Future Skills Centre - Centre des Compétences futures

Press Kit

Future Skills
Centre

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Our Mission

We focus on strengthening Canada's skills development ecosystem so that Canadians can look to a future of meaningful and relevant lifelong learning opportunities.

Our Vision

Canada is a resilient learning nation, backed by an agile and responsive skills ecosystem, that equips everyone with the skills they need to thrive in a rapidly changing economy and share in Canada's prosperity.

Media Contact

Eglantine Ronfard, **Communications Manager**
communications@fsc-ccf.ca
647-262-3706

Website: https://fsc-ccf.ca/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/fsc_ccf_en
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/fsc-ccf/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/fsc_ccf/

How We Work: Five Principles

We are agile.
We are curious about the changes happening around us and strive to test, adapt, evaluate and learn from what works, and what doesn't, when it comes to skills development innovations.

We are collaborative.
We seek to add value and complement the innovation ambitions of our partners and stakeholders in the skills development ecosystem.

We are inclusive.
We believe Canada is stronger when everyone has the opportunity to contribute to, and benefit from, our shared prosperity, so we focus on addressing systemic barriers affecting underserved populations.

We pursue excellence.
We set a high bar for our work from research to partnership development, and add value through our investments in prototypes, the rigour of our approach to evaluation and evidence, and our ability to share what we learn.

We focus on impact.
We are future-oriented and seek to create knowledge beyond "what we already know" through our mandate to test and evaluate new and innovative approaches to skills development.
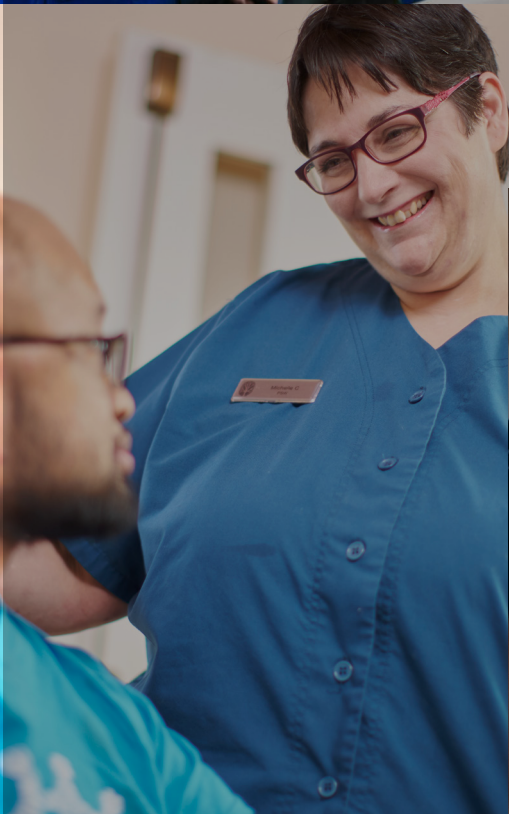
About the Centre

Background

The Future Skills Centre was announced by the Government of Canada in February 2019 as a result of a commitment in the 2017 budget to establish a new organization to support skills development and measurement in Canada. This was based on the recommendations of the Advisory Council on Economic Growth and the Forum of Labour Market Ministers.

The Centre operates at arm's length from the Government of Canada and identifies the professional skills that Canadian employers and employees will need now and in the future, and shares information to inform future investments and programming. The Centre will receive approximately $70 million per year of federal funding until 2024 to fulfill this mandate. It is funded by the Government of Canada's Future Skills Program.

The Future Skills Centre was founded by a consortium whose members are Ryerson University, Blueprint ADE, and The Conference Board of Canada. Our collaboration extends with others within Ryerson University, specifically with Ryerson's Diversity Institute and Magnet, and draws on the expertise that they offer to the skills development ecosystem.

Who we are

The Future Skills Centre is a forward-looking, pan-Canadian organization that prototypes, tests, and measures innovative approaches to skills training and employment development.

We are passionate about building a resilient learning nation, backed by an agile and responsive skills training ecosystem. We believe in helping Canadians prepare for the changing economy by equipping everyone with the skills they need to thrive and share in Canada's prosperity. We accomplish this by working with partners across the country to understand how global trends affect the economy and look to identify what skills working-age adults need to succeed now and into the future.

As a pan-Canadian organization, we connect and engage stakeholders from across Canada to facilitate the free flow of ideas from all sectors, enabling our partners to amplify the expertise of the entire community so that industry, government, and community groups can respond with training that meets the needs of Canadians.

Ryerson University

The Conference Board of Canada

Blueprint

Funded by the Government of Canada's Future Skills Program

Canada

We believe Canada is stronger when everyone has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from our shared prosperity. This is why we are committed to an inclusive approach to skills development, with an emphasis on engaging and supporting underserved groups such as women, youth, Indigenous peoples, newcomers, Black and Indigenous communities, LGBTQ2S+ peoples, persons with disabilities, veterans, and Canadians living in rural, remote, and Northern communities.

