

THE ATLANTIC GROWTH PROJECT

Fixing the Leaks in Atlantic Canada's Education-to-Employment Pipeline Report: Overview

As Atlantic Canada's workforce ages, ensuring young people successfully transition from education to employment has never been more important. This report looks at where they're falling out of the pipeline, with a focus on not in employment, education or training (NEET) youth and the implications for the region's economic future.



Youth college enrolment rates in Atlantic provinces are generally **below** the national average.



Over **2,700** students (about **11%** of the total) **do not complete high school on time** each year in our region.



1 in 4 grade 10 students in Atlantic Canada lack the baseline **reading skills** needed for higher education and everyday life. **1 in 3** lack baseline **math skills**.



About **30%** of college students and **40%** of undergraduates **drop out in Atlantic Canada**. Over **33%** of newly registered apprentices **discontinue** their training.



12%+ of Atlantic Canadians aged **15-29** were **not in employment, education or training** during the 2024/2025 school year.

Education-to-employment pipeline (one common pathway)



Potential factors leading youth to "leak" out of the pipeline

K-12	Post-secondary education	
	College and university	Apprenticeship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaps in practical, relevant learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited educator support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial pressures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial pressures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaps in program preparedness and fit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal or family issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overuse of smart phones 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower socioeconomic status 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited parental support 		

The Atlantic Economic Council is calling on the **four provincial governments** to **create a regional action plan** within **12 months** in consultation with **educational institutions, employers and other stakeholders**.

This plan should identify steps that will be taken to address low literacy, high non-completion and high NEET rates - changes that are urgently required to address our region's productivity and economic growth challenges.