

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORKFORCE WINDSORESSEX LAUNCHES OPEN DOORS – PORTES OUVERTES OPPORTUNITY BOARD, CLOSING GAPS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS

Open Doors – Portes ouvertes helps educators and students connect for experiential learning opportunities

Windsor, ON – Today, Workforce WindsorEssex launched its *Open Doors – Portes ouvertes* Opportunity Board at an event at F. J. Brennan Catholic High School. This new initiative closes the gaps between students and employers by providing employers the opportunity to open their doors to the future workforce. Employers across Windsor-Essex now have the ability to share their availability and eligibility requirements that will help them welcome students into their companies for experiential learning opportunities (such as tours, speaking engagements, or placements), or make themselves available for in-class presentations. Students and their educators can then browse the opportunities and connect with the employers directly based on their interests, and career goals.

The Open Doors – Portes ouvertes project is funded by the Government of Canada under the Community Services Recovery Fund.

Through the Open Doors – *Portes ouvertes* Opportunity Board, students and educators can browse a collection of experiential learning opportunities across a wide variety of in-demand sectors in the Windsor-Essex region.

Employers interested in signing up for Open Doors are welcome to do so at <https://www.workforcewindsorsex.com/open-doors/>.

Who can list an Open Doors opportunity?

- A company or organization offering placement opportunities (co-op student, apprenticeship, or internship).
- A company or organization who is willing to provide tours to student groups looking to learn more about their industry.
- An individual who wishes to participate in speaking events for students (on a panel event or in an informational interview, for example).

Quotes:

“The projects supported by the Government of Canada through the Community Services Recovery Fund demonstrate that we are a caring and compassionate society that values the well-being of all its members. It is heartening to see the compassion and empathy of our citizens as they give back to those in need. Projects like Open Doors – Portes ouvertes are a testament to the power of our collective action and our ability to come together to make a positive difference in the world. I am confident that together we can make a meaningful impact on the lives of those in Windsor-Essex.”

- Jenna Sudds, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

« Les projets soutenus par le gouvernement du Canada par l'intermédiaire du Fonds de relance des services communautaires démontrent que nous sommes une société bienveillante et compatissante qui valorise le bien-être de tous ses membres. Il est réconfortant de constater la compassion et l'empathie de nos citoyens alors qu'ils redonnent à ceux qui en ont besoin. Des projets comme Open Doors – Portes ouvertes témoignent de la puissance de notre action collective et de notre capacité à nous rassembler pour faire une différence positive dans le monde. Je suis convaincu qu'ensemble, nous pouvons avoir un impact significatif sur la vie des habitants de Windsor-Essex.

- Jenna Sudds, ministre de la Famille, des Enfants et du Développement social

“Students and employers will greatly benefit from the Open Doors – Portes ouvertes Opportunity Board, which closes the gap between the two for experiential learning opportunities. This new resource highlights the employers and industry representatives available to teachers and experiential learning coordinators as they support student career and education exploration. The Opportunity Board provides valuable information submitted by employers to ensure best fit and informed connections, which will lead to successful experiential learning placements and talent development. We look forward to expanding the Open Doors - Portes ouvertes Opportunity Board with further listings and connecting students and employers.”

- Sarah Robson, Project Communications Lead, Workforce WindsorEssex

« Les étudiants et les employeurs bénéficieront grandement de l'initiative Open Doors – Portes ouvertes, qui comble l'écart entre les deux en matière d'opportunités d'apprentissage expérientiel. Cette nouvelle ressource identifie les employeurs et les représentants de l'industrie disponibles aux enseignants et aux coordonnateurs de l'apprentissage expérientiel alors qu'ils soutiennent l'exploration de carrière et d'éducation des étudiants. Open Doors – Portes ouvertes fournit des informations précieuses soumises par les employeurs afin de garantir des connexions optimales et éclairées, ce qui mènera à des stages d'apprentissage expérientiel réussis et au développement des talents. Nous sommes impatients d'élargir le tableau d'opportunités Open Doors - Portes ouvertes avec d'autres listes et de mettre en relation les étudiants et les employeurs.

- Sarah Robson, responsable des communications du projet, Workforce WindsorEssex

"Classroom learning is extremely important, but there's nothing like actual on-the-job experience for students to test drive potential careers to gain valuable insight and help make decisions about their post-secondary pathways. We're extremely grateful to those employers who provide our students with these opportunities and to Workforce WindsorEssex for providing them with a great way to learn more about how they can learn more about possible placements."

-Cory McAiney, Teacher Consultant - Pathways, OYAP and Technological Studies, Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board

« L'apprentissage en classe est extrêmement important, mais rien de tel qu'une expérience réelle sur le terrain pour permettre aux étudiants de tester des carrières potentielles, d'acquérir des connaissances précieuses et de les aider à prendre des décisions concernant leur cheminement postsecondaire. Nous sommes extrêmement reconnaissants envers les employeurs qui offrent nos étudiants ces opportunités et à Workforce WindsorEssex pour avoir fourni un excellent moyen d'en apprendre davantage sur les placements possibles.

-Cory McAiney, enseignant consultant - Pathways, PAJO et études technologiques, Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board

Quick Facts/Links:

- The Open Doors Opportunity Board can be accessed at <https://www.workforcewindsoressex.com/open-doors/>
- Employers can register their opportunities at <https://www.workforcewindsoressex.com/open-doors-registration/>
- National Funders' Community Services Recover Fund website at <https://communityservicesrecoveryfund.ca/>

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About Workforce WindsorEssex

Workforce WindsorEssex is a workforce and community development board whose mission is to lead regional employment and community planning for the development of a strong and sustainable workforce.

Workforce WindsorEssex is an experienced leader in the development of regional labour market tools, research, guides, and events that create positive change in the local labour market while saving others time and effort. These resources, created in close coordination with employment, education, and industry partners, are designed to help jobseekers, employers, students, and educators, as well as the community, make more informed labour market decisions using locally-responsive, data-rich, and unbiased resources. To learn more about Workforce WindsorEssex and view our tools and resources, visit www.workforcewindsoressex.com.

À propos de Workforce WindsorEssex

Workforce WindsorEssex est une organisation à but non-lucratif dont sa mission est de diriger la planification de l'emploi et le développement communautaire avec l'objectif d'assurer une main-d'œuvre solide et durable.

Workforce WindsorEssex est leader expérimenté dans le développement d'outils, de recherches, de guides et d'événements sur le marché du travail créant des changements positifs qui font gagner de l'argent et du temps. Ces ressources, créées en coordination avec les partenaires en emploi, en éducation et en industrie, ont pour but d'aider les demandeurs d'emploi, les employeurs, les élèves, les éducateurs, et la communauté, à prendre des décisions plus informées sur le marché du travail en utilisant des outils impartiaux, riches en données et adaptés aux besoins locaux. Pour apprendre d'avantage de Workforce WindsorEssex, et pour engager avec nos outils et ressources, visitez www.workforcewindsoressex.com.

About The Community Services Recovery Fund (CSRF):

The [Community Services Recovery Fund \(CSRF\)](#) is a one-time \$400 million investment from the Government of Canada to support community service organizations, including charities, non-profits and Indigenous governing bodies, as they adapt their organizations for pandemic recovery.

The Community Services Recovery Fund responds to what community service organizations need right now and supports them as they adapt to the long-term impacts of the pandemic.

As community service organizations across Canada work to support recovery in their communities, the CSRF will help them adapt and modernize their operations to grow their impact.