Constantly looking ahead, the Centre regularly shares insights into the labour market of today and tomorrow. Together with our partners, we inform and support local approaches to skills training and employment development to ensure people have easy access to practical labour market information, career and training advice; education and skills training; and the overall skills, knowledge and tools they need to succeed in our changing economy.

What we do

Our **research** works to identify the skills and competency frameworks of the future that will best prepare Canadians for a new economy. To ensure the system better serves diverse and historically underserved populations, as well as employers, the Centre carries out research to understand how the economic landscape is evolving and what new approaches most effectively prepare workers for changes in work practices. Our research strategy is advanced through our research partners including Ryerson University's Diversity Institute and The Conference Board of Canada.

We invest in community-based **innovation projects** that test creative training and upskilling programs for Canada's diverse regions and populations. Through our innovation projects, FSC is working to identify ideas that can meaningfully scale across the workforce. Ultimately, FSC hopes the results of this work will help steer policy makers toward successful strategies in skills development. We select projects through our regular calls for proposals, and under the umbrella of FSC's Strategic Initiatives portfolio.

Our projects undergo a rigorous **evaluation** process to generate evidence on what works, for whom, and why; so that practitioners, service providers, and policy makers can improve current systems. Our approach to evidence generation, led by Blueprint, involves identifying solutions with the most promise to move the dial on pressing challenges. All our projects include a learning agenda and inform the Centre's evaluation strategy.

We foster **engagement** through the exchange of ideas and knowledge sharing by building a pan-Canadian network encouraging collaboration of those involved in the skills development ecosystem. The Conference Board of Canada leads our knowledge dissemination and mobilization activities. The Centre's Community of Practice (COP), a digital platform powered by Magnet, brings together researchers, non-governmental organizations, and employment and training service providers to facilitate collaboration and the exchange ideas, share best practices, and develop peer-to-peer support systems to help overcome common workplace hurdles.

We **share** results, resources, and best practices with all Canadians through our website, social media, events, community groups, employers, and more.

Our Strategy Map

Future Skills Centre's vision for Canada is a resilient learning nation, backed by an agile and responsive skills ecosystem that equips everyone with the skills they need to thrive in a rapidly changing economy and share in Canada's prosperity.

Canada is stronger when everyone has the opportunity to contribute to, and benefit from, our shared prosperity, so we focus on addressing systemic barriers affecting underserved populations.

Easy to access, practical labour market and skills information

We work with labour market information experts and partners to provide accurate, practical and timely data, tools, and resources that can help the skills ecosystem understand changing skills needs and shape evidence-based responses.

"What Works" replication

We build networks that host ongoing learning, support service providers and build their capacity to adopt "what works," and inform policies and funding that enable system-wide scaling of best practices in skills training.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
FOCUS AREAS
STAKEHOLDERS

1 Easy to access, practical labour market information
Relevant data and information
Subject matter experts

2 Responsive career pathways
Skills development & education practitioners
New and innovative skills approaches

Mission
We focus on strengthening Canada's skills development ecosystem so that Canadians can look to a future of meaningful and relevant lifelong learning opportunities.

Policymakers & funders
Systemic change enablers
4 "What Works" replication

Employers and labour
3 Agile labour market responses

Responsive career pathways

We enable the testing, prototyping and evaluation of new approaches that will provide forward-looking, customized, high-quality, accessible career and training advice, alongside education and skills training.

Agile labour market responses

We collaborate with sectors and industries to test, prototype and evaluate new approaches for proactively anticipating labour market change and equipping workers with necessary skills.

Research and Innovation Projects:

Through our research strategy, the Future Skills Centre addresses the following questions:

- What are the future skills and competencies that best prepare Canadians for the new economy?
- How can our skills development ecosystem best serve diverse and vulnerable populations, as well as employers?
- What are new and innovative approaches to preparing for the future skills needs and demands that work?
- How can we create a responsive and effective skills ecosystem?

Key to our research strategy is collaboration. Working with a diverse team of more than 100 world-class diverse multidisciplinary researchers from academic institutions, think tanks, and community organizations, FSC seeks to develop new approaches, frameworks, processes, and tools to better match job-seekers to in-demand jobs.

The FSC also invests in pilot research and innovation projects that test new approaches to help Canadians gain the skills they need in the labour market.

FSC's approach to evidence involves identifying solutions with the most promise to move the dial on pressing challenges, and supporting sustained, high-quality implementation as they build evidence to inform scaling decisions.

We call this our "evidence pipeline." For each funded project, we develop and execute a customized evaluation plan that helps these new initiatives improve their performance and benefits over time.

An international evaluation advisory subcommittee of leading academics, evaluators, policy makers, and practitioners will provide us strategic advice and guidance.

Consortium Partners

Toronto-based Ryerson University is Canada's leader in innovative, career-oriented education.

Blueprint ADE is a non-profit, mission-driven research organization dedicated to improving the social and economic well-being of individuals, families and communities.

The Conference Board of Canada is the country's leading independent, not-for-profit, applied research organization.

Our collaboration extends with others within Ryerson University and draws on the expertise that they offer to the skills development ecosystem.

