Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) is the voice of Canada's publicly-supported colleges, institutes, cegeps and polytechnics, and an international leader in education for employment with ongoing programs in over 25 countries.

CICan’s members add over $190B to Canada’s economy each year and contribute to inclusive economic growth by working with industry and community partners to offer more than 10,000 programs to learners in urban, rural, remote, and northern communities.
Background

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ["SDGs"] are the primary expression of the global community’s commitment to environmental and social sustainability. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

At Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan), our vision of better futures for people and communities is guided and inspired by the SDGs. Our members play a critical role every day in driving sustainability and progress towards the Goals. The SDGs provide a framework for collaboration, among our members and with partners, to ensure our actions contribute to positive change for people and planet. CICan’s own programs, domestic and international, are all tied to at least one of the 17 SDGs.

Over the past 2 years CICan has deepened our commitment, and worked to showcase the contributions of members to the SDGs, through regular spotlights in CICan’s newsletter, webinars and other activities. CICan even embedded the SDGs into its strategic plan and selected 5 Goals as areas of focus to drive progress and results - Quality Education (SDG 4) as an overarching theme and 4 SDGs of focus:

- Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)
- Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10)
- Gender Equality (SDG 5)
- Climate Action (SDG 13)

With the support of the McConnell Foundation and under the patronage of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, CICan launched ImpAct in 2019. This three-year project advances the SDGs among our members through four collaborative projects:

- reducing barriers to access to education for vulnerable populations
- supporting social entrepreneurship
- improving campus sustainability
- promoting the global SDG Accord

With the support and guidance of a President’s Advisory Committee, and a Student Advisory Committee, the four Project Working Groups have launched several initiatives and tools over the past year.

With further funding support from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), CICan also launched an Open Educational Resource Toolkit to guide PSE institutions in integrating the SDGs across their institutions. ESDC also funds CICan’s new ImpAct Internships stream which helps employers hire interns to advance initiatives that align with the SDGs and allows Canadian youth to gain critical skills essential for the 21st century and to become SDG ambassadors. This was followed by a webinar series to raise awareness and share best practices about the SDGs with CICan members.

Last year, as part of this stronger commitment, CICan signed the international SDG Accord, the college and university sector’s response to the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDG Accord’s mission is two-fold: to inspire and advance the critical role that education plays in the SDGs and to share learning across the SDG signatories to do more to deliver on the goals. We are proud to present this first SDG Accord report, showcasing key initiatives that deliver on our 4 SDGs of focus.

CICan and its members have been leaders in the field of sustainable development for decades. And we intend to do even more in coming years to drive this critical agenda forward, together.
Helping students develop the skills they need to succeed in the labour market, while supporting economic growth at the local and national level, are at the very heart of the college and institute mandate. It is CICan’s raison d’être, making the association a critical stakeholder on the national stage on questions of skills development, and by association, economic development.

Partnership is paramount to this work, and in advancing the SDGs. Along with its members, CICan works with a variety of organizations to leverage access to the collective capacity of colleges and institutes across Canada, in order to advance social and economic inclusion, as well as sustainability in all sectors of the Canadian economy. Our members offer creative and timely solutions to skills and labour market challenges developed in partnership with the public, private and not for profit sectors.

Recovering from the global pandemic has clearly accelerated the need for collaboration in alignment with the SDGs. CICan and its members have been leading the charge in many regards, training essential workers for economic recovery, whether in healthcare, technology or others, and supporting Canada’s efforts toward greater self-reliance. This has been the driving force behind the association’s recent Building Capacity in Long-term Care project; a national initiative funded by the government of Canada to address the acute labour shortages in the long-term care sector exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CICan’s international work is just as focused on delivering decent work and economic growth. The association’s signature Education for Employment (EFE) approach, pairs Canadian colleges with local post-secondary institutions in the developing world – partnerships that are currently working in 15 countries to advance all 17 SDGs. This is a systemic approach where CICan works closely with ministries, the private sector, the public sector, institutions and communities to build programs that respond to the economic needs of a country and empower people to reach their full potential through education. All of these programs reflect the strong partnerships between CICan member institutions and their international counterparts.

