

Building New Brunswick's Future Workforce



The Impact of Empowering Tomorrow & Jeunesse Branchée 2026

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Letter from the Organizers



Dear NB Power Leadership,

It was an honour to co-deliver with our partners the third annual Empowering Tomorrow on April 28, 2026, and the first-ever Jeunesse Branchée on May 21, 2026. For the first time, we hosted these events outside of Fredericton, helping connect with new partners in Saint John and Bathurst. These events brought together 271 students and educators from 14 different schools across New Brunswick for two fantastic days of learning.

These conferences offered an immersive, full-day learning opportunity for students and educators, with hands-on sessions, youth panels, and career networking opportunities. The days were energizing, with the youth voice represented more than ever before. Students had the opportunity to collaborate, share ideas, and gain valuable experience that will help prepare them for a future in the green economy.

Collaboration was the key to making both of these events a success. Empowering Tomorrow was co-delivered by The Gaia Project and the Centre of Excellence for Energy, and Jeunesse Branchée showcased a new partnership between The Gaia Project and Place aux compétences. These collaborations underscore how much can be accomplished when organizations work together to support and uplift future generations.

As the presenting partner for both of these events, we want to extend our sincere appreciation for helping make these two events such a huge success. The expertise provided through sessions and networking opportunities is invaluable. We look forward to continued collaboration, working to make these two events longstanding learning opportunities for future students across the province.

Sincerely,

Guylaine Doucet-Ferguson, *Program Director, The Gaia Project*

Ainslee McIntosh, *Program Manager, The Gaia Project*



Reaching Youth Across New Brunswick *in Both Official Languages*

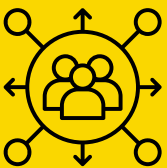
Empowering Tomorrow and Jeunesse Branchée are New Brunswick's leading youth sustainability and green careers conferences, connecting high school students with the people, industries, and innovations shaping a more sustainable future.

Through hands-on learning, career exploration, and direct engagement with industry and community partners, students discover green career pathways, explore solutions to environmental challenges, and gain the knowledge and inspiration to contribute to a more sustainable New Brunswick.

Together, these events help build environmental awareness, strengthen workforce pathways, and inspire the next generation of sustainability leaders.



2 Youth Conferences
2 Official Languages



14 Schools Reached
271 Students & Educators



32 Organizations
12 Industry Sectors

 **EMPOWERING
TOMORROW**

Saint John, NB
April 28th 2026

 **Jeunesse
branchée**

Bathurst, NB
May 21st 2026

”

Je trouve ça (Jeunesse branchée) super parce que ça m'a permis de m'ouvrir les portes à beaucoup d'autres horizons que je ne savais pas que je pouvais faire.

I find that (Jeunesse branchée) super because it opened doors to a lot of new horizons for me that I never knew I could even do.

*-Océane, Grade 9,
École Secondaire Népisiguit*

“



*Our 2026 Conferences reached
6 School Districts*

Schools Impacted:

- Bonar Law Memorial School
- Centre scolaire communautaire La Fontaine
- École Carrefour Beausoleil
- École Sainte-Anne
- École Secondaire Népisiguit
- Harbour View High School
- Minto Memorial High School
- Petitcodiac Regional School
- Polyvalente Louis-J.-Robichaud
- Polyvalente Louis-Mailloux
- Polyvalente W.-Arthur-Losier
- St. Malachy's Memorial High School
- Stanley Consolidated School
- Sussex Regional High School



Bridging the Gap Between Education and Opportunity



As New Brunswick's green economy continues to grow, students need meaningful opportunities to connect classroom learning with real-world careers. While many young people are passionate about environmental issues and sustainability, they are often unaware of the diverse career pathways available within the province. Empowering Tomorrow and Jeunesse Branchée bridge this gap by bringing together students, educators, industry leaders, post-secondary institutions, and community organizations to explore the skills, innovations, and careers driving a more sustainable future.

"I teach in a rural high school, and in my experience, it can sometimes feel like teaching in a bubble of sorts. Students in my area simply don't have the same opportunities to encounter professionals in a wide variety of career fields [...] I am grateful for these opportunities, which allow my students to learn and grow not just as students, but as citizens in NB with an eye on the future of our province and their place within it."

-Laura Ketch, Teacher, Bonar Law Memorial School





From Curiosity to Possibility

Throughout both conferences, students rotated through interactive workshops led by industry professionals, post-secondary institutions, non-profit organizations, and government partners. These hands-on sessions encouraged students to explore environmental challenges, discover innovative technologies, and learn about the diverse career opportunities emerging within New Brunswick's green economy.

The Workshops

- Great Canadian Electricity Map
- Networking 101: Exploring Green Careers
- Solar and Wind: Explore Green, Modern Building Solutions
- Brilliant Blue: Solving Tomorrow's Ocean Challenges Today
- Harnessing the Power of Wind
- Innovation and Emerging Technology
- Birds & Bones
- Environmental Leadership



Surprisingly, students had a lot of interest in our subsea cable that feeds power to the islands. [...] **They were engaged!**

I would definitely encourage other professionals to get involved and to bring visuals. Because that is how you get the students to stop at your booth and learn about how you work.

