

June 2024

Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery

Impact Report



Canadian Colleges for a
Resilient Recovery

Les Collèges canadiens pour
une relance économique résiliente

Overview

C2R2 is a coalition of 15 colleges, cégeps and polytechnics from across Canada with the proven ability to make an immediate impact and lead in training deployment and applied research that supports energy security and sustainability.

C2R2 is a truly Canadian coalition. With members and engaged institutions in all regions of Canada, C2R2's network reaches from coast to coast to coast.



For further profiles of each member or engaged institution, visit the [C2R2 Partners](https://resilientcolleges.ca) webpage.



Benefits of C2R2

Powerful Model

- From late 2022 to early 2024, C2R2 received and delivered upon \$49.5M in funding. C2R2 has proven its strength and ability to reach a national audience and make a meaningful impact. The action of the coalition also attracted complementary investments from private funders.

Efficient Mechanisms

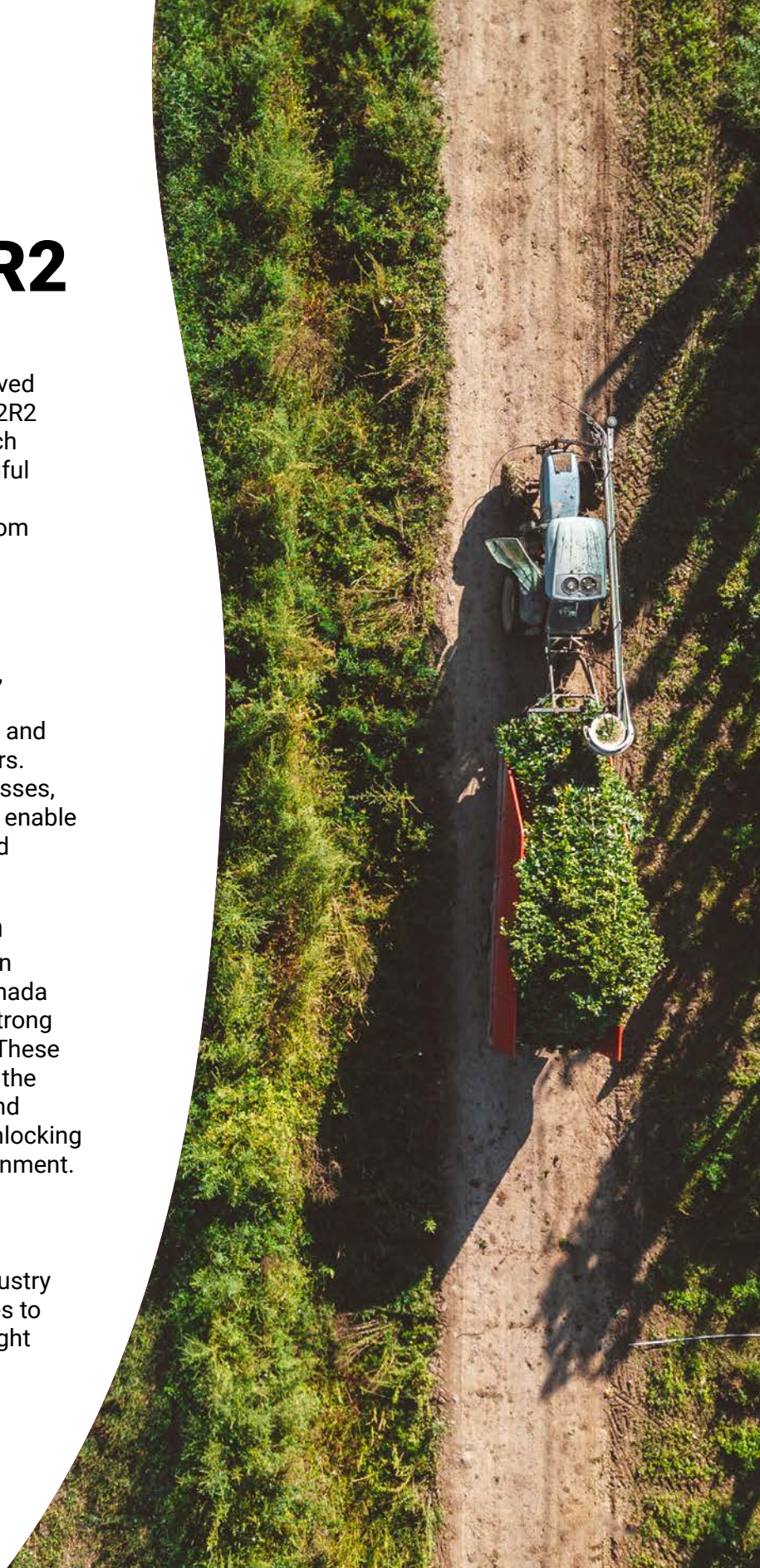
- With Mohawk College serving as the Coordinating Secretariat for the coalition, numerous mechanisms have been built, implemented and refined to ensure quick and accurate engagement with other members. Our curriculum inventory, reporting processes, financial structure and recent experience enable the opportunity for immediate impact and reduced administrative work.