CICan’s work as part of the Mastercard Foundation’s Young Africa Works is specifically focused on youth employability as a critical factor in economic growth. As in EFE projects, CICan plays a key role in supporting Kenyan institutions by leveraging member expertise in all aspects of technical and vocational education and training. The project also addresses the need for safe learning spaces to increase the participation of youth, specifically young women, in training that leads to employment.

Recognizing the need for concerted international action to meet pressing challenges, CICan’s president Denise Amyot, played a pivotal role in launching a global SDG affinity group within the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP) last year, of which CICan is a founding member. The affinity group was formed to advance the SDGs as integral to TVET learning through knowledge exchange and an engaged community of practice and is currently chaired by CICan.
**Focus Area:**

**Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10)**

Over 95% of Canadians live within 50 kilometers of a college or institute location, making this Canada’s largest network of post-secondary education. CICan members are able to reach people where they live, across this large country, and offer accessible learning opportunities to diverse learners, including those from historically underrepresented groups, including new immigrants, and Indigenous people.

Colleges and institutes are in fact key providers of post-secondary education in indigenous communities across Canada and are often the only post-secondary institution present in northern and rural communities. The importance of creating curriculum and support services that respect indigenous values and cultures, while fostering access and success for indigenous learners, is foundational to CICan’s Pan-Canadian Indigenous Education Protocol. Guided by the work of an Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, this protocol commits the institutional signatories to uphold indigenous rights, in education and institutional relationships, as a priority.

This year, CICan also worked with partners to launch two new programs that specifically support underrepresented groups and promote inclusion in order to reduce inequalities. The Unlocking Inclusive Pre-Apprenticeship Pathways project helps Canadians facing barriers to education access pre-apprenticeship training opportunities designed to support their success. CICan’s Skills Compass project helps engage young Canadians currently not in employment, education or training develop life skills, essential skills, and career readiness and put them on a path to school or career. This three-year program is designed specifically to meet the needs of unemployed or underemployed Indigenous and newcomer youth between the ages of 18 to 30.

CICan’s most recent program, ImpAct EDI, which was launched in July, is specifically focused on reducing inequalities, celebrating diversity, and promoting inclusion. It will do so by facilitating the sharing of best practices and promoting a coordinated approach to foster a culture of inclusion specific to the college and institute system. This work will be based on three main initiatives: a new National EDI Advisory Committee that will provide guidance to the association, a CICan Centre of Excellence on EDI, and the creation of a new community of practice that will spearhead national cross-sector partnerships and will lead on mobilization and calls for action to create a movement of stakeholders working together to advance EDI.
In addition to the above initiatives that focus on reducing inequalities, CICan has taken significant steps in recent years to promote gender equality at home and abroad. Recognizing its own responsibility as a member organization, and leading by example, CICan signed the government of Canada’s 50-30 Challenge in 2020, committing to achieve gender parity on its board of directors and within its senior management. This was achieved and even surpassed with the nomination of new Board members in the summer of 2021.

CICan has also hired a Gender Equality Specialist to support internal policies and to guide its newly established Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee. This person is a key adviser for CICan’s international programs, where gender equality has long been a significant focus for improving the lives of women and girls.

CICan’s international programs have indeed been supporting gender equality for the past 40 years. This has always been a component of the association’s Education for Employment programs, as well as other international initiatives, such as the One Thousand Women program in Brazil that serves as a model to this day. This program is in fact inspiring CICan’s latest partnership in Senegal, which will address the exclusion of women from the workforce by empowering them to develop professional qualifications while working within their communities to promote gender equality.

Gender is also an important aspect of CICan’s ongoing EFE programs in Kenya and Tunisia. One of the initial steps in that first project was to produce a report on Gender Analysis in Kenya’s Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector that identifies key gaps. This will be helpful in ensuring that curricula are gender sensitive and deliver gender sensitivity training.

