



CAHRC-CCRHA

Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council
Conseil canadien pour les ressources humaines
en agriculture

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AgriWorkforce Newsfeed

Fil d'actualité sur la main-d'œuvre agricole

Latest Headlines for CAHRC Partners / *Dernières nouvelles à l'intention des partenaires du CCRHA*

For Distribution to Your Association Membership / *À distribuer aux membres de votre association*

The **AgriWorkforce Newsfeed** is a weekly news update for partners of the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC). It is provided as an information service only. Inclusion of any information does not represent official positions, opinions or support by CAHRC or its membership. The information is collected from a variety of sources and circulated as information only.

Le Fil d'actualité sur la main-d'œuvre agricole est un suivi hebdomadaire des nouvelles les plus récentes préparé à l'intention des partenaires du Conseil canadien pour les ressources humaines en agriculture (CCRHA). Il constitue un service d'information seulement. Son contenu n'exprime pas une position, une opinion ou un soutien officiels du CCRHA ou de ses membres. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont recueillis auprès de diverses sources et sont distribués à titre d'information seulement.

POLICY, RESEARCH, AND NEWS TRACKING

Industry Perceptions and Awareness

[Farms across Quebec hold open houses on the back of a disastrous season](#) Quebec's agricultural producers are struggling to recover from a ["catastrophic" season due to the heavy rains that fell on the province this summer](#). However, many of them opened their doors to the public on Sept. 10. More than 50 producers across Quebec were ready to welcome consumers to discuss their trade, showcase their products, or offer pick-your-own, for example, [at the "Eat Local" open house](#). [Read more...](#)

[Donation in memory of local farmer helps connect youth with agriculture](#) After the death of local farmer J.C. Tremblay, his family wanted to do something noteworthy in his honour. His vision was to see farmers empowered in their hard work of providing food for the community, and he saw value in ensuring the next generation understood the importance of agriculture.

Tremblay's family chose to support Agriculture in the Classroom. Its mission is to inspire more careers in the field. [Read more...](#)

[Outdated Perceptions Overshadow Agriculture Job Opportunities](#) In a recent survey commissioned by the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council, 54 per cent of Canadians could not name any other occupation besides 'farmer' when asked about jobs in the agriculture sector. When asked to describe a farmer, perceptions were also outdated. According to respondents, farmers lacked diversity: 'older, man, laidback, weathered, and plaid' were common words respondents associated with their idea of the average farmer. [Read more...](#)

Immigration and Foreign Workers

[Demande d'action collective pour abolir les permis fermés des travailleurs temporaires](#). L'Association pour les droits des travailleurs à domicile et à la ferme (DTMF) demande à la Cour supérieure du Québec d'autoriser un recours collectif contre le gouvernement fédéral. Il cherche à faire déclarer les permis fermés, qui lient les travailleurs étrangers temporaires à un seul employeur, comme contraires à la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés. [En savoir plus...](#)

[Balancing needs of and need for temporary foreign workers focus of senators' farm tour](#) A group of senators is touring farms on Prince Edward Island to get a clearer picture of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and ways of improving it. The tour is part of a study that launched in November looking

at the demands of industries like agriculture and aquaculture and how to balance them with the needs of temporary foreign workers. [Read more...](#)

People, Wages and Workplace Culture

[Ashley Honsberger named new executive director of OSCIA](#) Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) has named Ashley Honsberger as its new executive director, effective October 9, 2023. Andrew Graham, the current ED, will retire after a celebrated career spanning 43 years, 33 of those with OSCIA. He served as executive director for more than eight years. Honsberger has 15 years of experience working in the agriculture sector focusing on non-profit leadership. She most recently held the position of executive director for the Poultry Industry Council. [Read more...](#)

[Olymel annonce d'autres fermetures d'usine, dont celle de Princeville](#) Olymel a annoncé le 13 septembre la fermeture d'une autre usine québécoise à Princeville, dans la région du Centre-du-Québec. La décision affecte les moyens de subsistance de 301 travailleurs. Olymel a indiqué qu'elle permettrait à certains employés de se relocaliser au sein de l'entreprise. Olymel est en restructuration depuis deux ans alors que l'industrie porcine québécoise traverse une crise, principalement due à une baisse des exportations. [En savoir plus...](#)

[Support program still available to those in agriculture sector impacted by extreme weather](#)

Nova Scotia farmers affected by this year's extreme weather events can still receive assistance under the AgriStability program, even if they did not previously enroll. AgriStability supports farmers experiencing a large decline in farm income by providing protection for income losses of more than 30 per cent. Information in [French is available here](#). [Read more...](#)

[De longs délais pour les agriculteurs qui veulent améliorer leur efficacité énergétique](#) Les propriétaires de la Ferme des Ruisseaux ont une toute nouvelle salle mécanique, où les vieilles fournaies qui fonctionnent au mazout pour chauffer les serres brillent par leur absence. Le système de chauffage est désormais électrique, mais les délais pour être branchés au réseau d'Hydro-Québec sont longs. [En savoir plus...](#)