Strong Track Record of Collaboration

- With postsecondary institution partners in almost every province and territory in Canada and the coalition operating since 2020, strong bonds and deep trust have been forged. These relationships between institutions act as the nexus of industry, community partners and employer connections across Canada, unlocking potential collaboration and expertise alignment.

National Yet Nimble

- As accredited training institutions, C2R2 partners can utilize microcredentials, industry training and other pedagogical techniques to keep training relevant and share that insight nationally.



Areas of Action

National Curriculum Working Group

With representation from C2R2 partner institutions, the National Curriculum Working Group supports how institutions offer credentialing, quality assurance of curriculum, industry validation, assessment, pathways, stackability/trackability and sharing amongst institutions. The group created nine guiding principles the C2R2 partner institutions could follow to assist in microcredential curriculum development for courses offered through Quick Train Canada.

As of April 2024, 40 microcredentials have been licensed across Canada to upskill workers in various sectors supporting a clean economy.

Applied Research Working Group

Research leads from C2R2 partner institutions meet regularly to explore applied research opportunities that can be shared across the country. The group identifies areas of focus that align with C2R2 goals and which institutions have areas of expertise, outlines the project scope and develops proposals to access funding.

In 2024, C2R2 launched the inaugural [Wawanesa Climate Champions: Youth Innovation Grant](#) in partnership with Wawanesa Insurance to fund five youth-led climate focused projects with each recipient receiving \$30,000 to support project development and execution over the next year.

Access and Engagement Working Group

Building on the success of the 4C Alliance model and successful social innovation programs, the Access and Engagement Working Group focus on ensuring all Canadians have access to training in Canada. Through funding opportunities, partnerships and integrating strong wraparound supports, C2R2 partner institutions and delivery partners can ensure access to training is available across the country.

Inaugural meeting scheduled for June 2024.

Public Relations and Advocacy Working Group

With representation from across Canada, the team of government relations leads and communication leads connect to discuss positioning and access to funding opportunities and communicate the coalition strengths and leadership to support C2R2 goals.

C2R2 has presented and participated as panel members at national and international conferences and federal government standing committees.



Proven Track Record

Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program (SWSP) | \$46.5M

- Launched [Quick Train Canada](#) in English and French ([Voie Rapide](#)) to develop and deliver microcredentials to upskill Canadians in sectors essential for a low carbon economy including clean tech, transportation, construction, natural resources and the environment, and agriculture.
- Developed 120 microcredentials.
- Deployed 124 microcredentials.
- Licensed 40 microcredentials.
- Enrolled over 20,000 learners.
- 57% of participants self-identified as a member of an equity-deserving group.
- 58% of participants self-identified as being employed full-time.
- 74% of participants were over the age of 30.