Co-created by Ryerson University in partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Magnet is a social innovation platform that addresses the unemployment and under-employment of Canadians. By leveraging Magnet's expansive reach, its technology-enabled network and partnerships with other leading platforms—including the Canada Job Bank and EMC's Manufacturing GPS — the FSC-CCF will provide the purpose-built digital infrastructure to grow and sustain its pan-Canadian network.

The Diversity Institute is a think and do tank, housed in Ryerson University, focused on advancing inclusive innovation and economic growth. Working with partners across sectors and around the world, the Diversity Institute leads the International Innovation and Inclusion Network (IIIN), linking more than 150 researchers, businesses, government and non-profits around the world to examine and share best practices that will help support the work of the FSC-CCF.

Leadership team:

Pedro Barata, Executive Director

Known for his strategic leadership, an active voice on social policy, and a commitment to community building, Pedro Barata's career and extensive volunteer work in the non-profit sector spans two decades.

During his tenure as United Way Greater Toronto's Senior Vice President of Community Impact & Strategy, Barata oversaw United Way's $94M community investment and partnership strategy as well as communications, policy and public affairs, research and evaluation, and cross-organizational strategy. Prior to joining United Way, Barata held roles at the Atkinson Foundation, Family Service Toronto, Social Planning Toronto, and the City of Toronto. He holds a BA from York University and a MSW from the University of Toronto.

Download Pedro Barata's headshot here

Advisory Board

[Leaders](#) from key social and economic sectors will provide strategic and forward-looking advice and input to the Centre.

Chair:

Jenny Poulos, Senior Vice President, Workforce Strategy and Employee Experience, RBC

Members:

Armughan Ahmad, President and Managing Partner, Digital, KPMG Canada

Janet Annesley, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Human Resources, Husky

Susan Black, Chief Executive Officer, The Conference Board of Canada

Richard Boudreault, Adjunct Professor, École Polytechnique Montréal

Lawrence Daniels, Chief Executive Officer, Firespirit Inc.

Brian Haugen, Director of Education and Engagement, International Union of Operating Engineers

Dennis Hogan, Chief Executive Officer, WorkplaceNL

Sabrina Geremia, Vice President and Canada Country Manager, Google Canada

Paul Gruner, President and Chief Executive Officer, Det'on Cho Corporation

Nabeela Ixtabalan, Digital Transformation Office Manager, Ingka Group, strategic partner to IKEA

Steven Liss, Vice President, Research and Innovation, Ryerson University

Valerie Lockyer, Executive Director, The Training Group, Douglas College

Colette Murphy, Executive Director, Atkinson Foundation

Karen Myers, President and Chief Executive Officer, Blueprint ADE

Lili-Anna Pereša, President and Executive Director, Centraide (United Way) of Greater Montreal

Victor T. Thomas, Vice-President, Prairie Region Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

Fact Sheet

Launched in **February 2019**, the Future Skills Centre is the first pan- Canadian centre established at the federal level focusing on skills training for the future.

More than 50% of funding disseminated by the Centre focuses on the **needs of disadvantaged and underrepresented groups, including:**

* women
* youth (at least 20%)
* Indigenous peoples
* newcomers
* racialized peoples
* LGBTQ2S+ peoples
* persons with disabilities
* veterans
* people from rural, remote, and northern communities

- Over $102 million invested into **120 innovation projects** across Canada as of Spring 2021
- Over **55 research projects** completed covering areas such as social emotional learning, apprenticeship programming and changes due to automation
- FSC's network has grown to over **5,000** partnerships from right across Canada's industry sectors on
- FSC stimulates project development by engaging with skills development stakeholders and conducting open funding calls for proposals.

- For more about the Centre's innovation projects, visit https://fsc-ccf.ca/innovation-projects/
- For more about research undertaken by FSC and our partners, visit https://fsc-ccf.ca/fsc-research/
- For more about the Future Skills Community of Practice, visit https://fsc-ccf.ca/fsc-engage/community-of-practice/

Media Assets

Media Centre

Visit our Media Centre for the latest press releases, articles, announcements and recent news about FSC.

Logo Suite

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Government of Canada logo: Downloadable files here
Ryerson University: Downloadable files here
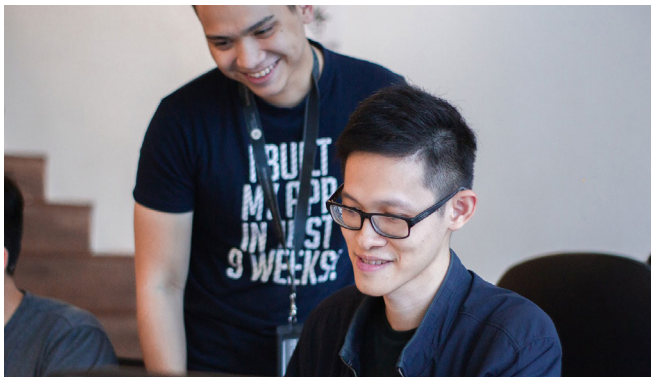**The Conference Board of Canada:** Downloadable files here
Blueprint ADE: Downloadable files here
Ryerson University's Magnet: Downloadable files here
Ryerson University's Diversity Institute: Downloadable files here

Digital Artwork

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