



Labour Force Readiness: The Pathway for Aboriginal Youth from High School into Post-secondary Education and Workforce Engagement



What is the research about?

Sustained employment plays a key role in the economic prospects of First Nation communities. Education plays an important role in the pathway to meaningful and sustained employment for Aboriginal youth, a role that will continue to increase to meet labour market demands. The research will identify and examine how secondary and post-secondary education institutions can support bridging the skills and potential of the growing young Aboriginal population with labour market needs in Atlantic Canada.

What will the research do?

The research will generate a comprehensive listing of programs to assist Aboriginal youth in their journey to sustained employment; identify pathways from high school to career aspirations including the necessity of post-secondary education, the challenges embedded along the way and resources available or required to address those challenges; create a network of university and community-based partners focused on pathways to appropriate education achievements leading to meaningful employment for First Nation youth; and provide an understanding of the strategies currently integrated into and promoted by post-secondary institutions.

Timeline: October 2016-March 2017

Why is the research important?

Given that education is the most important determinant of labour market outcomes, and given that Aboriginal people will undoubtedly play a significant role in shaping the economic future of Canada, the educational attainment and incorporation of Aboriginal people into the labour force requires serious and immediate consideration. Aboriginal populations throughout the Atlantic Region are growing, with nearly half of those populations aged 25 years and younger. An increasing number of Aboriginal youth will be entering the workforce in all sectors of the overall Atlantic economy. It is important that these youth have the education, skills, and qualifications to meet the demands of a growing and fast-paced economy.

Research team:

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