



With funding from

Canada



RBC Future Launch

BHER proudly announces 21 new partnerships with organizations creating work-integrated learning experiences for students across Canada

November 25, 2021,

Ottawa, ON - The Business + Higher Education Roundtable (BHER) is excited to announce 21 new partnerships with post-secondary institutions and industry leaders that will engage students in work-integrated learning (WIL) across Canada. With support from the Government of Canada and [RBC Future Launch](#), these partnerships will create nearly 16,000 new WIL experiences for students over the course of the 2021-2022 academic year.

“This collaborative work between the Business + Higher Education Roundtable and all its partners will lead to new and innovative ways to help post-secondary institutions and employers create quality opportunities for students across Canada,” said the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry.

“Expanding Canada’s work-integrated learning ecosystem is fundamental to the success of our future leaders, and RBC is proud to support BHER in facilitating an additional 15,000 experiential-learning opportunities for students this academic year,” said Dave McKay, President and CEO, RBC. “Throughout the pandemic, young people have proven their adaptivity, creativity and resilience, and as we emerge from the pandemic, we must empower Canadian youth, equipping them with the skills needed to meet the demands of tomorrow’s workplace.”

BHER’s WIL partnership program is diversifying Canada’s WIL ecosystems. The partnerships announced today will:

- Increase the number of WIL experiences for students from equity-deserving communities;
- Create WIL programs that meet the unique needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) students;
- Attract and retain international talent, and
- Engage students from rural, remote, and Northern communities.

“By building this network of partnerships and funding these WIL programs, BHER is creating new WIL capacity for a diverse group of students from across the country,” said Dr. Valerie Walker, Chief Executive Officer of BHER. “We are thrilled to help

employers and students connect and develop innovative solutions for the evolving skills and talent challenges of Canada's economy.”

With today's announcement, BHER has secured 42 WIL partnership agreements in total since 2019, with over 150 partners, across Canada. By making use of innovative forms of WIL, like micro-placements, these initiatives reduce barriers for equity-deserving students and for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The partnerships cut across multiple sectors of the economy, including health care, scientific, financial, and technical services, construction, accommodation, retail and food services, and agriculture.

-30-

Media Contact:

Tina Romito, Senior Manager, Communications
tina.romito@bher.ca - 613-695-3511

About the Business + Higher Education Roundtable:

The Business + Higher Education Roundtable (BHER) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization bringing together some of Canada's largest companies and leading post-secondary institutions. Since 2015, BHER has worked to harness the strengths of Canada's business and post-secondary education sectors to build opportunities for young Canadians, boost innovation and drive collaboration. Learn more at www.bher.ca. Check out our [WIL Hub](#) for ways to explore, invest in and create quality WIL opportunities.

About RBC Future Launch:

RBC Future Launch is the bank's commitment to empowering Canadian youth for the jobs of tomorrow. RBC is dedicating \$500 million to help young people access meaningful employment through practical work experience, skills development, networking and access to mental well-being supports and services. In 2020, RBC committed to providing \$50 million in focused funding through RBC Future Launch to create meaningful and transformative pathways to prosperity for up to 25,000 BIPOC youth by 2025, with investments in areas such as skills development and mentoring. Learn more at www.rbc.com/futurelaunch

Background:

In Budget 2019, the Canadian Government proposed to provide the Business + Higher Education Roundtable with up to \$17 million over three years, to help forge partnerships and create more work-integrated learning opportunities for young Canadians.

Connect with our new partners:

Learn more about all of our partners at: www.bher.ca/partnerships/wil-partnerships

<p>Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council</p> <p>Media Contact: Lindsey Ehman Communications & Stakeholder Engagement Specialist lehman@cahrc-ccha.ca</p>	<p>Capilano University</p> <p>Media Contact: Linda Munro Senior Communications Officer 604-220-8937 lindamunro@capilanou.ca mediarelations@capilanou.ca</p>	<p>Carleton University</p> <p>Media Contact: Tara Jackson Manager, Communications tara.jackson@carleton.ca Steven Reid Media Relations Officer steven.reid3@carleton.ca</p>
<p>The Chamber of Commerce of Greater Moncton</p> <p>Media Contact: John Wishart Chief Executive Officer 506-856-4000 jwishart@ccgm.ca comms@ccgm.ca</p>	<p>Concordia University</p> <p>Media Contact: Concordia University Media Relations 514-848-242 x4880 media.relations@concordia.ca</p>	<p>George Brown College</p> <p>Media Contact: Joy Callender Senior Manager, External Communications 647-988-0306 Jcallender3@georgebrown.ca Jodi Serwatak Senior Manager, Corporate and Executive Communications jserwatak@georgebrown.ca</p>
<p>Halton Industry Education Council-Career Centre (HIEC)</p> <p>Media Contact: Meghan Paton Manager, Communications 905-483-3270 mpaton@hiecon.ca</p>	<p>Lighthouse Labs</p> <p>Media Contact: Stuart Martin Talk Shop Media stuart@talkshopmedia.com</p>	<p>MaRS Discovery District</p> <p>Media Contact: Mark Abbott Managing Director Engineering Change Lab mabbott@marsdd.com media@marsdd.com</p>
<p>McGill University</p> <p>Media Contact: Cynthia Lee Assoc. Director, Media Relations Office: 514-398-6754 Cell: 514-793-6753 cynthia.lee@mcgill.ca</p>	<p>Memorial University of Newfoundland & Labrador</p> <p>Media Contact: Dave Sorensen Manager Communications Office: 709-864-2143 Cell: 709-685-7134 sorensen@mun.ca</p>	<p>Red River College Polytechnic</p> <p>Media Contact: Conor Lloyd APR, Director College and Public Relations 204-795-2864 clloyd@rrc.ca</p>

<p><u>Rural Development Network</u></p> <p>Media Contact: Dee Ann Benard Executive Director 780-964-2736 x7 exec.dir@ruraldevelopment.ca</p>	<p><u>Ryerson University - Architectural Science</u></p> <p>Media Contact: Karen Benner Assoc. Director, University Communications Office: 416-979-5000 x553494 karen.benner@ryerson.ca</p>	<p><u>SmartIce</u></p> <p>Media Contact: Emily Best Northern Communications Lead 1-709-217-2711 emily@smartice.org</p>
<p><u>University of New Brunswick</u></p> <p>Media Contact: Heather Campbell Acting Director, Communications 506-648-5697 hcampbel@unb.ca</p>	<p><u>University of Calgary</u></p> <p>Media Contact: Dean Parthenis Director 403-629-5806 dparthen@ucalgary.ca</p> <p>mediarequests@ucalgary.ca</p>	<p><u>University of the Fraser Valley</u></p> <p>Media Contact: Dave Pinton Director, Communications Tel: 604-702-2606 Cell: 778-808-5661 dave.pinton@ufv.ca</p> <p>Paulyene Da Costa Canedo Communications Coordinator, College of Arts 604-557-7616 Paulyene.Canedo@ufv.ca</p>
<p><u>University of Prince Edward Island</u></p> <p>Media Contacts: Nicole Phillips Director, Communications and University Relations 902-566-0947 nphillips@upei.ca</p> <p>Marketing and Communications 902-566-0947 communications@upei.ca</p>	<p><u>York University</u></p> <p>Media Contact: media@yorku.ca</p>	<p><u>Western University</u></p> <p>Media Contact: Tea Hadwen Digital Engagement Coordinator, Leadership & Learning 519-661-2111 x84858 thadwen2@uwo.ca</p>