New Brunswick Regional Sounding

November 20, 2019 | Moncton

Your voice matters

The Regional Sounding Tour is making stops in every Canadian province and territory to hear from skills stakeholders: What are your toughest skills challenges and how can the Future Skills Centre respond to the diverse needs of your community?

What we heard

The New Brunswick Regional Sounding brought together a varied group of participants. In small groups, they talked about the education, employment, training, and skills challenges they face, are concerned about, or are currently tackling. We came to you to listen, and here’s what we heard:

Work-integrated learning

• Employers identified work-integrated learning as an important way to fill gaps in job seekers’ skill sets and abilities.
• Participants highlighted the need for increased engagement between educators and employers to create new experiential learning opportunities.

Focus on newcomers

• Participants recognized the need for skilled immigrants in the region, as well as improved credential recognition, access to skills training, and career pathways for newcomers.
• Employers also require cultural competency training to develop supportive and inclusive work environments for newcomers.

Skills first

• Employers that focus on broader skills and competencies—rather than job-specific needs—will help New Brunswickers shift and pivot when jobs or industries are disrupted.
• This requires a paradigm shift, not only among individual employers and workers, but also in education and training systems.

Supporting youth

• An aging population in New Brunswick means an increased need to retain, support, and foster the skills development of youth along their educational and employment pathways.
• Youth need flexible and responsive learning and training programs, including mentorship opportunities and counselling.

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Stay tuned for the final report that will synthesize the key findings of all discussions after the Regional Sounding Tour is completed in 2020.