-Dave Smith, Power Engineer, NB Power

Sponsor Impact

Growing the Movement

NB Power's partnership helped transform these conferences into meaningful career exploration experiences for youth across New Brunswick. Through interactive workshops, participation in the Green Career Expo, and one-on-one conversations with employees, students gained firsthand insight into the diverse and rewarding careers that support New Brunswick's energy future. By sharing their expertise, showcasing innovation, and engaging directly with students, NB Power helped make green careers feel tangible, accessible, and achievable. These authentic interactions not only expanded students' understanding of the energy sector but also inspired them to see themselves as part of a more sustainable future.

A single interaction can change a student's perspective...

I was talking with a power engineer, and it was really cool. He told me about a bunch of different places I didn't realize he worked in, like boiler rooms in hospitals.[...]

I'm definitely more confident in pursuing green careers because I didn't realize how close a lot of these jobs were around in Saint John.

-Kane, Grade 9 Student,
Harbour View High School





A new addition to the conference, the Youth Climate Action Panel allowed students to hear directly from their peers. Grace, Willow, and Sarah (pictured above, left to right) shared their experiences in environmental leadership, community involvement, and pursuing their passions, offering authentic perspectives that inspired fellow students to see themselves as capable of creating positive change.

MERCI
THANK YOU



Hosted by:



Gold Sponsors:

SWEB Development
Saint John Energy
NBCC & CCNB

Thank You to All Who Participated...



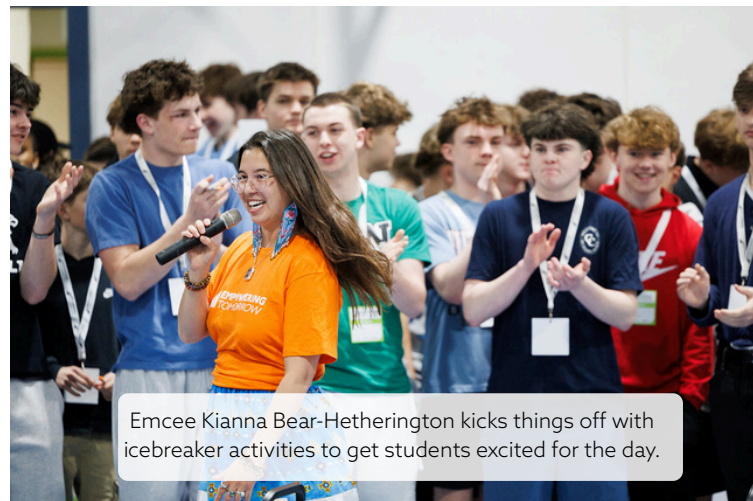
The Honourable Gilles LePage, Minister of Environment and Climate Change at Jeunesse branchée in Bathurst



Labour Minister Alyson Townsend (right) and Geoff MacDonald, Executive Director of The Gaia Project (left)



Minister of Environment and Climate Change Gilles LePage (right) and Geoff MacDonald, Executive Director of The Gaia Project (left)



Emcee Kianna Bear-Hetherington kicks things off with icebreaker activities to get students excited for the day.



Students kicking off the day with some fun, high-energy icebreaker activities to get to know each other.

Participating Organizations and Agencies

- ACAP Saint John
- Ampere
- Association francophone des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick (AFMNB)
- Brilliant Labs / Labos créatifs
- Call2Recycle / Appel à recycler
- CCNB – Technologie de l'environnement
- Centre of Excellence Energy
- Commission de services régionaux Chaleur
- Cooke Aquaculture
- COVE
- Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour – PETL
- Dillon Consulting Limited
- Doane Grant Thornton LLP
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Envision Saint John
- Fédération des jeunes francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick (FJFNB)
- Groupe de Bassins Versants Chaleur
- Mount Allison University
- Nature NB
- NB Power
- New Brunswick Community College (NBCC)
- New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development
- New Brunswick Lung Association
- Place aux compétences
- Plaex Technologies
- Restigouche River Watershed Management Council
- Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité du Nouveau-Brunswick (RDÉE NB)
- Saint John Energy
- Science East
- SWEB Development
- The Gaia Project
- Université de Moncton – Campus de Shippagan
- Valorès



Join our Climate Action Network

The Gaia Project empowers youth across New Brunswick to take action on climate change. Stay up to date on inspiring student-led projects, educators making a difference in their community, and partners who help us mobilize the next generation of climate leaders across the province.

Stay connected!
Scan here to subscribe to
The Gaia Project's newsletter



This document was produced on the unceded and unsundered territories of the Wabanaki Peoples. It is our goal, through environmental education, to honour the knowledge of this land in collaboration and respect. We will collaborate with community knowledge keepers, humbly listen and learn about how we can honour the Peace and Friendship Treaties.