CICan’s domestic programs also support women, and in particular those looking to work in trades where they remain underrepresented. With more than 1700 funded internships since 2015, and a recently launched stream specifically focused on the SDGs, CICan’s Career-Launcher Internships have helped improve the participation of young women in STEM careers, in addition to targeting funding to female-led organizations. In 2020, 42% of interns were female, and many worked in the clean tech, digital technology, and natural resources sectors.
CICan and its members have a long history of leadership on sustainable development and the environment. Canadian colleges and institutes boast some of the greenest campuses in the world and play a critical role supporting climate action through skills development, green infrastructure and greenhouse gas reduction practices. This has always been evident for CICan, which launched a Pan-Canadian Protocol for Sustainability back in 2007, and has regularly supported members through its advocacy work and by encouraging the sharing of best practices to not only train the workforce needed to build a green economy, but also to support innovation and the development of cleaner technologies.

Early this year, CICan launched a new report showcasing how its members are critical to the drive to a net zero economy. This was followed up with the launch of Massive ImpAct (now known as ImpAct-Climate) in June 2021, a major new five-year program that will raise awareness about pressing environmental challenges and help colleges and institutes reduce their environmental footprint. CICan, in consultation with members, will identify best practices for green buildings based on LEEDS standards for specific construction trades and create a train-the-trainer model for faculty. It will also develop a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction awareness-raising campaign on the relationship between GHG emissions and climate. This will include the development of an Emission Reduction Mentorship Program for faculty and staff and a Campus Emissions Inventory Tool for sustainability and facilities staff.

Campus sustainability is also one of the three main objectives of CICan’s ImpAct project, launched in early 2020. As part of this project, CICan is developing best practices and specific tools for climate action that can be deployed across colleges and institutes, including for example, water usage, ecology and biodiversity. Thanks to the leadership of ImpAct’s Campus Sustainability Project Working Group, several institutions, including CICan, have recently signed on to use Ecometrica to track and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Since the beginning, CICan’s Career Launcher internships have also focused on the development of green skills, first with the Clean Tech and Natural Resources streams, and now with the ImpAct internships that aim to advance the SDGs.

Climate Action play a key role in CICan’s ongoing international projects as well, such as the SAGE – Skills to Access the Green Economy in the Caribbean Islands, which supports demand-driven technical and vocational education and training in key occupations needed to introduce climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives. CICan’s Education For Employment Pacific Alliance Program (PA-EFE) also includes partnerships focused specifically on renewable energies and alternative sources of energy.
Working towards 2030

With the recent signing of the SDG Accord, CICan looks forward to further collaboration with national and international partners to advance Agenda 2030. The association has been encouraging its members to sign on, and to join in the international efforts needed to achieve the SDGs. CICan will continue to support members by providing tools and best practices. Much of these efforts are tied to our ImpAct initiatives, but as we have shown above, every single project at CICan touches on at least one SDG. This is something the association is proud of, and takes care of highlighting, including on its website and public communications.

Recovering from the global pandemic has accelerated the need for collaboration in alignment with the SDGS. CICan’s signature ImpAct initiative is one partnership cornerstone for this work and will continue to mobilize the expertise available within Canada’s colleges and institutes to tackle pressing issues, in Canada and abroad. From training essential workers for economic recovery, whether in healthcare, technology or others, to helping displaced workers reintegrate into the labour force, and supporting innovation, Canada’s colleges and institutes have much to contribute and will continue to do so as we drive towards Agenda 2030. With two major projects announced in the summer of 2021 (ImpAct Climate and ImpAct EDI), we are only getting started, but will be sure to keep our members and stakeholders updated through a new SDG-focused section on our website.
This extensive network of post-secondary institutions serves students from all over the country where they live, whether it’s in urban, rural, northern or remote communities, thanks to more than 680 campuses or facilities across Canada.
CICan Member Colleges and Institutes in Canada