Community Workforce Development Program (CWDP) | \$3.03M

- Supported workforce development in Indigenous and rural communities across Canada by enabling deep collaboration and skills training related to local buildings and construction.
- Engaged 5 postsecondary institutions across 3 provinces and in partnership with 14 Indigenous communities.
- Enrolled 215 learners.
- 100% of participants self-identified as Indigenous peoples.



Inspiring Change Across Canada

The Wawanesa Climate Champions: Youth Innovation Grant presents an amazing opportunity to advance youth-led initiatives across the country and C2R2 is excited to see the impact these impressive young people and their projects will have on Canada's climate action efforts.



Building on the Momentum

As C2R2 continues to build on the success of the network of collaborative, like-minded institutions and organizations while exploring new projects and taking advantage of lessons learned, the coalition has set the following strategic goals:

1. Grow the Potential of Quick Train Canada

As leaders in education, we recognize the importance in diverse and innovative training opportunities for learners. Using the Quick Train Canada platform, a promotional campaign will launch to showcase the microcredential programs available through institutions across Canada to engage and connect with a national audience of eager learners.



Quick Train Canada (QTC) Benefits

- **Increased Visibility:** Access exposure to a national audience of students and professionals actively seeking short-cycle training programs.
- **Targeted Marketing:** C2R2-led Quick Train Canada marketing will target audiences by customizing advertising based on demographics, regions and academic term.
- **Strength of the C2R2 Coalition:** Ability to explore partner colleges, cégeps, and institutions across Canada to discuss partnerships, co-creation of curriculum, and advocacy to increase visibility and the unique role colleges play in addressing the needs of the Canadian economy.



Building on the Momentum

2. Collaborate with Industry

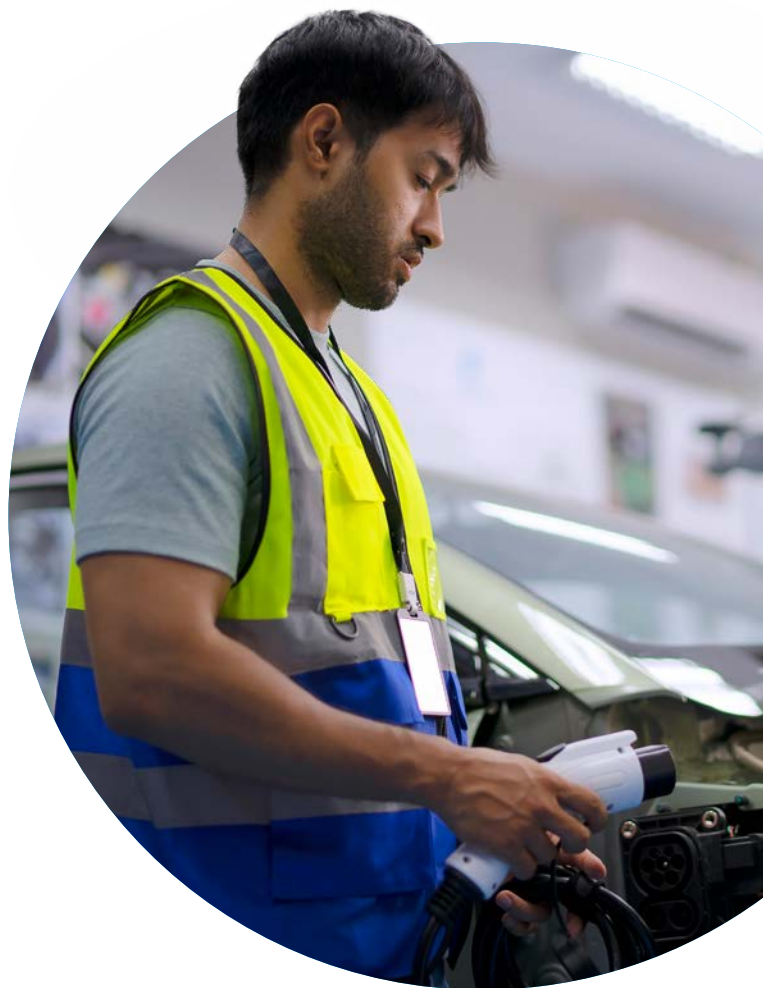
Sustain coalition collaboration with like-minded organizations to jointly move forward and support goals and strategies. Through engagement and collective framework, continue positioning C2R2 as a positive and supportive partner in funding applications, networking and joint projects, and as both a leader and support in developing the workforce for today and the future.