[Control grocery prices or face new taxes, Trudeau warns chains](#) Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has warned grocery chains that they could be hit with new taxes if they do not take steps to control rising food prices. Trudeau said the heads of the five largest supermarket chains, including Walmart and Costco, would be asked to come up with a plan to address rising prices before Thanksgiving. Trudeau, who

is [facing questions about his leadership](#) amid sagging public approval, also announced that sales tax would be waived for the construction of new rental apartments as part of measures to address cost-of-living concerns. [Read more...](#)

Skill Development

[4-H Canada Announces Inaugural Recipients Of Mcdonald's Canada Future Of Agriculture 4-H Scholarship](#)

Eight senior 4-H members have been awarded \$5,000 scholarships to support their goal of pursuing a future in the critical area of sustainable agriculture. Congratulations to the 2023 recipients of the McDonald's Canada Future of Agriculture 4-H Scholarship. Information in [French can be found here](#). [Read more...](#)

[U of G responds to demand for agricultural professionals](#) One of the most pressing issues the Canadian agriculture industry faces today is the availability of skilled labour. The agriculture and agri-food sector employs over 2.3 million Canadians, representing approximately 12 per cent of Canadian employment. The University of Guelph is responding with a hands-on, course-based program in the [Department of Plant Agriculture](#) offering recent graduates and professionals an upgrade to their education and training without traditional academic research. [Read more...](#)

[Program lets adults with disabilities get their hands dirty teaching all things agriculture](#) An employment training program that puts adults with disabilities to work in the urban agriculture and hospitality sector is looking for a new set of participants. The Orchard program, led by Hutton House in London, Ontario, helps people land a 12-week paid placement with employers in the sector. Workers learn everything from resume building to transportation training, workplace etiquette, and computer skills. They also get hands-on lessons about food security and how to grow food in the program funded by Service Canada. [Read more...](#)

Automation and Technology

[Hybrid farm project gets \\$472k in federal funding](#) The Village Indoor Farm & Living Lab project has received \$472,560 in new federal funding through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program, which will enable upgrades to HVAC and electrical systems as well as windows. The indoor farm, on the

site of a former grocery store in Blacks Harbour, New Brunswick, is set to have its grand opening in October and could grow up to 8,000 pounds of food. The non-profit had supplied 17 per cent of capital costs, or \$175,000, with the municipality of Eastern Charlotte contributing \$90,000. The rest came from the green buildings fund, which is meant to support upgrades to community buildings and new builds.

[Read more...](#)

[CowBytes software is back](#) The Beef Cattle Research Council says CowBytes is once again available. The ration-balancing software allows cattle producers to formulate their own feed rations while considering various combinations of feed and byproducts at different prices. In doing so, they can find ways to reduce feed costs while still meeting production targets. Ensuring that cattle are fed a balanced ration can also save producers on [feed](#) costs in the long run by preventing over- or under-feeding. [Read more...](#)

[Farm Credit Canada and Western Fair district partner to elevate agriculture and food producers through new technology, innovation](#) Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is engaging in a long-term partnership with Western Fair District to deliver knowledge, innovation, and research Canadian producers can use to complement their own expertise in the advancement of their farming and food businesses. The partnership announcement includes new on-farm research called Innovation Farms Ontario powered by AgExpert, located at [Haggerty Creek](#) near Bothwell, Ontario. This research farm is part of a network of Canadian demonstration farms where innovative, emerging technology is developed and tested. The results and benefits of different technologies in the emerging agriculture robotics and automation industry are shared with producers to optimize current farming practices and future decisions. Information in [French can be found here](#). [Read more...](#)

EVENTS

- [ONE HEALTH SYMPOSIUM](#), SEPTEMBER 21
- [PULSE AND SPECIAL CROPS CONVENTION](#), SEPTEMBER 26-28
- [GALA AGRICULTRICES DU QUEBEC](#), OCTOBER 14
- [2023 ACFFA AQUACULTURE RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FORUM](#), OCTOBER 25-26
- [CANADIAN WESTERN AGRIBITION](#), NOVEMBER 20-25
- [NATIONAL FARMERS UNION ANNUAL CONVENTION](#), NOVEMBER 23-25
- [GROWCANADA CONFERENCE](#), NOVEMBER 28-30

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GET INVOLVED: Our National Workforce Strategic Plan aims to address some of the most pressing labour issues in Canadian agriculture and agri-food. You can support this plan and our related work by [visiting our website](#).

SUPPORT FOR YOU: CAHRC's Growing Opportunities project is open for the fall! Recruit through Canada's largest online campus recruiting platform and enjoy up to a \$7,500 subsidy for each student. Learn more and start your [application process here](#).

WAGE INCENTIVES: Are you an agricultural employer looking to train new truck drivers? Funding for driver training and wage incentives are available at Trucking HR Canada's Career Expressway. Through this initiative, you can receive up to \$10,000. [More here](#).