Yukon
• Yukon University

Northwest Territories
• Aurora College
• Collège Nordique Francophone*

Nunavut
• Nunavut Arctic College

British Columbia
• British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT)
• Camosun College
• Capilano University
• Collège Educatcentre*
• College of New Caledonia
• College of the Rockies
• Douglas College
• Justice Institute of British Columbia
• Kwantlen Polytechnic University
• Langara College
• Native Education College**
• Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) **
• North Island College
• Northern Lights College
• Coast Mountain College
• Okanagan College
• Selkirk College
• Thompson Rivers University
• University of the Fraser Valley
• Vancouver Community College
• Vancouver Island University (VIU)

Alberta
• Bow Valley College
• Centre collégial de l’Alberta*
• Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC)
• Keyano College
• Lakeland College
• Lethbridge College
• Medicine Hat College
• NorQuest College
• Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)
• Northern Lakes College
• Olds College
• Portage College
• Red Deer College
• SAIT

Saskatchewan
• Carlton Trail College
• Collège Mathieu*
• Cumberland College
• Dumont Technical Institute**
• Great Plains College
• North West College
• Northlands College
• Parkland College
• Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies**
• Saskatchewan Polytechnic
• Southeast College

Manitoba
• Assiniboine Community College
• Ecole technique et professionnelle, Université de Saint-Boniface*
• Red River College
• University College of the North
• Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology

Ontario
• Algonquin College
• Cambrian College
• Canadore College
• Centennial College
• Collège Boréalis*
• Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning
• Confederation College
• Durham College
• Fanshawe College
• First Nations Technical Institute**
• Fleming College
• George Brown College
• Georgian College
• Humber College Institute of Technology & Advanced Learning
• Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute (or KTEI)**
• La Cité*
• Lambton College
• Loyalist College
• The Michener Institute of Education at UHN
• Mohawk College
• Niagara College
• Northern College
• Sault College
• Seneca College
• Sheridan College
• Six Nations Polytechnic**
• St. Clair College
• St. Lawrence College

Quebec
• Collège André-Laurendeau*
• Collège de Chicoutimi*
• Le cégep de Granby*
• Collège de Jonquière*
• Collège de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue*
• Collège de la Gaspésie et des Îles*
• Collège de La Pocatière*
• Collège de Matane*
• Collège de Rimouski*
• Collège de Saint-Félicien*
• Collège de Sainte-Foy*
• Collège de Saint-Hyacinthe*
• Collège de Saint-Jérôme*
• Collège de Saint-Laurent*
• Collège de Sept-Îles*
• Cégep de Sherbrooke*
• Collège de Trois-Rivières*
• Collège de Victoriaville*
• Collège du Vieux Montréal*
• Collège Édouard-Montpetit*
• Collège Garneau*
• Collège Limolou*
• Collège Marie-Victorin*
• Collège régional de Lanaudière*
• Collège Rivièr du Loup*
• Collège Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu*
• Champlain Regional College
• Collège Ahuntsic*
• Collège André-Laurendeau*
• Collège d’Alma*
• Collège de Bois-de-Boulogne*
• Collège de Maisonneuve*
• Collège de Rosemont*
• Collège LaSalle*
• Collège Mérici*
• Collège Montmorency*
• Collège Shawinigan*
• Collège Heritage College
• Dawson College
• John Abbott College
• Vanier College

Associates
• Association des collèges privés du Québec*
• Association québécoise de pédagogie collégiale*
• Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium (APCCC)
• BC Colleges (BCC)
• Canadian Association of Diploma in Agriculture Programs (CADAFL)
• Colleges Ontario
• Council of Postsecondary Presidents of Alberta (COPPOA)

Newfoundland and Labrador
• Centre for Nursing Studies
• College of the North Atlantic
• Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland

New Brunswick
• Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB)*
• Maritime College Forest Technology
• New Brunswick College of Craft and Design
• New Brunswick Community College (NBCC)

Prince Edward Island
• Collège de l’Île*
• Holland College

Nova Scotia
• Cape Breton University
• Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, Dalhousie University
• Maritime College of Nursing and Health Sciences
• Nova Scotia Community College
• Université Sainte-Anne*

Please refer to our website for the most updated information: