

The 2024-2025 school year is getting off to a great start for students and teachers alike! Students are happily engaging in Career Case game activities and exploring local farms. This year, along with our dedicated AG teachers, we have new teachers eager to join our thinkAG programming. We are happy to share that three schools will be participating in genAG this semester.

# FROM COAST TO COAST...



## QUEBEC

### Welcome to the Team!

École-O-Champ is excited to welcome Michelle Villalon to the team! She will be joining as the new Social Media Manager, bringing her expertise and creativity to our projects. Michelle joins us just in time as we wrap up a busy summer, having attended the last two agricultural fairs of the season. Welcome, Michelle!

## ONTARIO

### Lianna Manes Joins the AgScape Team

We're delighted to introduce our newest team member, Lianna Manes (she/her), who joined us as the Project Coordinator for the AgScape Agri-Careers Project. She's responsible for coordinating and executing AgScape's participation at various agricultural fairs and career-related events to spread awareness of agricultural and food careers. Lianna is deeply committed to education and agriculture. She finds great fulfillment in guiding the next generation toward discovering their passions, with the hope of inspiring future leaders to change the world through innovation and sustainability in agriculture. Lianna is an avid outdoor enthusiast who loves spending time hiking in nature, relaxing in her hammock amidst the trees, and sharing her adventures with her cat, Poutine. When she's not out exploring new places or practicing yoga, Lianna enjoys taking time to unwind and reconnect with the world around her.



### AgScape Honours Ontario Educator With Award

We're thrilled to announce Pam Woodhouse, an elementary school teacher from St. John Catholic School in Arthur, Ontario, as the recipient of AgScape's 2024 Teaching Excellence in Agriculture and Food Education Award, sponsored by Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. As a passionate farmer, agriculture enthusiast, and experienced educator, Pam has been devoted to integrating agriculture and food themes into her students' learning experiences. Her innovative approach to teaching has not only enriched her classroom but has also inspired her students to develop a deeper understanding of and appreciation for our diverse agricultural systems. Congratulations to Pam on this well-deserved recognition!



# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## A Jam-Packed Week at the Amazing Agriculture Adventure

Our latest Amazing Agriculture Adventure was a success! The annual field trip program took place September 24-27 and welcomed Grade 3-6 students on the first three days and, for the first time, high school students on the Friday. Over 800 students from 32 schools came through to learn about all things livestock, with our commodity partners running stations on beef, dairy, eggs, chicken, pork, bees, watersheds, agriculture careers and farm safety with 4-H.

The event was also a great time to connect with volunteers, who served as class hosts and location hosts — some participating in an AITC-M program for the first time. Events like this wouldn't be possible without them, along with our partners and sponsors. To see a day in the life at AAA, visit [our Instagram page](#) for the highlights.

## MANITOBA



## Familiar Faces in New Roles

We're pleased that a pair of AITC-M staff members have taken on new roles within the organization! Christine Kulas is now our Program & Events Manager, running programs including Amazing Agriculture Adventure and Seed Survivor and assisting with organizational events such as board meetings, our AGM, and more. Bianca Byers is also now a full-time Program Coordinator, working on our Agriculture Career Exploration (ACE) file, Journey 2050 presentations, shipping resources, and more.

## SASKATCHEWAN



## Keeping Up with AITC-SK

- Celebrating Ag Month in Saskatchewan, with Sasktel as the Resource Distribution Sponsor in October.
- New resource launching: First-Time Farmers: A Kindergarten Learning Kit with four theme days (farmers, plants, animals and food) that each includes a lesson plan, guided activities, fun worksheets and creative play.
- New program launching: Edible Enterprises is for Grades 10-12 students to connect with Saskatchewan agri-food entrepreneurs, gain hands-on cooking experience, and explore the food development process.

# FROM COAST TO COAST...

## ALBERTA



### Spuds in Tubs Farm to School Program

Ag for Life's Spuds Tubs Farm to School Program has opened up for registration. This program is designed to connect students with their local food system and help them develop a deeper appreciation for where their food comes from. Students will learn about plant biology, soil health and sustainable food production while growing delicious potatoes in tubs. The program encourages collaboration and creativity, and students will have the satisfaction of watching their hard work pay off with a bountiful harvest! The program is for students in Grades 3–9.



### Wearing Orange with Pride

In honour of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, BCAITC staff proudly wore orange to show their support and commitment to raising awareness.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA



### Serving Flavour and Education at Day at the Farm!

BCAITC proudly participated in the highly anticipated Day at the Farm event, hosted by the Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust and Westham Island Herb Farm. The vibrant event showcased agriculture through interactive workshops, food trucks, and cooking contests, attracting families and enthusiasts alike. Chef Randle and volunteer students from the Take a Bite of BC program served over 1,000 samples of farm-fresh chicken quesadillas with cilantro lime crema, alongside samples of potato and bacon hash with eggs, and blueberry crème brulee. The event offered a fantastic opportunity to connect with the agriculture community and showcase the importance of BC agriculture!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>October 10</b>	GCFT Stop #2 - Pumpkin Farm Newfoundland and Labrador
<b>October 23</b>	GCFT Stop #3 - Egg Farm Nova Scotia
<b>October 31</b>	GCFT Stop #4 - Grain Farm Saskatchewan
<b>November 17-19</b>	Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference East Niagara Falls, ON
<b>December 3-5</b>	GrowCanada Conference Ottawa, ON