Canada's Talent Pool at Risk

Although Canadian students rank highly on international performance, they seem to lose interest in science as they get older.

On the list of 15 categories with the highest labour demand, healthcare professionals and managers, engineers, science, and technical occupations dominate.

Spotlight on Science Learning identified 11 benchmarks to track Canada's progress. Research and analysis of those 11 benchmarks led to the following recommendations.

Labour Demand

On the list of 15 categories with the highest labour demand, healthcare professionals and managers, engineers, science, and technical occupations dominate.

EMployment Growth

Between 2001 and 2011, the number of people employed in fields requiring science learning increased.

What we need to do to improve youth participation in science learning and to track Canada's progress:

- Establish a national forum for STEM learning discussion and action.
- Support and scale effective STEM teaching and learning programs, in and outside school.
- Establish or improve Canada Information systems related to STEM learning and jobs.
- Build better connections between job forecasts and STEM learning needs.
- Determine a suite of benchmarks with public input to measure the state of the science culture in Canada.
- Assess factors that affect the capacity of universities and colleges to support and maintain STEM studies.
- Conduct a system-wide review of STEM curricula across Canada.
- Support and scale effective STEM learning practices.

We Need to Act Now Before Canada Gets Left Behind

Achieving greater success in science learning is a shared responsibility, requiring a collective call to action.

- Youth: Take responsibility for your learning.
- Parents: Participate in STEM activities with your children.
- Educators: Make STEM learning relevant to students.
- Non-profit STEM Learning and Outreach Organizations: Offer engaging programs for all ages.
- Industry: Clarify the connection between the outcomes of STEM learning and jobs.
- Governments: Support and scale effective STEM learning practices.