

On wednesday, October 6, 2021, people from across the town and county of Antigonish, Paqtnkek, and Guysborough county, got together at the Trades Matter event, which brought the Mobile Construction Experience (MCE), sponsored by the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency, Nova Scotia Works, Antigonish, and the Antigonish County Adult Learning Association. The MCE is a mobile extension of the Trades



Exhibition Hall with the Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council. The mobile interactive experience is designed to get youth and adults involved in the trades through hands-on demonstrations with real trades professionals.

Trades Matter participants learned about apprenticeship and trades from real tradespeople in a hands-on workshop experience. At the event, there were many trades such as: Shelf Metal Worker, Electrician, Welder, Insulator, Operating Engineer, Glazier, Labourer, Carpenter and a Painter. Each demonstration had hands-on experience and some had simulators such as welding and operating an excavator. The event was presented in partnership with Nova Scotia Apprenticeship



Agency, Nova Scotia Works and Antigonish County Adult Learning Association (ACALA). They organized the event so more people can learn about careers in trades and see which ones are most in demand and how to enter into apprenticeships. One of the participants, Ismaeel Alhariri, found the experience “fun, Important and useful.” He described his experience as “... a good representation of work in Canada for people who want to start a job and work, and the small presentations by the workers helped me

pick the jobs that I found fun and those are Operating Engineer or and Pipe fitter/Insulator because they seem interesting to me.” He also added that “ Going to the event has taught me that some jobs may need college or some sort of school, but a lot of the jobs you can start instantly for a specific period of time then you can attend school for it.” Another one of the participants, Bilal Abdul Kader, described his experience as “... fun and at the same time educational and useful and it helped me get a good idea of how jobs are in Canada and learned different aspects of it. To me going to community college is very important and I got a better understanding of NSCC and trades schools around Nova Scotia.” He also added that “Most Syrian citizens here in Antigonish already have the experience but don’t have any certificates to get hired so it’s hard for them to find work. So going to the event has helped us get a better understanding of how to get jobs here in Canada and gave us knowledge of how to get certified for a job.”



In addition to presentations in the MCE, there were also presentations about entering into the trades as well as the support available for Canadian Newcomers and Women who are looking to enter into apprenticeship training and trades careers. For more information, visit: <https://www.nsapprenticeship.ca>