3. Research and Scaling Up

Through the C2R2 partner expertise and wealth of knowledge in applied research, continue to explore and create partnerships and opportunities to make Canadian companies ready for a clean economy, providing them an opportunity to scale up production and support commercialization to drive Canada's global strength.

4. Advocate with Government

Continue to engage and advocate with government officials on the importance and benefit of funding training programs at a national level. Powered by a collective approach and joined by national organizations, a unified voice will drive awareness of colleges, cégeps, polytechnics and institutions. This will position us as nimble and responsive to local and national training gaps with thoughtful solutions, delivery methods and inclusivity of all Canadians to build our economy, competitiveness and workforce.



Innovative Partnerships

C2R2 understands the value of partnering with organizations who share a commitment to sustainability—together, there is an opportunity to mutually amplify complementary mandates. C2R2 unlocks the ability to bring a national reach to regional expertise.

Addressing Skills Gaps to Support Workforce Development

Colleges, polytechnics, cégeps and institutes have been drivers of workforce development in Canada for decades. As Canada's workforce is rapidly evolving, it is essential that workers have access to the skills required to rapidly address labour market needs. C2R2 members recognize the value of employer, industry and community informed training. Through C2R2, the coalition can reach across Canada to bring together perspectives from small enterprises, large industry employers, local elders, equipment manufacturers, highly qualified personnel or national membership organizations. Close partnerships with subject matter experts enable informed, relevant and even custom skills development opportunities.

Connecting Expertise

C2R2 offers nationally coordinated, yet regionally relevant, applied research and training solutions across a broad range of sectors—zero emission vehicle service, agriculture techniques, residential and commercial retrofit methods, renewable energy solutions, marine technologies and many more. Collaboration with C2R2 members strengthens innovation opportunities where intellectual property remains with the industry, employer and community partners. As a single connection point to their experts and networks across Canada, C2R2 streamlines capacity and navigates the complexities involved in making a coast to coast to coast impact.





On the Horizon

Sustainable Jobs Training Fund

In May 2024, C2R2 submitted a proposal to the Sustainable Jobs Training Fund within the Green Buildings and Retrofits stream. *The C2R2: Advancing Access and Skills Training for Green Buildings and Retrofits* project presents a strong opportunity to leverage previous successes, enhances access to training, and meaningfully addresses current and emerging skills-gaps.

If successful, the project will:

- **Develop training** that is responsive to current and emerging areas of need within the retrofit sector and reassess industry need throughout the project.
- Offer **subsidized or fully funded training to 6,000 mid-career workers** to gain comprehensive new skills for jobs related to green building and retrofits (i.e., heat pump installation and maintenance, energy efficient components, renewable energy systems) with dedicated support to Indigenous and equity-deserving participants.
- **Use existing and proven operational mechanisms** to meet project and training deliverables.
- Use C2R2's Quick Train Canada as a tool to realize immediate impact.
 - Ultimately **increasing the value of previous investments** from ESDC by leveraging the outputs of the SWSP and CWDP projects.
 - Enabling visibility of complementary low-carbon economy training in other sectors to promote a broader transition.
- **Enhance the accessibility of training** for workers across Canada by streamlining the registration process to easily participate in training.

Expand Delivery Partners

Expand engagement of delivery partners from underserved areas of Canada complementary with the coalition partners and host networking opportunities to deepen trust and further inform training through industry and sector consultation.





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Resilient-Colleges



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