

The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

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Futureworx Selected for Inaugural Skills CoLab at WorldSkills Conference 2026

Nova Scotia organization joins 30 projects selected from more than 130 global applications to present in Shanghai, China.

TRURO, Nova Scotia - Futureworx, has been selected as one of 30 projects worldwide - chosen from more than 130 applications across 35 countries - to participate in the inaugural Skills CoLab at WorldSkills Conference 2026 in Shanghai, China.

The Skills CoLab is a new, marketplace-style format launching for the first time at this year's conference, bringing together pioneering skills development projects from 21 countries. Conference delegates will engage directly with project teams through structured one-on-one consultations.

Futureworx CEO Randy Lindsay will co-present with Shaun Thorson, CEO of Skills Canada, at the WorldSkills Conference, taking place September 22-27, 2026. Their presentation, Beyond the Podium: Measuring What Actually Makes Skilled Workers Succeed, addresses a critical gap in technical and vocational education and training systems worldwide: while these systems are skilled at measuring technical competency, few measure the social and emotional skills that determine whether that competency translates into workplace success.

Futureworx has developed a structured, evidence-based framework - aligned with Canada's national Skills for Success model - that moves the development of social and emotional skills from aspiration to measurable outcome.

"Being selected for the Skills CoLab from more than 130 projects across 35 countries is an extraordinary honour... but what moves me most is what it represents," says Randy Lindsay, Futureworx CEO. "For years, we've been asking a question that the workforce development world hasn't always known how to answer: what actually makes a person succeed? Not just in a job, but in life and in community. Shanghai gives us the chance to bring that question... and the evidence we've built around it... to the global stage. That's not just a milestone for Futureworx. That's a moment for every person whose future depends on us getting this right."

Futureworx endeavours to identify training and skills gaps and responds by developing innovative employment and training tools to close them. Often called "soft" skills, social and emotional skills are the foundation upon which all skills are built - and this recognition reflects the strength of tools developed directly from practice here in Nova Scotia.

For more than 40 years, Futureworx has worked alongside individuals, employers, and communities in Nova Scotia to develop practical solutions to workforce challenges. This selection demonstrates that innovation grounded in local practice can carry national and international relevance.

Futureworx will share more details about its participation in the WorldSkills Conference 2026 Skills CoLab in the months ahead.

New Nova Scotia Nursing and Midwifery Regulator (NSNMR)

Tuesday, June 30th, Bedford, NS - A new multi-profession regulator has been created to strengthen and evolve health profession regulation in Nova Scotia. The responsibilities previously held by the Nova Scotia College of Nursing and the Midwifery Regulatory Council of Nova Scotia are now carried out by the Nova Scotia Nursing and Midwifery Regulator (NSNMR), effective today.

The new regulator is responsible for regulating the practice of licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, registered psychiatric nurses, and registered midwives under Nova Scotia's Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA).

"This is an important step forward for health profession regulation in Nova Scotia," said Douglas Bungay, Registrar and CEO of NSNMR. "This unified approach to regulation creates greater consistency, collaboration, and efficiency, while maintaining our shared commitment of public protection and supporting safe, competent care."

The RHPA establishes a modern, consistent legislative framework that strengthens public protection, and enhances regulatory responsiveness across all health professions. This is an amalgamation of regulatory bodies, and not a merger of professions. As a multi-profession regulator, NSNMR is founded on the principle that midwifery and nursing are unique self-identifying professions with distinct scopes of practice, entry to practice requirements, knowledge, skills and abilities.

NSNMR will continue the work of both former organizations, ensuring a seamless transition for registrants while implementing updated regulatory processes aligned with the new legislation.

New Opportunities to Participate in Medical Research

More Nova Scotians could be part of groundbreaking discoveries in cancer care, women's health, chronic disease management, vaccine research and more, as the Province introduces new ways for people to participate in medical research.

Starting on April 28 people can say they are interested in participating in medical research when they apply for or renew their health card or by contacting Medical Services Insurance (MSI) directly.

"Medical advancements and discoveries depend on research and the people who participate in it," said Premier Tim Houston. "Supporting more Nova Scotians to take part in research gives them an opportunity to find hope that was not there before, to help improve care, advance treatment and contribute to the search for new cures."

There are four types of medical research opportunities Nova Scotians can opt to participate in. They can choose to participate in none, some or all of these options: Being contacted if they are a potential match for a clinical trial or other

medical research study; allowing biological samples and health information collected during regular medical care to be used to support research; allowing their health information to be used for studies that support the development or improvement of medical technologies, devices, drugs or other treatments and allowing their health information to be shared with trusted and approved external organizations, including industry partners, to develop new drugs, devices and technologies.

Participation is voluntary and open to Nova Scotians who are 19 and older. People can indicate consent when applying for or renewing their Nova Scotia health card by mail, by calling MSI, or through MSI Online, a new web-based services portal. Consent can be changed or withdrawn at any time.

More information about medical research consent opportunities, options and process is available at: <https://www.novastudiesconnect.ca>

Funding to Support Farms Affected by Drought

The federal and provincial governments are together committing up to \$25 million to help Nova Scotia livestock and wild blueberry producers recover from the impacts of the severe drought last year.

"Nova Scotia farmers and producers faced an extremely difficult year as a result of last summer's drought," said Greg Morrow, Minister of Agriculture. "We have been working closely with industry and producers throughout this situation, and this funding will help operations recover and continue contributing to Nova Scotia's food supply and rural economy."

Alicia King, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture said following the announcement, "Last year's drought hit our farms hard, and those impacts are still being felt on operations across Nova Scotia today. Farmers have been carrying these losses and making difficult decisions for months, so this funding will provide important assistance as they continue their recovery. We are pleased to see this program respond to those needs and provide support to eligible producers across the province." The drought was one of the worst in generations, creating significant financial pressures for farms across the province. This new targeted support under the AgriRecovery framework will help address impacts beyond those covered by existing programs.

AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework that helps agricultural producers manage the extraordinary costs associated with recovering from disaster situations and resuming business operations. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will contribute 60 per cent of eligible program costs, up to \$15 million, with the Province contributing 40 per cent, up to \$10 million.

This initiative is one part of the Province's re-

sponse to the drought and complements existing supports. Producers will be advised when applications open.

Quick Facts: Dairy, beef, sheep and wild blueberry producers were identified through an AgriRecovery assessment as experiencing significant extraordinary drought-related costs. Livestock and wild blueberry sectors generate about \$315 million annually in farm cash receipts in Nova Scotia.

AgriRecovery initiatives are cost-shared on a 60/40 basis between the federal government and participating provinces or territories, as outlined under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

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